



CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

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TO: CM Principi

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DATE: _____

RE: Rock Island & Springfield

COMMENTS:

In regards to today's meeting

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 3

LANE EVANS

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1517

July 28, 2005

Chairman Anthony J. Principi
Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

It was great to see you again this afternoon. I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me to discuss BRAC actions that could impact Rock Island and Springfield. I would like to summarize the key issues:

Tank and Automotive Command Rock Island (TACOM-RI) - If the Army would like to find over \$100 million for the new force structure or to fix the equipment being worn out in Iraq and Afghanistan, then they should admit that the proposed move of TACOM-RI from Rock Island, IL to Warren, MI is simply a bad idea. We believe the Army now realizes the military construction costs are over \$100 million, not the \$25 million in the joint cross service group's analysis. Even at the ridiculously low construction estimate, the recommended move never breaks even. Finally, there is really no military value or synergy with moving the TACOM-RI office to Warren as most of the offices that TACOM-RI deals with are located at places other than Warren. Overall, this is a bad recommendation that I encourage you and your fellow commissioners to fully reject.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service - I commend the Commission's decision to review the recommendation to consolidate from 26 DFAS offices into 3. I believe such a consolidation is too severe and question the ability of new automated systems to support such a consolidation. As we stated in our meeting, the Rock Island DFAS office is rated number 1 for the DFAS military value, yet the Pentagon's model somehow choose the number 3, 7, and 9 military value ranked facilities. Rock Island is the number 1 DFAS site because it is a low cost installation, possesses a natural force protection, features its own power generating capability, and includes existing facilities to house an additional 2,000 to 4,000 employees without military construction. I strongly urge you and your fellow Commissioners to choose Rock Island as one of the new DFAS regional sites.

Rock Island Arsenal Depot Maintenance- When Arsenal leadership responded to the BRAC data call, they mistakenly counted work where they manufactured armor kits in support of OIF/OEF as "depot maintenance". When Quad Cities community leaders met with your staff last week, they told us they agreed that the Rock Island Arsenal work

identified as depot maintenance was not depot maintenance, but that the Army had to admit the mistake. I want to let you know that we are pressing the Army to do so immediately. We appreciate your consideration of this realignment.

Capital Air Guard Station (Springfield)- The recommendation to move the F-16's from Springfield to Fort Wayne contradicts the Department's criteria for an increase in military value and cost savings. Shifting from Springfield (#115) to Fort Wayne (#130) reduces the military value and places these units farther from training ranges and reduces the unit's ability to surge. Furthermore, there are no cost savings to closing Springfield. Only with the inclusion of the Hulman Air Guard Station into this equation is there any savings achieved. Furthermore, the State of Illinois has agreed to build a \$10 million alert facility and ammunition storage dump, which will greatly increase the effectiveness of this unit for homeland security missions and allow live fire training missions.

Chairman Principi, throughout my years of working with you to advocate on behalf of veterans, I have always believed that you rose to the highest standards of fairness and honesty. I ask is that you re-evaluate the realignments at Rock Island Arsenal and Capital Air Guard Station based upon what is best for the defense of our country and that is increasing military value while providing the government a cost savings. If you follow this guidance, then I am sure you will see these realignments were misguided and recommended in error. Therefore, I encourage the BRAC Commission to overturn them.

Once again, I appreciate the opportunity to meet with you this afternoon and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns regarding these installations.

*Tony,
Thanks for hearing
me out on these important
issues. I appreciate your
service and commitment again.
Lane*

Sincerely,

Lane Evans
LANE EVANS
Member of Congress