

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 11, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

We would like to express our gratitude for the attention that you and the other members of the BRAC Commissioners have given to the important issue of DFAS consolidation. While we support the Department of Defense's BRAC objective of accomplishing a major facilities reduction, business line mission realignment, and identifying the optimum configuration for DFAS, **we respectfully submit that the Pentagon can achieve these goals without disrupting the operation of DFAS Cleveland.**

In 2004, DFAS Cleveland was named a Reserve Pay Center of Excellence, reflecting that DFAS Cleveland is a workplace of highly trained, long-tenured employees many of whom, working as a team, have pioneered the very 'best practices' that enable DFAS to deliver the excellent customer service that our military men and women expect and deserve. This is important because **DFAS Cleveland is the gateway to all of DFAS** for service members, both active duty and retired. By this we mean that when service members or their families contact DFAS by e-mail or phone, it is the Cleveland Call Center which receives the inquiries (average daily traffic: 8,000 phone calls and 1,300 e-mails) and determines where in the vast DFAS network they can best be handled. In many cases, they are referred to the Cleveland location.

DFAS Cleveland performs **19 one-of-a-kind functions not duplicated by any other office.** This is more than any other DFAS center. For example, DFAS Cleveland is recognized as a world-class service provider of *garnishment automated data systems* – a distinction that has led to this office becoming the sole provider of *garnishment services* for the entire federal government.

It is important to note that all of these functions are being performed in the city recently identified as the "**nation's most impoverished city.**" If DFAS Cleveland is realigned and jobs vanish from downtown Cleveland, the following economic impacts would be suffered by Cuyahoga County within just one year's time:

- ◆ An almost 2:1 multiplier effect from the immediate loss of 1,028 DFAS jobs, the result of which is more than 2,000 jobs.
- ◆ A loss in disposable personal income of more than \$75 million (almost \$37,000 take-home pay per worker and his/her family) for the estimated 2,046 workers affected

- ◆ Slightly more than \$6 million (estimated) in local revenues to Cuyahoga County governments – taxes, user fees, permit and license fees – foregone as a result of the job erosion

While this data applies to the entire county, we believe it can safely be assumed that much of the impact of these downtown job losses will accrue to the City of Cleveland, rather than being equally distributed across the county.

It is also worth mentioning that, as citizens of a home rule state, Ohioans pay taxes based on where they live, as well as where they work. This further amplifies the effect of the 1,028 jobs lost. The projected revenue loss would be acutely felt in the delivery of vital municipal services, such as police and fire protection, which are already under severe pressures.

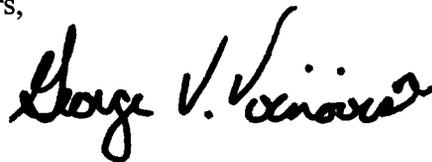
Finally, we want to emphasize that DFAS Cleveland's own **Balanced Scorecard shows excellence in productivity that has a direct bearing on Military Value** analyses. The employees at DFAS Cleveland are mature, highly trained and long-tenured professionals. Their expertise and commitment are reflected in their culture of continuous improvement and innovation and the fact that DFAS Cleveland delivers superior customer service. The value that such personnel bring to the Department of Defense, now and in the future, is indisputable, and it would be very damaging to the overall performance of DFAS to lose so many qualified personnel by realigning the facility. Further, we believe realigning the DFAS Cleveland facility would create a severe disruption in service at this critical time as it could tip this finely tuned balance in the wrong direction.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the BRAC recommendation is based on accurate data and incorporates an accurate analysis of the economic impact on all communities affected by the BRAC process.

Very respectfully yours,



MIKE DeWINE
United States Senator



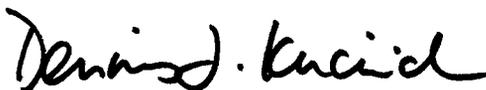
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