

JUL 13 2005

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

Received

Dear Commissioners,

By now, you have reviewed new information regarding the DFAS base closure and realignment proposals. So I will not recount the statistical virtues of retaining DFAS-Rome in this note. The commission has a difficult job to do, but I trust that you have noticed that the new facts and figures have greatly increased the military value of DFAS-Rome according to the commission's BRAC military value formula. Please consider the following remarks from then Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Operations, Mr. Ernie Gregory as he spoke to DFAS-Rome employees at an "All Hands Meeting" on April 12, 2000. DFAS-Rome Director, Roy Higgins, introduced Mr. Gregory as "The Army Customer".

Mr. Gregory opened with "Roy invited me to come here and it was a pleasure for me to come. As I told Roy and John (Deputy Director, John Kay) earlier, if you weren't doing a good job, I wouldn't be here; you'd have to come see me. You are the best operating location that the Army has, and that doesn't come easily. There are other great OPLOCS, you are the best. You know how we can tell you are the best? Because the Army picks you—the Army chooses you. Some people say DFAS is a monopoly – there is only one Defense and Accounting Service, and we all have to go to it. But we in the Army created competition within the monopoly, and you competed very well. You are the best and you should be proud of that. Why is Rome the best? I think it is about your attitude first. Your attitude says this is my job, this is who my customers are and I have to do this well. And you have succeeded".

In conclusion, you need to notice that, among many other activities, Rome is doing the accounting for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The closure of DFAS-Rome cannot be anything, but a grave loss to the nation during a time of war. It would not be an easy or seamless task to consolidate these operations elsewhere.

Many have noticed the thorough job this BRAC Commission is doing in evaluating the proposals originally put out by the Secretary of Defense. Thank you for doing this job well.

Sincerely,



Dan McKissack
Accounting Operations
DFAS-Rome, NY
315-330-6287

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currently being made possible by the additional air space being purchased. ^{Received} We do love our community and we do love the military families who live here and have become part of us and want to stay here for a long time.

I want to personally plead with you to consider and reconsider the previous decision to place Cannon AFB on the BRAC list and consider the impact on our local area communities and our economy as well as my personal livelihood as a Realtor. I want those emails to keep coming in and I want to assist more and more families find the American Dream of home ownership.

Sincerely,
SHARON HICKS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Hicks". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.