

JIM GIBBONS
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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

June 23, 2005

Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Commissioners:

First of all, I would like to thank you for volunteering to be part of this critical process. The importance of what you are doing for our country can not be expressed in simple terms. Thank you as well for listening to the concerns of my fellow Nevadans today. It is my belief you will hear convincing testimony supporting our military installations.

My purpose in writing you is to simply ask your strongest consideration of the facts that will be presented to you regarding the "realignment" of the 152AW in Reno, and the closure of the Hawthorne Army Depot. After careful review of the Department of Defense's (DoD) selection criteria, I believe "substantial deviations" are apparent regarding the selection criteria set forth by Congress.

For example, a criterion used to select the 152AW at Reno is in error regarding the ramp space being limited to a maximum of 10 C-130 aircraft. You will see the base can actually expand to house up to 16 aircraft. Additionally, as a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, it is my grave concern no C-130's will be located within the entire North-West corner of the United States if the 152AW is realigned. This has serious implications to our nation's readiness in regard to Homeland Security and availability in responding to natural disasters.

The selection to close Hawthorne Army Depot also appears to be flawed when looking at the quantity of munitions stored on site and the basic costs to relocate these munitions. DoD estimated relocation cost to be \$180 million. Research that will be presented to you will actually prove the estimated figure is closer to \$1.3 billion.

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Also of major consideration regarding Hawthorne Army Depot is DoD's estimated economic impact to the community. The number of jobs lost at the depot, as cited by DoD, was 199 direct positions. The actual number is closer to 585 direct jobs that will be lost as a result of closure. The economic impact upon the community of Hawthorne and Mineral County is a significant percentage of the total tax base. Survival of the community is certainly at stake if the depot closes.

Hopefully after reading and hearing testimony of these facts and others, you will see critical selection criteria was not considered regarding both military installations. It is my sincere hope that you remove the 152AW and Hawthorne Army Depot from the BRAC list.

Your consideration of this urgent matter is greatly appreciated. I thank you again for your time and service to the Commission. Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Jim Gibbons
Member of Congress