



27 Starflower Lane
Brunswick, ME 04011
June 3, 2005

Anthony J. Principi
BRAC Commission
Polk Building
Suites 600 and 625
2521 South Clark St.
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC Commission:

Hello. My name is Ashley and I am 13 years old. My dad has been in the military all my life. As you can guess, I have had to move around a lot. Seven times. All across the country. Not very fun at all. Here was a different story, though.

From the moment I stepped foot in my new classroom, I knew some of those people were going to be some life long friends. I was right, too. From the 4th grade up, I was making new friends and getting to know everyone else a little better. I loved my surroundings. Heck, it was only the second time I had seen snow that first winter.

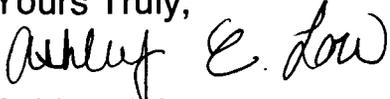
Soon, when I was transferred from the elementary school to the jr. high, I felt older and knew that this was the place I wanted to stay. For once in my life, I felt like I had some true friends. I rejoiced when my dad told us we weren't moving that year. I was happy and felt full inside.

However, that feeling didn't stay too long. I heard everything about closing the base down on the radio and I cried. I felt immature to cry, but at that point, I didn't care if the whole world knew. My friends are here. My whole life is here. The house I have lived in. I don't want to move at all!

Now, I know you probably have heard this from a lot of kids, but this is coming deep from the heart. Now, more than ever, it would be the hardest to move since I am going into 8th grade. Trying to make new friends would be really hard. So, I ask you from the bottom of my heart, please, please leave the base as it is. Please don't make my family move. My whole life is here.

Thanks for listening to my thoughts and feelings. I ask you, please think of what you're doing and how it could affect the people's lives of the younger kids, the teens, and mine.

Yours Truly,


Ashley E. Low