

HENRY E. BROWN, JR.  
1ST DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

1124 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3176  
FAX: (202) 225-3407

5900 CORE AVENUE, SUITE 401  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29406  
(843) 747-4175  
FAX: (843) 747-4711

1800 NORTH OAK STREET, SUITE C  
MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577  
(843) 445-6459  
FAX: (843) 445-6418

August 5, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202-3920

Dear Chairman Principi,

I respectfully request that you direct the BRAC staff to evaluate the information that they and representatives of the Charleston, South Carolina community have compiled since the South Carolina regional BRAC Hearing in Charlotte on June 28, 2005.

The additional information and COBRA runs compiled, further validates the presentations made to the Commission on June 28, that the proposed BRAC recommendation to close the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Charleston, South Carolina is flawed and not a cost effective decision for the Department of Defense. Any of three different proposals for keeping NAVFAC in Charleston would save American taxpayers at least \$36 million, while the BRAC proposal would cost \$50 million. Representatives from the Charleston community met with BRAC staff analysts on July 26, 2005 and provided them with additional documentation to support their presentation.

Additionally, the BRAC recommendation for basing the Space Warfare Systems Command Atlantic in Little Creek, VA and transferring the command structure from Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SSCC) Charleston, SC may have overlooked DoD's own criteria regarding military value and mission savings. The proposed BRAC recommendation also would reverse the 1993 BRAC Commission recommendation to consolidate the East Coast headquarters in Charleston. The DoD BRAC proposal also moves Maritime Information System personnel from Dahlgren and Newport to San Diego. The Charleston efforts are better aligned and synergistic with the work presently being done at those locations, not to mention the extremely high cost of living in San Diego versus Charleston. I urge you to closely look at this alternative scenario from the standpoint of saving the taxpayer millions of dollars with a higher military value.

I know that the Commission also has concern over the recommendation to close all but three DFAS facilities. We are concerned that the DFAS decision in Charleston will impact people who have already been "BRAC'ed" once before. Many of the people who work at DFAS are former employees of Navy facilities closed with the 1993 BRAC, including the Charleston Naval Shipyard. If it is your decision to consolidate DFAS into more than the three initially recommended facilities, we hope that you will consider keeping and expanding the facility here in Charleston which has the capacity to accommodate many more employees. With excess facilities and property resulting from the 1993 BRAC, Charleston has become a hub for federal agencies. We trust you will take this into account as you make your decisions.

I know what an enormous task you, your fellow commissioners and staff are facing in trying to dig through the mountains of information before you by the end of this month. My hope is that we have provided the staff with enough detailed information, including COBRA runs, to help them in looking at these viable alternate scenarios.

Sincerely,

  
Henry E. Brown, Jr.  
Member of Congress

THANKS FOR ALL YOU  
DO FOR THE U.S.A.

HEB/bec

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House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4001

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WEB ADDRESS: [WWW.HOUSE.GOV/HENRY\\_BROWN](http://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/HENRY_BROWN)  
EMAIL: [WRITEHENRYBROWN@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV](mailto:WRITEHENRYBROWN@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV)