

Chairman Anthony Principi
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Va. 22202

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Received

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing you on a matter of great importance to our community and our nation. Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, the last active military installation in New York City, is still at risk of being closed. It is my hope that you consider this matter of national security and do whatever you can to keep Fort Hamilton open for business.

The Defense Department has announced recommendations for a Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC. If adopted, the recommendations would close 33 major bases and heavily reorganize 29 more. While Fort Hamilton is not on the list as a suggested closure, the next decision is left up to you and your commission.

Over the next three months your commission will decide whether to add or remove bases from the closure list. I know you have been quoted as stating, "I think there'll be a few additions considered... [t]he last thing this commission will be is a rubber stamp."

I must point out that I applaud the overall goal of this review; it is my very strong belief that under a competent, fair, thorough review, the Commission will come to the same conclusion as the Defense Department. Fort Hamilton is simply one of the Army's most valuable properties, both for location and operating cost.

Those of us who know Fort Hamilton's value from proximity and personal experience can attest to its importance to the safety and security of New York. New York City is America's largest, most diverse, densely populated city and is the nation's financial, cultural and communications capital. It boasts the largest seaport and the largest container and petroleum port in the country...and arguably in the world today! New York is one of the most strategic, and vulnerable, cities in the United States. For these reasons Fort Hamilton must remain open to protect New York.

Please do whatever is in your power to keep Fort Hamilton open as the only active duty military base in New York City. The security and well being of our city, its infrastructure and its 8 million inhabitants may well be dependent upon this vital military resource.

Thank you for your help on this crucial matter.

Sincerely, *Maria Rodriguez-Rivera*

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