

DCN: 8497



KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO
GOVERNOR

August 26, 2005

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Baton Rouge

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Commissioner James Hill
BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark St, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Hill:

Thank you for your support of Louisiana's Federal City.

I am writing to request that you offer a technical amendment to clarify that the Navy Reserve Force Headquarters remain at the Naval Support Activity. As we proposed to you at the Regional hearings, having the Navy Headquarters as part of the Federal City will give us the critical mass we need to ensure a robust beginning.

The Federal City offers a most attractive alternative to moving to Norfolk and at a fraction of the expense that will have to be incurred by the Navy to move a large headquarters. Certainly as you have already noted, the Federal City offers a very economically attractive situation for the Navy long term.

I agree that it is important that the two Navy manpower units co-locate with their parent units in Millington Tennessee. In the same light, it is important to recognize the efficiencies that are gained by co-locating these two senior reserve component commands of the Department of the Navy. These headquarters interact routinely on a daily basis. The interaction in aviation alone is significant since the Marine Reserve Depends on the Navy Reserve for a large part of their Aviation budget. In addition, the Marines depend on the Navy Reserve for their Medical Corpsmen and Chaplin support. Having them co-located has been an advantage for decades and it would seem to be a mistake to change something that has worked so well for so long.

Once again I would like to thank you for your confidence in Louisiana and thank you for the great work you and the other members of the commission do for our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Babineaux Blanco".

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor
State of Louisiana