

MICHAEL G. OXLEY
FOURTH OHIO DISTRICT

2308 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2504
(202) 225-2876

<http://oxley.house.gov>

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

CHAIRMAN



COPY

100 EAST MAIN CROSS STREET
FINLAY, OH 45840-4861
(419) 423-3210

3121 WEST ELM PLAZA
LIMA, OH 46805-2518
(419) 999-9466

24 WEST THIRD STREET
ROOM 314
MANSFIELD, OH 44902-1289
(419) 522-5757

TOLL-FREE IN OHIO
(800) 472-4154

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3504

July 21, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

Thank you for making BRAC Commission staffers Gary Dinsick and George Delgado available to meet with my constituents from Lima's Joint Systems Manufacturing Center (JSMC) (formerly the Lima Army Tank Plant) on June 29. My office appreciated the outstanding assistance of Christine Hill of the commission's congressional affairs office in setting up this meeting.

As you know, the Department of Defense has recommended JSMC-Lima for realignment: the elimination of 27 percent of the plant's production space. I believe that this recommendation is based on old data obtained very early in the BRAC process. Since that time, JSMC has gained significant new work, including assembly work for the Marine Corps' Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle and a significant expansion of the plant's Abrams tank upgrade programs. In short, JSMC is now utilizing virtually all available production space, and must retain this space to comply with the BRAC requirement to "retain the portion required to support the manufacturing of armored combat vehicles" for the Army and Marine Corps.

During their meeting with JSMC leaders and community officials, Mr. Dinsick and Mr. Delgado requested that Lima write an impact statement explaining how JSMC's operations would be negatively affected by the proposed reduction. That statement is attached; consistent with all applicable rules and regulations governing your work, I ask that you give it careful consideration as you conduct your deliberations on the BRAC list.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your service as chairman of the BRAC Commission.

Yours truly,

Michael G. Oxley, M.C.
Fourth Ohio District

MGO/jbd

TASK FORCE LIMA

Linked In Mutual Alliance
147 North Main Street
Lima, Ohio 45801

Description: Provide Impacts on production Programs resulting from the Reduction of 27% of the Production Building Square Footage for Joint Systems Manufacturing Center (formerly Lima Army Tank Plant).

THE OSD-PROPOSED REDUCTION OF PRODUCTION AREA AT THE JOINT SYSTEMS MANUFACTURING CENTER (JSMC) IS CONTRADICTORY TO THE DOD DIRECTIVE TO MAINTAIN PRODUCTION CAPABILITY FOR ABRAMS, EFV, AND FCS.

THE BUILDINGS AT JSMC CONTAIN APPROXIMATELY 1.21 MSF OF COMBAT VEHICLE PRODUCTION AREA. ABRAMS RESET, USMC EFV, AND STRYKER REQUIREMENTS HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE THE BRAC DATACALL WAS COMPLETED.

(1) THE M1 ABRAMS MAIN BATTLE TANK WORK INCLUDING M1A2 SEP, AIM, RESET AND FOREIGN MILITARY SALES REQUIRES .416 MSF OF PRODUCTION SPACE.

(2) THE EFV AND STRYKER FABRICATION/ASSEMBLY WORK REQUIRES .351 MSF OF PRODUCTION SPACE.

(3) THERE IS APPROXIMATELY .5 MSF OF PRODUCTION AREA THAT IS COMMON TO TWO OR MORE PROGRAMS (INCLUDING PAINT BOOTHS, COMPONENT MACHINING, AISLEWAYS, ETC.).

WITH THIS INCREASED WORKLOAD THE PROJECTED AVAILABLE SQUARE FOOTAGE AT THE JSMC IN FY06 EQUATES TO APPROXIMATELY 3.1% OF THE TOTAL PRODUCTION SF. IN OTHER WORDS, THE INSTALLATION IS USING 96.9% OF THE AVAILABLE PRODUCTION SQUARE FOOTAGE FOR ITS WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS. THE 3.1% VACANT AREAS ARE DISCONTINUOUS AND SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE PRODUCTION FACILITY WITH INDIVIDUAL AREAS VARYING FROM 1,500 TO 11,000 SF IN SIZE. SINCE THE OSD BRAC RECOMMENDATIONS DIRECT LIMA JSMC TO RETAIN THE PRODUCTION SPACE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE M1 TANK, EFV, AND FCS PROGRAMS THIS RECOMMENDED SPACE REDUCTION WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OSD BRAC DIRECTIVES.

