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BRAC Commission

SEP 07 2005

Received

James F. Brown, Mayor

September 2, 2005

General Lloyd Newton
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Va 22202

Re: Rome Lab/DFAS

Dear General ~~Newton~~ *General*

The City of Rome is proud of its long history as a military community, and it is on behalf of the thousands of currently active military personnel and their families as well as those military personnel who have retired and made this community their home that I send you this letter.

For many of these individuals, they felt angered and betrayed by the 1993 commission and the realignment of Griffiss Air Force Base, not because they felt that the commission's purpose was wrong but rather because they felt the process was politicized and that the decision to realign the base was not based on merit nor military value. You can only then imagine not only the relief brought about by the most recent commission's findings but also the profound respect they have for those who made a decision based on merit and fact.

On behalf of these veterans and all the people of Rome and Central New York, please allow me to express our great respect and gratitude to you for your visit to Rome Lab and DFAS and for the professionalism, candor and insight you brought to this process.

We are truly fortunate that throughout your visit to Rome you sought to learn as much as possible about these installations, their value and the costs associated with these operations. Likewise, your keeping an open mind throughout this process and willingness and courage to make decisions rather than rubber stamp the Department of Defense recommendations, were paramount.

The hundreds of workers at Rome Lab and DFAS are keenly aware of your efforts; and you should rightfully be proud that not only were the actions of the commission in the best interest of America, its taxpayers and its armed services but also that an extremely hard-working and efficient group of men and women who love to serve and play a role in our nation's defense will be able to continue to do so.

We are truly eager to build upon the commission's vote of confidence, and I am confident that the region's recent victory is only the beginning of a great future for Rome. I hope that you will return to Rome soon - I know of a few thousand people who would like nothing more than to shake your hand.

Sincerely,


James F. Brown,
Mayor

I want to thank you again for your visit to Griffiss Lab in June. The decision that the Commission made will have an everlasting effect on our Community.