

August 16, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 17 2005

Received

Samuel K. Skinner
2521 S. Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sam:

Thank you for continuing to serve our country so nobly.

I address you as a BRAC commissioner. The subject is one on which I have some considerable past and relatively recent experience. You are considering the consolidation of a variety of naval facilities along the waterway near the Naval Research Laboratory. It is a natural instinct to wonder if there cannot be savings by the consolidating of various administrative functions.

Just before the turn of the century, I was asked to chair a commission on the Navy of the 21st Century, which was essentially staffed by the Naval Research Laboratory leadership and in service of headquarters people of the Navy in the Pentagon. As a consequence of this privilege and the extraordinary members of our commission, I had a very intimate experience of dealing with NRL. It is one of the country's jewels. It was obviously deeply respected by headquarters people as well. Our commission came up with a variety of incrementally useful concepts. Those details are not relevant in your studies, but what is relevant is that NRL is an institution that should have the highest order freedom to accomplish its responsibilities, including the overseeing of its laboratory equipments and its facilities. As a long time influence on major laboratories in our corporation, I appreciated the value of having given our laboratory people their head and our trust in their responsibility to use all their facilities optimally.

I strongly recommend that the Naval Research Laboratory facilities not be consolidated in some general administrative entity, which is bound to interfere from time to time with the timely work that is being done by the distinguished scientists in that laboratory.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Galvin

RWG:jm

attachment