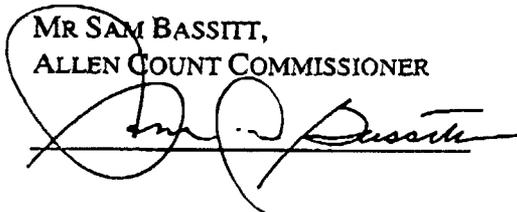
RECOMMENDATION:

RECOMMEND THAT THE DIRECTION TO REDUCE 27% OF THE PRODUCTION SQUARE FOOTAGE AT LIMA BE ELIMINATED FROM THE BRAC LIST AND THAT THE DIRECTION BE LEFT TO REALIGN THE LIMA ARMY TANK PLANT TO BECOME THE JOINT SYSTEMS MANUFACTURING CENTER AND RETAIN ONLY THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE MANUFACTURE OF THE ARMY FUTURE COMBAT SYSTEM (FCS), MARINE CORPS EFV, STRYKER FABRICATION, AND ABRAMS RECAP PROGRAMS.

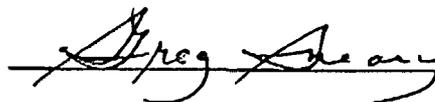
VERY TRULY YOURS,

TASK FORCE LIMA
STEERING COMMITTEE

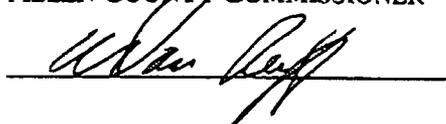
MR SAM BASSITT,
ALLEN COUNT COMMISSIONER



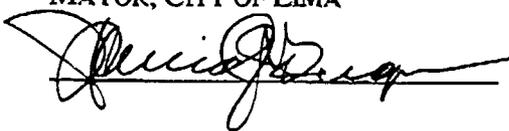
MR. GREG SNEARY
ALLEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER



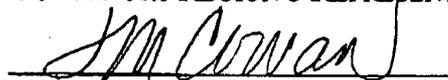
MR. DAN REIFF
ALLEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER



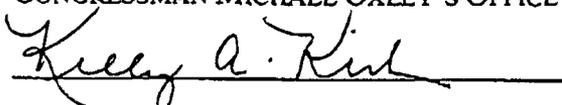
MR. DAVID BERGER
MAYOR, CITY OF LIMA



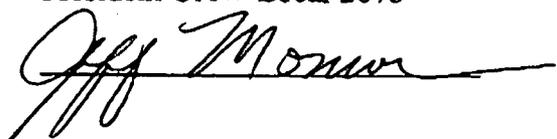
MS. JUDITH M. COWAN
GOVERNORS REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE



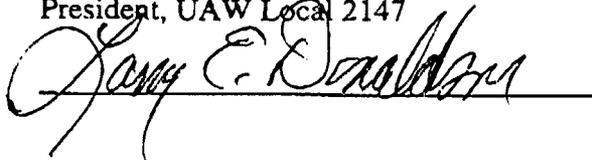
MS. KELLY KIRK
CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL OXLEY'S OFFICE



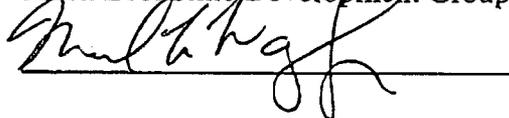
MR. JEFF MONROE
President UAW Local 2075



MR. LARRY DONALDSON
President, UAW Local 2147



Marcel W. Wagner Jr., President
Allen Economic Development Group



Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman - Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to request Commission approval of two proposed modifications to the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) recommendation issued by the Department of Defense (DoD) on May 13, 2005 relating to the Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah. That recommendation called for the closure of the depot and the dismantling of its incineration facility upon completion of its current chemical munitions disposal mission. Our two proposed recommendations are as follows:

1. The report cited an incorrect date regarding the completion of the depot's current mission which should be corrected.
2. The depot should be utilized for conventional munitions disposal activities after its chemical mission is completed.

First, the DoD recommendation stated that Deseret's mission would be completed by the 2nd quarter of 2008. This assumption is simply not accurate. On July 18, 2005, some of our staff members were able to confirm through Mr. Dale Ormond, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons, that the mission completion date for the Deseret Chemical Depot would be, at the earliest, sometime in the year 2012, and possibly beyond. These delays are due to further modifications to the industrial incineration plant, as well as process changes, associated with the switch-over to its final workload of mustard gas.

Therefore, we would appreciate the Commission correcting the COBRA information with regard to the mission completion date for Deseret Chemical Depot.

Second, we strongly support the concept of using the Deseret incinerator for conventional munitions disposal activities at the culmination of its chemical mission. The Deseret facility represents over \$1 billion in prior U.S. taxpayer investment, when considering the total costs of its engineering, design, construction, equipment, licensing, and demonstration. This large investment should not be abandoned. It would be a more responsible use of taxpayer funds, as well as more environmentally-friendly, to consider converting the chemical destruction plant to a conventional munitions disposal operation rather than completely dismantling and tearing-down this facility.

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

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July 26, 2005

The Department of the Army, at the request of Congress, contracted with the MITRE Corporation in 1991, to complete a feasibility study on possible alternative uses of its chemical demilitarization incinerators. (See Enclosure 1 - CD-ROM). While that report is nearly 14 years old, the engineering studies it is based upon are still valid in support of the technical viability of converting such facilities to a conventional mission. Further, while this study called into question the economics of such a conversion, we believe that the report's economic arguments should be re-evaluated and balanced in light of the ever-growing stockpile of obsolete conventional munitions, and greatly increased environmental restrictions against most forms of existing conventional disposal methods during the intervening years since that report was completed.

