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BRAC Commission

**BOB HUNTER**  
DISTRICT 71

**JUL 29 2005**

Received

July 6, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC Commissioners:

I want to commend each commissioner for the dedicated work that is being accomplished during the process of the 2005 BRAC.

As the Texas State Representative for the district that includes Abilene and Dyess Air Force Base, I am excited for the City of Abilene and our citizens for the proposal to bring additional military personnel to our base.

The Texas Legislature has focused on providing great incentives for communities with military bases, as well as for employment and education assistance for military personnel and their families. During the recent Legislative Session, legislation was passed to help in several ways, including a law allowing honorably discharged active military personnel to be exempt from payment of fees and tuition, with certain stipulations, from institutions of higher education, and another law creating a provision that students attending institutions of higher education who are called to active military duty will have their absences excused - important for Abilene due to having six institutions of higher education in our city.

In addition, a law was passed to require assistance from the Texas Workforce Commission to create programs in Texas' defense dependent communities to support military families by providing employment assistance to the spouses and dependents of military personnel who are assigned to duty in Texas, and a new law that authorizes local communities to use their economic development tax funds (4A/4B) for projects that will promote or support an active military base and assist in strengthening a community's infrastructure when new military missions are assigned to local military bases.

As a representative of the people of the Dyess AFB area and in the interest of all of our military facilities in Texas, my colleagues and I will work to make sure that future incentives are added and that our military base communities and personnel are supported in every possible way.

Sincerely,

Bob Hunter

