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BRAC Commission

*City of Washington*

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14 July 2005

The Honorable Samuel Knox Skinner  
BRAC Commissioner  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Skinner,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent visit to NSWC Crane, CAAA and Southern Indiana. As an elected official I understand and support the difficult work you are doing to ensure that our Military operations remain as effective and affordable as possible. I realize that you have a very difficult job in deciding which activities to re-align or close as part of the BRAC process. I hope that your visit helped you to realize what important assets NSWC Crane and CAAA are to our Nation's Defense and the Global War On Terrorism.

I am concerned that in the mountains of data that was generated, the DOD has overlooked important issues related to the selection criteria in making its re-alignment recommendations. One of the main criteria of the BRAC process is the creation of joint centers of excellence in order to improve our efficiency while maintaining the quality of service provided to our Warfighters. NSWC Crane is a joint activity providing products and services to all branches of the military. Another key criteria of the BRAC process centers on Military Value. The Military Value scores for NSWC Crane in the area of Sensors, Electronics and Electronic Warfare (S, E and EW) are higher than almost every other DOD activity.

Based on the Military Value scores, the re-alignment of Army S, E and EW work from Fort Monmouth to Aberdeen Proving Grounds is not justified. Crane has a much higher Military Value scores than both Fort Monmouth and Aberdeen Proving Grounds. In addition, NSWC Crane already has a close working relationship with the Army since it is co-located with CAAA. This workload should be re-located to NSWC Crane instead of Aberdeen Proving Grounds. This same logic applies to the Army S, E and EW work being relocated from Fort Belvoir to Aberdeen Proving Grounds. The Fort Belvoir workload should be re-aligned to NSWC Crane since NSWC Crane has existing joint S, E and EW capability as well as higher Military Value scores.

The re-alignment of S, E and EW workload from Space and Naval Warfare sites at Charleston and San Diego to NSWC Dahlgren is another recommendation that should be re-considered. NSWC Crane has higher Military Value scores than Charleston, San Diego and Dahlgren and should have been designated as the receiving site for this workload.

I urge you to reconsider the recommendation to re-align S, E and EW workload to sites other than NSWC Crane. I believe that if you carefully consider the joint capability of NSWC Crane and CAAA as well as the DODs own Military Value scoring analysis you will find that re-alignment of this workload to NSWC Crane would be more effective than the current recommendations.

There are also questions about the recommendation to move Chemical and Biological workload from NSWC Crane to Edgewood in Maryland and whether this results in any costs savings by 2011. There is an arbitrary 50% reduction in administrative type job functions that is solely responsible for the projected cost savings. It appears that, of the four sites being re-aligned to Edgewood (NSWC Crane, NSWC Dahlgren, Falls Church and Fort Belvoir), only the Falls Church and Fort Belvoir generate any return on investment. The NSWC Crane and NSWC Dahlgren re-alignments cost more than they save. In fact it appears that, when added together, the four re-alignments to Edgewood result in a net loss rather than net savings. In other words the only way this scenario will save money is if the NSWC Crane and NSWC Dahlgren portions of the re-alignments are eliminated.

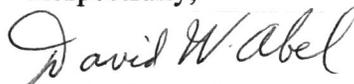
I know that Crane employees take special pride in their work as a one-stop shop for specialized weapons for our Special Forces Warfighters. Crane achieved this by being responsive, innovative, technically superior and affordable for these outstanding soldiers. This aspect of Crane's mission has grown as their reputation grew for delivering what the customer needed, when it was needed, at a cost that was affordable. The recommendation to realign work to China Lake and Picatinny will now split the support to Special Forces to different locations. This will add cost, reduce efficiency and cause a loss in intellectual capital that could take years to replace.

The recommendation to move work on the ALQ-99 system should also be examined. Data available on the DOD website indicates the cost to move 152 people working on the ALQ-99 from NSWC Crane to NAS Whidbey Island (which has a lower Military Value rating than NSWC Crane) will be \$150 million. There is speculation that the platform for the ALQ-99, the EA-6B Prowler, will begin to be retired from service in the year 2010. It would not seem to be cost effective to spend \$150 million to move 152 people doing work on a system that will soon be removed from service and to move them to a base with lower Military Value scores.

I urge you to carefully evaluate the recommendations to realign these areas of work from NSWC Crane. Crane is a base with high Military Values, successful experience in joint service operations, low costs, no complications of encroachment, large areas for expansion and training and it has a tremendous impact on the local economy of southern Indiana. I believe that it is in the nation's best interest to retain these activities at NSWC Crane and that other activities may also be accomplished more cost effectively in Southern Indiana.

I sincerely appreciate your work on this important commission and your attention to my concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David W. Abel".

David W. Abel, Mayor  
City of Washington, Indiana