The Tooele Army Depot (TEAD) located adjacent to the Deseret facility, currently has a conventional munitions storage and disposal mission. TEAD is prepared to support the Deseret facility by assuming a significant amount of this growing conventional workload from the Department of the Army, as well as other services. Under the DoD recommendation, TEAD is already slated to receive additional conventional munitions work from the proposed closure of the Army's Hawthorne, Nevada facility.

Although a conversion of the Deseret incinerator to conventional disposal would ultimately require: (1) a change in federal law; (2) support from the Governor of Utah through a modification in the current Memorandum of Agreement with the Army, and; (3) funding provided by the Congress, the period which remains in Deseret's chemical mission of at least seven more years will allow the Congress and the Department of Defense ample time to investigate and study such a conversion in greater detail.

Therefore, we propose that the Commission include language similar to the draft (See Enclosure 2) provided with this letter, granting the Congress and the Department of Defense flexibility in pursuing these ideas more fully and not precluding them all-together under the original DoD recommendation which will have the force and effect of law unless altered by the Commission's final report.

Thank you for taking our views into consideration.

Sincerely,



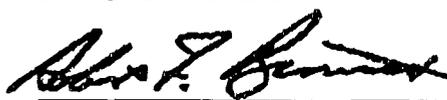
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Chris Cannon
Member of Congress



Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator



Robert F. Bennett
United States Senator

Enclosure 2:

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT, UTAH.

PROPOSED REPORT LANGUAGE

The original Department of Defense (DoD) recommendation is to close Deseret Chemical Depot at the conclusion of its current chemical munitions disposal mission, which is slated to be completed in calendar year 2012. The recommendation also notes that, under existing federal law (50 USC 1521, as amended by Public Law 106-65, Sec. 141(b)(1)(A)), the incinerator at Deseret Chemical Depot must be torn-down at the conclusion of the chemical mission.

Deseret Chemical Depot's incinerator is the largest full-scale plant constructed by the Department of the Army under its Chemical Demilitarization Program, and Deseret will ultimately be responsible for having successfully de-milled nearly 60% of the United States's stockpile of obsolete chemical munitions. The total cost of designing, building, permitting, and equipping the Deseret facility represents nearly \$1 billion in prior taxpayer investment.

Each of the Army incinerators, including Deseret, are operating pursuant to agreements between the Department of the Army and the Governors of the respective states where the facilities are located. In echoing current federal law, those agreements invariably call for the dismantling of the incinerators once their chemical missions are completed.

The Commission notes that, at the direction of the Congress, the Department of the Army contracted with the MITRE Corporation in 1991 to complete a study on alternative uses for these incinerator facilities. This study validated the technical feasibility of converting the existing incinerators for various other uses, including conventional munitions disposal. While this study is over 14 years old, there is nothing to indicate that the engineering studies undertaken on alternative uses, including conventional de-milling activities, are no longer valid. The Commission further takes note that there is a growing backlog of obsolete conventional munitions and energetics within the Army and other services requiring disposal. Increasingly strict environmental regulations governing open-air destruction of these materials are contributing to the growing backlog of conventional materials, and may require more environmentally-sensitive methods of disposal such as incineration and scrubbed emissions; capabilities which the existing Deseret facility already provides.

Finally, the Commission notes that there is significant support within the State of Utah and the Utah Congressional Delegation for converting the Deseret Chemical Depot incinerator to conventional munitions disposal; a current mission at adjacent Tooele Army Depot. Under the most optimistic of scenarios, it will take the Army until the year 2012 for the existing Deseret Chemical mission to be completed. Given all of these facts, it would seem reasonable to provide the Congress flexibility over the next seven years to

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re-examine use of the Deseret incinerator facility to provide a means of disposing of conventional munitions and energetics once its chemical mission is completed.

RECOMMENDATION: The Commission directs that the DoD recommendation regarding the Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah, be modified as follows:

The Deseret Chemical Munitions Disposal Facility shall be allowed to remain open beyond the year 2012 and not dismantled, contingent upon the following conditions being met by no later than December 31, 2011:

- (1) The Congress repeals or modifies existing federal law requiring dismantling of the Deseret Chemical Depot incinerator facility, to allow for modification and use of the facility for conventional munitions and energetics disposal activities only, and;
- (2) The Governor of the State of Utah consents through a new Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Army and/or the Secretary of Defense, to follow-on uses of the Deseret facility for conventional munitions and energetics disposal.

Should these two requirements not be met by the deadline, the Commission directs that the original DoD recommendation requiring the closure, dismantling, and excess property transfer to Tooele Army Depot, of Deseret Chemical Depot facilities, be carried out as contained in the original 2005 DoD recommendation.