

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 28, 2004

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
 Secretary of Defense
 1000 Defense Pentagon
 Washington, DC 20301-1000

Comments on BRAC Selection Criteria
 OSD BRAC Office Tracking #0191
 Page 1 of:
 Letter Dated: 1/28/04
 Date Received in 3D814: 1/29/04

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We appreciate your timely transmission of the Department of Defense (DoD) Draft Selection Criteria for Closing and Realigning Military Installations, and agree with you that an additional round of base closures in 2005 is necessary to strengthen and sustain our national security. Like you, we want the upcoming BRAC to be a thorough and fair selection process that rationalizes national infrastructure with overall defense strategy.

As such, we welcome this opportunity to provide comment on the proposed criteria, and urge your consideration of the following suggestions to further strengthen the evaluation process. As you know, Ohio is home to many important defense installations, and our communities and military organizations have a proud history of contributing to the support and success of the U.S. military. We have a keen interest in ongoing BRAC activity.

Specifically, it is crucial that the draft criteria go further in acknowledging the military value of support functions, such as research and development, acquisition, airlift, and administrative and personnel support. Similarly, the preservation of existing and unique industrial base capabilities and assets, including skilled personnel, should also be better emphasized. We believe any measures of military value must incorporate not only the delivery of combat capability, but also the critically important contributions and functions that lead up to its delivery.

Further, it is important that the final criteria take into account an installation's overall vulnerability due to geographic location. If we are to achieve the stated goal of reducing DoD's presence in high cost, vulnerable, hard-to-secure locations, the final criteria should focus on the specific issues and objectives associated with this goal.

In addition, we urge your consideration of both the physical and intellectual infrastructure provided by existing and potential receiving communities. For example, industry presence, academic partnerships, and the concentration of intellectual capital to support military installations offer invaluable support to military installations. Community contribution to our men and women in uniform, as well as Department of Defense civilians, is critically important and should be given more focus in the review process.

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 RVD 1/29

We appreciate your consideration of our suggestions as you develop the final selection criteria, which we believe will strengthen the effectiveness of the upcoming BRAC. We look forward to working with you as this process continues.

Sincerely,



MIKE DeWINE
United States Senator



GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 17, 2003

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

As members of the California Congressional Delegation, we strongly urge the inclusion of the following criteria to ensure fairness, thoroughness and accuracy in the upcoming round of base closures and realignments:

- 1) Recognition of the value of intellectual capital and the synergy between the skilled civilian workers in California's communities and the critically important roles and missions they support at our military bases;
- 2) Consideration of the costs associated with reestablishing or realigning a military activity as it relates to the redevelopment of essential resources to the military mission, e.g. commercial suppliers, business and professional expertise, and technology clusters;
- 3) Broadening the concept of joint operations to include base functions and installations currently or potentially critical to the Department of Homeland Security; and
- 4) Recognition of the disproportionate contribution our State has already made to the streamlining of the military's base infrastructure.

We feel it is warranted to focus particular attention on a base's integration with nearby business, academic and research resources. Our State's strong defense industry has fostered the growth of a highly skilled and highly paid labor force that cannot be readily replaced or easily moved. Nearly 75 percent of the jobs lost through previous rounds of military downsizing are precisely those jobs most critical to a modern defense establishment.

As you know, many studies have warned that high skill workers often decline to follow a job to a new base location - increasing costs as well as disrupting the pace of defense modernization. As such, we believe that any calculations of the total costs of a base closure and realignment must include costs associated with losing this synergistic relationship and having to recreate it elsewhere.

Just as the Department is increasing its focus on joint operations across the Services and bases, we recommend that consideration should also be given for a base's current or potential role in protecting the homeland.

Lastly, we believe the upcoming BRAC round should not force California to shoulder more than its fair share of cuts. California was particularly hard hit by the prior closures, shouldering a disproportionate 60 percent of net personnel cuts, despite the fact that it housed at that time only 15 percent of the nation's military personnel. California now houses only 10 percent of the nation's military employees and we recommend the inclusion of criteria that ensures our State is not asked again to contribute disproportionately to the streamlining of the military's base infrastructure.

We respectfully suggest these additional criteria because we believe they contribute to a fair and thorough estimate of costs and savings from base closures and realignments.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Janne Christen

Barbara Boyer

Sam Lane

David Wheeler

Janet Harman

Ken Calvert

Zack Koppe

Howard S. Buehler

Bob Eshen

Linda F. Jindry

Ellen Pauker

Dan Munn

Nancy Pelosi

Byrnie

Linda Sanchez

[Signature]

Grace E. Hapleton

Michael M. Huda

Les Cappe

Milda L. Solis

Howard L. Berman

Harvey [Signature]

George Miller

Lynn C. Woolsey

Wally Hergen

El Royce

Bill Thomas

Robert J. Matson

Lucille Royal-Allard

D. Rahn

Maxine Waters

Elton Gallegly

Bob Filner

Richard Pombo

John T. Doolittle

Randy Lake Cunningham

Michelle Thompson

Diane E. Watson

~~Diane E. Watson~~

Jung Lee

Pat Stark

John B. Hoff

Ann B. Esch

Joe Bruce

Greg Johnson

Mary Bone

Paul - Cully

Al Dooley

Mark Davis

Calvin Gunn

Barbara Lee

Tom Lantos

FAX from . . .

