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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

May 13, 2005

Chairman Anthony Principi  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

**ORIGINAL**

**RECEIVED**  
5/23/05  
KJ

COMMITTEES:

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**COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND  
COOPERATION IN EUROPE**  
CHAIRMAN

Dear Chairman Principi:

Thank you for taking time to talk to me earlier today about the Pentagon's recommendations for base closure and realignment (BRAC) in 2005. I hope you can accept the invitation I offered to you to visit Fort Monmouth in New Jersey and I appreciate your listening to my serious concerns regarding the Pentagon's recommendation to close this important facility.

I think that you will be impressed by Fort Monmouth's facilities, the personnel, and the research and development work at the base. As you may know, Fort Monmouth is a critical center of gravity for the development of the Army's Command and Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Sensors and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems. Several of the high-tech systems being used in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and for our Homeland Defense were developed at Fort Monmouth. The research and development of "Team C4ISR" is improving our joint war fighting capabilities and helping to protect and preserve the lives of our soldiers in battle.

Of course you and I were together at Fort Monmouth on May 12, 2003 to open the veterans health clinic that we worked to put there. Now more than 7,000 veterans visit the clinic each year to receive quality care without having to travel long distances. I'm sure you share my grave concerns about how these veterans will be impacted by the proposed base closure.

I hope that your schedule will accommodate a trip to Fort Monmouth and Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station in the immediate near future. Thank you again for taking time on such a busy day to speak with me. I look forward to continuing our productive working relationship in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

**Chris Smith**  
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress