

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JON C. PORTER (NV-3)
DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
REGIONAL FIELD HEARING
CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO
FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH, 2005

Let me first applaud the Department of Defense in their recognition of the importance of the Nellis Air Force Base. I again reiterate my disappointment, along with my colleagues at both the State and Federal level, with the Department of Defense in their decision to close the Army Depot in Hawthorne, NV and realign the Reno Air National Guard Station.

The Hawthorne Army Depot is of such vital importance to the general economy of the town of Hawthorne that its closure will have such a drastic negative impact on the community that their results will be incalculable. Besides the significant storage capacity, the Depot is currently outfitted with a reprocessing facility that makes it unique in handling spent ordnance that results from our military training.

The Reno Air National Guard Station serves many extremely important services, one of which is the support role the Guard plays in the continuing War on Terror in its many theaters of battle. The Department of Defense proposed shifting of the C-130s would drastically inhibit the ability not only of the State of Nevada, but other western States who rely on these planes in containing and extinguishing wildfires. These planes also play a pivotal role in other emergency situations throughout the western United States.

I join my fellow delegation members in inviting the Commission, or your staffs, to a site visit of the Hawthorne Army Depot so that we may illustrate its national importance and ensure that the inaccurate information upon which the recommendation of closure was based is made clear. I look forward to an expeditious and favorable response from the Commission.