

BRAC Commission

AUG 25 2005

Received

August 25, 2005

Dear Chairman Principi:

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and all of the members of the Commission for the independent and thoughtful way that you have approached the Base Realignment and Closure process. I am deeply gratified for the Commission's vote yesterday to keep the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard open, and your comments recognizing the quality of work performed by the employees there.

I write today on another matter. I understand the BRAC Commission is entering into deliberations that will affect our national defense posture for years to come. I am concerned about the impact to homeland security should the Commission accept the Air Force recommendations that eliminate a large number of Air National Guard flying units impacting approximately 17,000 militia airmen.

These units contain capabilities needed by every governor. These capabilities can only be assured if flying units, the main influence on recruiting and retention, are retained in every state.

At the Aug. 11, 2005 BRAC Commission hearing, the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS) offered a set of recommendations. This set of recommendations eliminates most of the programmatic elements that do not close infrastructure but rather, unnecessarily shift flying resources.

Under the original Department of Defense recommendations, our NHANG unit at Pease Air National Guard base was to gain three KC-135Rs as well as a corresponding manpower increase. While New Hampshire stands to "benefit," I still write today to oppose the Department of Defense's proposed changes. I support the AGAUS recommendation because it is in the best interest of National Defense.

Sincerely,

John H. Lynch
Governor of New Hampshire