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BRAC Commission

July 27, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

The Board of Directors of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) has unanimously adopted the attached position statement relating to their objection to portions of the Department of Defense recommendations to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

EANGUS represents the proud enlisted men and women of the National Guard and our honorable retirees across our great Nation. The association's purpose is to "...promote quality of life for Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard and to promote national security of the United States of America." With respect to the National Guard, we have been able to contribute to that end by providing "...united representation before the Congress" for the last 35 years.

I respectfully request you consider our stated concerns and the requests we have made to the Commission along with our pledge of full cooperation and support of appropriate alternative solutions. Our thanks to you and the Commission for your tireless efforts in these most difficult and demanding times.

Sincerely,

Edwin B. Brown, CMSgt, ANG (Ret)
President, EANGUS

Encl: EANGUS Position Paper on BRAC

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Position Paper on BRAC

Department of Defense recommendations to the Base Realignment and Closure commission specifically as they relate to the Air National Guard will have a negative impact of unprecedented proportion. It has become obvious the Air Force process was flawed and the current recommendations will result in crippling and totally unacceptable changes to the very fabric of the Air National Guard.

EANGUS certainly understands and accepts that change is a necessary part of any national defense strategy and the Air Force and Air National Guard should be prepared to change in a logical and proper way as needed. We stand ready to support change that will make America stronger but we must speak out against recommendations which are clearly wrong and are based on flawed processes that clearly exceed statutory authority.

Please take special note that EANGUS represents its members in both the Army and Air National Guard in the 54 states and territories. The Army National Guard is actually more than three times larger, yet we raise no objection to the DoD recommendations which impact the Army National Guard. All such proposals appear properly authorized and were developed with full involvement of Army Guard National and State leadership. This was not the case with the recommendations relating to the Air National Guard.

Recommendations pertaining to the Air National Guard compromise the BRAC process in the following ways:

1. BRAC legislation authorizes the closure or realignment of excess facilities and infrastructure — real estate and buildings. Recommendations which relocate equipment and personnel, deactivate units, or change force structure within states are not authorized under the BRAC statute.
2. **Recommendations affecting National Guard facilities and force structure require the advice and consent of the Governors of the affected states; these recommendations have not complied with the BRAC process.**
3. DoD recommendations that relate to the Air National Guard substantially deviate from published BRAC selection criteria.

EANGUS is committed to maximum flexibility in embracing logical and legal change. We believe that the current DoD recommendations to the BRAC commission pertaining to the ANG should be withdrawn and appropriate alternatives be resubmitted. Absent such corrective action we urge the BRAC commission to reject that portion of the DoD recommendations which impact the Air National Guard.