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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0549  
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BRAC Commission

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman  
The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

JUL 25 2005

Received

RE: SECDEF recommendation to realign the Fallbrook, CA, detachment of Naval Surface Warfare Center Division Crane, IN, known as Marine Corps Programs Division or "MCPD" to Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey

Dear Chairman Principi:

Thank you for including Marine Corps Program Division, Fallbrook, CA on the list of installations to be visited by staff of the Commission. I greatly appreciate the time and hard work of Messrs. David Epstein and Lester Fairrington. I also appreciate the Commission allowing my staff to participate in their visit.

I hope that Mr. Epstein and Mr. Fairrington were persuaded that the recommendation was based in error in considering MCPD a Research, Development and Acquisition command, when in fact it is a Test and Evaluation command. Realizing the distinct and important difference between these two missions, they raised the same logical questions that MCPD raised and that I asked of you in my letter of 7 July 2005. I am confident that in their final analysis they will reach the conclusion and advise the Commission that this recommendation was made based upon a critical misunderstanding of the mission of MCPD, and would devastate the mission of the command without reaching any cost savings whatsoever.

I would like to personally thank Mr. Epstein and Mr. Fairrington in addition to each of the members of the Commission for the diligence and commitment they have shown in fair evaluation of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress