

## DOWNTOWN PROPERTY OWNERS COUNCIL

An Affiliate of Downtown Cleveland Partnership

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June 17, 2005

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The Honorable Lloyd W. Newton  
General  
2005 Defense Base Closure Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Newton:

On behalf of the Downtown Property Ownership Council, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Financing and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Carney".

John Carney  
Chairman of Downtown Property Owners Council  
City of Cleveland, Ohio