DCN 2130
Executive Correspondence

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

June 1, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear ~~Chairman~~ Mr. Chairman Principi:

To ensure that both the Commission and Congress have access to all information underlying the Department's recommendations, the Department has established a secure reading room in Suite 700 of the Polk Building. This reading room is open to the Commission, members of Congress, and respective staffs with SECRET clearances beginning 8:00 am, today, June 1, 2005. The initial hours of operation are 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, Monday through Friday, but the Department will adjust these hours as necessary to meet your needs. The DoD point of contact for this facility is Mr. Larry Barlow, 703-601-2552. The Department is also working with the House and Senate to establish similar secure reading rooms on Capitol Hill.

In addition to the BRAC information we have already provided to you and to the Congress, this room contains:

- Deliberative minutes from the Joint Cross-Service Groups, the Military Departments, and the two senior DoD oversight groups (Infrastructure Steering Group and Infrastructure Executive Council).

- Data collected to support capacity, military value, and scenario development and analyses.

- Memoranda to guide the BRAC process from Cross Service groups, the Military Departments, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The contents of this room represent the balance of DoD BRAC information supporting the recommendations not already provided to the Commission and Congress.

RECEIVED 6/1/05

The Department is continuing to assess the security and operational security implications of the information in these reading rooms and segregate out any sensitive or classified information. This effort should allow the Department to declassify the vast majority of this database by the end of this week. The Department will notify you and the Congress as soon as this assessment and declassification process is complete. In the meantime, the Commission now has access to all deliberative data used by the DoD in making its recommendations.

Please let me know if I can be if further assistance.

Sincerely,

Gordon England
Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense

Cc: Senator Warner
Senator Levin
Senator Stevens
Senator Inouye
Representative Hunter
Representative Skelton
Representative Young
Representative Murtha

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