

May 27, 2005

BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) Commission  
2521 South Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear Sir:

I am writing to beg you to speak on behalf of Hawthorne, NV, Mineral County, and the Hawthorne Army Depot in the matter of the Base Realignment and Closure list. As you are probably well aware, the Hawthorne Army Depot is on the BRAC list to be closed. I have lived in Hawthorne since July 1953. My children were all born and raised here. I work for the U.S. Army on the base and have 38 years of federal civil service under my belt.

I am requesting your help in saving Hawthorne's life. I have read and heard news articles about the base closure and the misinformation that was used in determining whether or not Hawthorne would be on the list. I am sure those who are in charge have already reputed the erroneous information so I will not go into it here. I want to give you my personal perspective on the matter and how it will affect me personally.

I attended 12 years of school here in Mineral County. I have four more years before I want to retire. My children and grandchildren are attending schools here in Mineral County. I am worried that they will have to relocate to find work to raise money to raise their families. This mass relocation of our young people will cause the schools to close, the young doctors to leave this area, the few stores we have will be forced to close due to lack of customers. That will cause me to have to drive over 70 miles one way to the nearest Wal-Mart and grocery store. The cost of gas is a factor in whether or not I will be able to afford to travel to shop. I own my home here in Hawthorne and I do not want to move. Our small hospital will have to become a nursing home only and I will have to travel to go to a doctor.

I am raising my second family now as I adopted two teenaged boys, one of which is a Sophomore in High School, the other graduated two years ago and now has a family of his own. They came from a drug, alcohol, and homeless family. Their father died of Hepatitis C liver failure. Their mother lives in a homeless shelter in Reno. My youngest has had straight A's in school since the 6<sup>th</sup> grade when he came to live with me. He is looking forward to living here with me, and all his friends in school, until he can go into the military and get his education there. He has never before been in one school longer than a year at a time.

If the base closes, our churches will be forced to close due to lack of a congregation. I am a Commissioned Lay Pastor at Community Presbyterian Church in Hawthorne. Our little church (40 members) is struggling as it is to keep our doors open. When the mass exodus occurs, our congregation will diminish or disappear altogether.

The latest word that I have just heard today is that we the people will not even be granted an opportunity to express our opinions because the BRAC delegation is not coming here. There are over 600 people in this county who's jobs will be affected by their decision. Not including those in private industry. And we will not even be allowed to talk? I am asking you to talk for us. You are the one in power and you are the only one who can speak for the little people like me. I will pray continuously for you.

Respectfully,



Linda L. Young  
P.O. Box 787  
Hawthorne, NV 89415-0787  
(775) 945-1054  
E-Mail: [youngl@gbis.com](mailto:youngl@gbis.com)

Office of the  
**District Attorney of Mineral County**  
P.O. Box 1210  
Hawthorne, Nevada 89415

BRAC Commission

**JUL 21 2005**

Received  
Courthouse Annex  
166 E Street  
Telephone: (775) 945-3636  
Facsimile: (775) 945-0740

**Cheri Emm-Smith**  
District Attorney

John W. Cripps  
Deputy District Attorney

July 15, 2005

BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission regarding the proposed closure of the Hawthorne Army Depot located in Hawthorne, Mineral County, Nevada. I urge the Commission to remove the Hawthorne Army Depot from the BRAC list due to the invaluable assets the base provides to the United States and the State of Nevada both for essential military services and homeland security.

The Hawthorne Army Depot is strategically located in the Great Basin Desert behind the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This location is invaluable as a defense for national security and compliments the Naval Air Station located in Fallon, Nevada, where Top Gun is stationed only 70 miles away. Mineral County has undeveloped geothermal energy located near Hawthorne that could be utilized as a secure resource by the Military and the United States to fight against terrorist and other security threats. The physical terrain provides priceless training opportunities for the Navy SEALs and Army RANGERS by offering deserts, mountains, and water within a secure area. Such natural resources and assets could not be easily replaced by the military, if they could be replaced at all. Further the existing facilities at the Hawthorne Army Depot are critical to national security and defense for the West Coast of our United States.

Mineral County is located directly between Reno and Las Vegas Nevada and presents a tactical location for Homeland Security. U.S. Highway 95 is often overlooked for national security purposes due to the distance and remoteness between major metropolitan areas. It is this remote location that provides the ideal location for the military and homeland security to focus upon terrorism and national security. A closure of the Depot would create a ripple effect that would result in closure or substantial reduction of services by the Mount Grant Hospital, emergency fire and ambulance services, and other essential governmental services. Such cuts would create safety issues for all of Southern Nevada as no other first responder services are available in this area.

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Ltr re BRAC

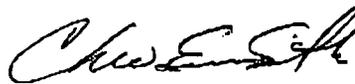
On a more local level, the closure of the Hawthorne Army Depot would create financial disaster for Mineral County. It is well documented that an increase in crime is directly correlated with unemployment rates and increased poverty levels. The economic depression resulting from the base closure will attract the criminal element that manufacture methamphetamine and other narcotics from nearby California deserts. My Office has dealt with narcotic cases stemming from narcotic labs and gangs located in California. Closure of the base would only encourage the influx of crime into Nevada and leave local government with reduced resources to combat the crimes. Further, it would increase areas inside the U.S. borders where terrorist activities could be conducted without detection.

I am confident that the Commission has reviewed and is fully aware of the factual discrepancies in the initial report that placed the Hawthorne Army Depot on the BRAC list; consequently, I will not reiterate those discrepancies in this letter. I am further confident that a review of all of the assets and benefits presented by the Hawthorne Army Depot to both the Military and overall national security will require that the base not be closed.

Hawthorne, Nevada has adopted the motto "Nevada's Patriotic Home" and promotes the United State's Military by an annual and active celebration of Armed Forces Day and billboard advertisements throughout Nevada. Following the most recent Armed Forces Day Parade, the Hawthorne Community raised an American Flag at Lady Bird Park that measured 30 feet by 60 feet on a 115 foot flag pole. Individuals in the community have committed to maintaining the flag on a full-time basis. It is this type of patriotism that the United States needs to maintain national security and ongoing war activities that the Pentagon and the President deem necessary for our Country. I pray that the BRAC Commission recognizes this commitment by the Hawthorne Community and the Hawthorne Army Depot.

Based upon the above, I respectfully request that the BRAC Commission remove the Hawthorne Army Depot from the BRAC list and maintain this essential facility.

Sincerely,



CHERI EMM-SMITH  
Mineral County District Attorney