

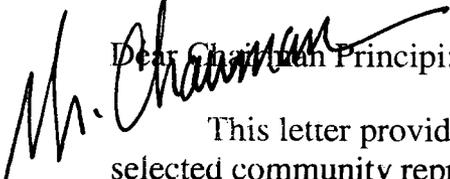


## DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

JUN 14 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

This letter provides background and procedures for access to classified data by selected community representatives. A secure reading room was established on May 31, 2005, in Suite 700 of the Polk Building to ensure the Commission and Congress have access to all information underlying the Department's recommendations. Because the extent of data used in the analysis of this round was unprecedented in terms of volume, level of detail, and electronic access, the Department provisionally classified this information SECRET, pending review and segregation of information that standing alone, or in aggregation, would cause serious damage to national security if known by U.S. adversaries.

Although the classified data was made available to the Commission and Congress, the initial classification delayed release of some BRAC information to the public. To facilitate expeditious public access, the Department has moved quickly to declassify the maximum quantity of BRAC information. You asked that DoD release this unclassified information directly to the public rather than through the Commission. This effort has been completed and all unclassified BRAC information used by the Secretary to prepare his recommendations is posted on the DoD Website. This unclassified information represents the vast majority of the total amount of information used in preparing the BRAC recommendations, as less than 2% of that total remains classified.

In the previous three BRAC rounds the public had access to all unclassified BRAC information through a Commission reading room, but neither the Department nor the previous Commissions provided anyone outside the Commission or Congress with access to classified information. The Department has developed a method to provide selected community representatives visibility into relevant portions of that classified information. This information will be available to individuals with appropriate SECRET clearances and sponsorship from a member of Congress under the following security procedures:

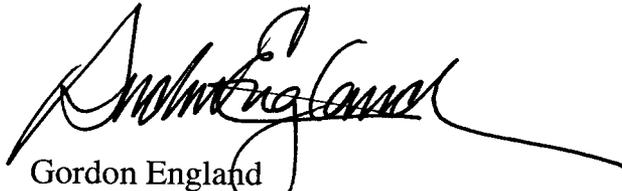
- A representative from an affected base community can be sponsored by a member of Congress. The member should validate the representative's need to know specifically requested information to the DoD BRAC Office, via the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.



- The base community representative must have a current SECRET security clearance.
- Access will be limited to the information for which the need-to-know has been validated, subject to additional restrictions that may be imposed based on the sensitivity of the relevant information. DoD will make this final access determination.
- The Department has established procedures for expeditiously validating the existing security clearance of individuals sponsored by Congress. All such access to classified BRAC information will be conducted at the DoD secure reading room on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Polk Building at 2521 South Clark Street; Arlington, Virginia 22202.

Should you receive a request from members of the public for access to classified BRAC information, kindly advise them of the above process. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Gordon England  
Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense



Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Legislative Affairs

*Legislative Update*

**Release of additional BRAC information**

**The Department of Defense is making additional BRAC information available for review by the BRAC Commission and Congress.**

- In compliance with the BRAC statutes, the Department of Defense provided its recommendations to the BRAC commission and Congress on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the following data has been provided to the Commission and Congress:
  - The classified force structure plan (Volume 2 of the Department's recommendation);
  - Reports by the Military Departments and the Joint Cross Service Groups (Volumes 3-12);
  - 222 BRAC recommendation binders, containing the Department's analysis of each recommendation against all eight selection criteria;
  - Cost of Base Realignment Action Model with static data;
  - Installation imagery of bases to be visited; and
  - Testimony to the Commission by senior DoD officials.

**To further support the Commission's and the public's understanding of the Department's recommendations, the Department is preparing to submit a general database pertaining to all U.S. facilities by close of business on May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

- The volume of this supplementary data is more than 100 times greater than for previous BRAC rounds.
- As in previous base realignment and closure rounds, the Department is establishing handling procedures for the general database.
  - The database is entirely digital and contains some classified information. For that reason, the entire database must be treated as classified while DoD continues to process of declassifying substantial portions of it.
- DoD staff will make the entire digital database accessible on computers in a secure reading room in Crystal City near the BRAC Commission offices. We plan to have this material available by Tuesday evening, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Consistent with prior BRAC rounds, we are working with Congressional staff to establish a similar secure reading room on Capitol Hill.
- The entire digital database will be made available to the commission, to Members of Congress, and to Congressional staff with "SECRET" clearances.



## Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Legislative Affairs

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### *Legislative Update*

- The public, through the BRAC Commission, will have access to all unclassified information by Saturday, June 4.
- Unlike previous BRAC rounds, the Department will have a simultaneous process of rapid declassification of information on the database as appropriate should community representatives desire such information and should it be determined to be eligible for rapid declassification.
- The Department believes the full volume of data available to the Congress, the BRAC commission, and the public will be substantially greater than was made available in prior BRAC rounds.