THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

DCN 9212

JUL 8 2004

The Honorable John Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry,

Thank you for your recent letter requesting subcriteria and metrics that each Joint Cross Service Group uses to conduct its base realignment and closure (BRAC) analysis. While I appreciate your desire to receive this information while the Department's analysis is ongoing, the details of the BRAC decision making process must remain internal to the Department of Defense until the Secretary issues his closure and realignment recommendations in order to protect the integrity of the BRAC process. This is necessary to preserve the deliberative process and follow the statutory BRAC direction to treat all installations equally.

Revealing details of the decision making process through the release of such things as data call questions, criteria weights, or any subcriteria before the Secretary has made his closure and realignment recommendations could negatively affect the integrity of the BRAC process by opening it up to external and unequal influences; inhibit open and frank discussions necessary to produce quality decisions; and create public confusion from the premature disclosure of information that ultimately may not be the grounds for a recommendation to close or realign a military installation.

However, there is and will continue to be some implementing guidance to the Joint Cross Service Groups and the Military Departments that, once finalized, is no longer deliberative information and therefore available for release outside the Department in advance of the Secretary issuing his closure and realignment recommendations in May 2005. As the Department develops and issues non-deliberative guidance, as with policy memorandum one (enclosed), I assure you we will make it available to you, other members of Congress, and the public. All such documents are currently available on the Department's BRAC website, http://www.defenselink.mil/brac/.

Finally, regardless of its deliberative nature, all of the Department's BRAC information will be provided to the Commission and the Congress upon submission of the Secretary's recommendations.

I appreciate having the benefit of your thoughts on this matter. A similar response has been sent to all signatories of your letter.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Wynne
Acting

Enclosure:
As stated