Senator Dianne Feinstein

of California

331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
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DATE: 1/29/04

TIME: 1:40 pm

TO: MR. Peter F. Lehman

FROM: Rich Harmon

COMMENTS:

BRAC Fraud copy

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 3

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

January 29, 2004

Comments on BRAC Selection Criteria

OSD BRAC Office Tracking #0171

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Letter Dated:

Date Received in 3D814: 1-29-04
D.P.E. OF 170 - USC THIS ONE

Mr. Peter Potochney
Director, Base Realignment and Closure
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment)
The Pentagon, Room 3D814
Washington, D.C. 20301-330

Dear Mr. Potochney:

I am writing to you in regards to the recently published criteria for the upcoming round of base closures and realignments.

After reviewing the draft selection criteria, comparing previous criteria language and comments from my constituency, there are several significant issues needed to be incorporated in the military value section of the criteria:

Recognition of the value of intellectual capital and the synergy created between the military, academia, and the private sector which allows the service to have instant access to the most advance technology and training to carry out their mission. A skilled civilian workforce cannot always be moved or duplicated in another region. An attempt to realign the Monterey Defense Language Institute, for example, failed due to the lack of support from its academic faculty.

Recognition of the need to maintain long term testing facilities and operational ranges, which accommodate both individual and joint forces. In turn, these ranges and facilities need to be in close proximity to major surface and air routes, sea space storage, along with maintenance and repair capabilities.

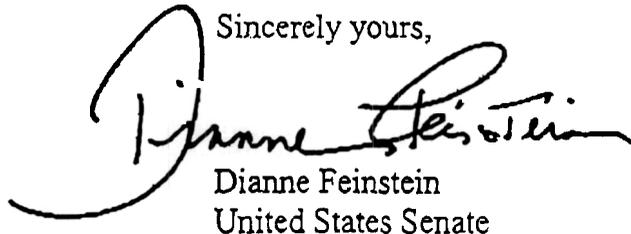
- Recognition of California's substantial contribution to the streamlining of our military's base structure in past rounds. In the past four rounds, California lost 31 of its military bases -- 20 percent of all bases affected by BRAC -- and more jobs than all other states combined.

In addition, I understand that there has been discussion about the possibility that facilities selected for closure may not be immediately cleaned up and turned over for re-use, but instead held for potential reactivation in the future. Given that such facilities may fall into disrepair, and smaller communities around them could change and would be blocked from redeveloping the land, it is important the criteria for such decisions be clear and precise.

Lastly, with 702 Department of Defense installations and locations in foreign nations, it just as important that the services assess military facility structures overseas and not solely at home in the next round of base closures and realignments. In this regard, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and I introduced the Overseas Military Facility Structure Review Act of 2003 to provide the Defense Department the necessary tools to make a true assessment of their facility structure. It became law as a part of the Fiscal Year 2004 Military Construction Appropriations bill.

I appreciate your consideration as you review this important issue that will have a major effect not only on local communities across the nation, but the future of the Armed Forces. It is essential the criteria outline a clear direction, so to properly guide the BRAC Commission.

Sincerely yours,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate

JAN. 21. 2004 10:58AM

SENATOR HUTCHISON

NO. 8476 P. 1/2



KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

United States Senator • Texas

Peter Potochny - Director Base Realignment and Closure

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PAGES: (including this cover sheet)

NOTE

JAN. 21. 2004 10:58AM
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
TEXAS

SENATOR HUTCHISON

NO. 8476 P. 2/2

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AND TRANSPORTATION
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4304

January 21, 2004

Mr. Peter Potochney
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment)
Director, Base Realignment and Closure
Room 3D814
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C., 20301-3300

Comments on BRAC Selection Criteria
OSD BRAC Office Tracking #0020

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Date Received in 3D814: 1/21/2004
FAX

Dear Mr. Potochney:

As outlined in the Federal Register Volume 68/Number 246 by the Department of Defense (DOD), an installation's military value is the most important factor for assessing the future viability of a base. Military value is defined by the draft Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) criteria as follows:

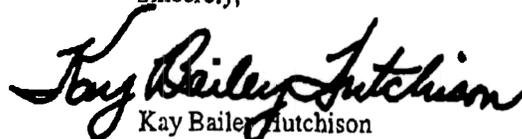
- The current and future mission requirements and impact on operational readiness of the DOD's total force
- The availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace.
- The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements
- The cost and manpower implications

While military value is important in assessing the criticality of installations, the DOD should also conduct a comprehensive study of U.S. military facilities abroad and assess whether existing U.S. base structures and locations meet the needs of current and future missions. It would be unwise to close or realign domestic bases that may be needed for troops returning from outdated facilities abroad. Criteria to assess the value of overseas bases is vital to better management of our military infrastructure.

The DOD should also consider homeland security issues and how closing or realigning installations affects our national security. The current draft criteria, very similar to the criteria proposed in three previous BRAC rounds, do not fully reflect the national security issues our country faces in the wake of September 11, 2001.

Several times in past years, the military has closed a base only to later realize its costly mistake. Now is the time for a fair, honest and non-political BRAC, and I urge the DOD to weigh all issues in developing the 2005 BRAC criteria.

Sincerely,


Kay Bailey Hutchison

Web=<http://hutchison.senate.gov>