

BRAC Commission



JUL 21 2005

Received

Together, we can save a life

July 18, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner:

This letter is being written in support of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. We respectfully request that the Base Closure and Realignment Commission give due consideration to the impact of the closure of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on the local community.

In addition to the effects of such a closure on the local economy, the provision of an adequate blood supply for patients would also be negatively affected.

The American Red Cross has collected over 2,000 lifesaving units of blood each year at this base. The military has long been a staunch supporter of blood donation. At a time when blood donations are declining nationwide and usage is increasing dramatically, every societal change impacting the blood supply has increasingly negative ramifications for patients who need this lifesaving medicine.

We hope you will thoughtfully consider this request in the context of other letters of support from our community and carefully weigh local concerns against the needs of the Department of Defense.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellin O'Hara".

Ellin O'Hara
Manager of Donor Recruitment

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Baldini".

Maureen Baldini, R.N.
Director, New Hampshire Operation