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August 23, 2005

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The Hon. Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

**BRAC Recommendation: Relocation of Army Research
Laboratory Personnel from NASA Glenn and NASA
Langley Research Centers to Aberdeen Proving Ground**

Dear Mr. Chairman:

By letter dated June 30, 2005, on behalf of the domestic rotorcraft industrial base, I urged the Commission to reject the Department of Defense's recommendation to relocate approximately 95 highly-skilled, technical Army Research Laboratory ("ARL") personnel associated with the Vehicle Technology Directorate from NASA Glenn and NASA Langley Research Centers to the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

I am now writing since the response from the Technical Joint-Cross Service Group (TJCSG) to the Commission on July 25, 2005 relating to several of the Commission's questions on the proposed relocation of the NASA Glenn-based Army researchers is misleading and not based on fact.

In response to question #1, "*What impact will moving this research to Aberdeen have on the synergy developed between Army and NASA?*," the reality is that the synergy between the Army and NASA is a direct result of the development of complementary and unique skills (both experimental and analytical). Relocation of the Army research community to Aberdeen would end a relationship with significant benefits to the Army that has continued for more than 30 years.

Question #2 stated "*Army does not own the equipment at NASA Glenn. Army uses NASA's facilities and equipment while Army provides administrative support. Does Aberdeen have sufficient facilities to accommodate research performed at Glenn, Ohio? What is the estimated cost to replicate equipment at Aberdeen and is it factored in COBRA?*" The appropriate response to this question, as noted in my previous letter, is that Aberdeen does not have sufficient facilities and equipment to accommodate the research as currently performed by ARL at Glenn, Ohio or at Langley, Virginia.

The Hon. Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
August 23, 2005
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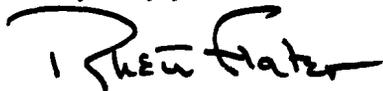
The estimated costs to replicate the required facilities and equipment at Aberdeen for the research program as currently executed will, in fact, exceed \$250 million (this figure excludes the engine test stands at Glenn and Transonic Dynamics Tunnel at Langley). The ARL researchers based at NASA Glenn and NASA Langley will be unable to perform their mission unless they have access to the facilities and equipment currently located at those centers.

These costs are not factored into COBRA, contrary to the statement provided by the TJCSG.

In sum, the responses to your questions provided by the TJCSG, posted on the BRAC internet site, fail to reflect these considerations and indeed would mislead the Commission into believing that there are few or no synergies between the Army and NASA research staffs and that Aberdeen has all the research facilities needed for ARL to perform its mission. For the reasons stated in this letter and my previous letter, that is clearly not the case.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.E. Rhett Flater". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

M.E. Rhett Flater
Executive Director