

John Elias Baldacci
Governor
State of Maine
(207) 287-3531



John W. Libby
Major General
Commissioner
(207) 626-4205

**Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management
33 State House Station
Camp Keyes, Augusta, Maine 04333-0033**

June 20, 2005

Office of the Commissioner

Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

Reference Proposed closure of DFAS at the former Loring Air Force Base, I am writing this letter to provide you and the BRAC Commission with additional information that directly bears on the decision to close the DFAS facility at the former Loring Air Force Base (Loring). The Department of Defense Veterans and Emergency Management for the State of Maine, has operated the Maine Military Authority (MMA) at Loring since 1997. MMA provides the Army National Guard and the Army (Tank and Automotive Command) with top quality, refurbished military equipment timely and highly cost effective. Current production lines include recapitalizing and resetting HMMWVs (approaching 200/month), restoring M-109 Howitzers to fully mission capable status, resetting MKTs (Mobile Kitchens), resetting M85-200 laundry units, resetting a wide range of engineer equipment (dozers to graders).

In a mere eight (8) years MMA has grown from 20 full time employees to nearly 700. Our work force is composed primarily of automotive technicians and management. Our current employment models project growth to more than 1000 employees. MMA currently occupies 379,000 square feet at Loring and is in the process of expanding to 600,000 square feet to meet increasing production demand.

Our facility operates at a fraction of the cost of other comparable facilities while meeting production schedules. Our success rests squarely on the shoulders of our managers and automotive technicians. They are dedicated, creative, hard working and results oriented.

MMA has more than 2000 pre-qualified applications on file. We have tripled our work force in the last three years and have never experienced the slightest difficulty attracting highly qualified applicants. In fact, the quality of our applicants is higher now than when we first opened our doors. Aroostook County continues to supply MMA with an abundant and skilled work force. I firmly believe that any quality business at Loring would experience the same level of interest and support as MMA.

I hereby certify that this information is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Libby', written over a white rectangular area.

John W. Libby
Major General
Commissioner



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