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5TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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Congress of the United States

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FAX COVER SHEET

To: Chairman Principi

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From:

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 19, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

I want to thank you and the entire BRAC Commission for all the hard work you are doing on behalf of the country and to call your attention to the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) in Mesa, Arizona.

The Department of Defense recommended closing the AFRL in Mesa and moving it to Ohio. There are credible reasons why the Warfighter Training Research Division should remain in place in Mesa, Arizona and the status quo maintained. The privatization in place option as proposed by Arizona State University is also a very worthy alternative for the Commission to strongly consider.

The privatization in place option would save the DOD money, maintain a vital workforce, ensure no disruption of the important training research underway, and provide the DOD with an enhanced synergistic relationship with a significant research university. ASU is the nation's fourth largest research university in the country, managing a portfolio of over 2000 contracts and is willing to allocate up to \$2 million per year to enhance the research enterprise at the AFRL. A closer alignment with ASU would yield significant benefits to both the military and to the university by enhancing the capacity of both entities.

Thank you for your consideration. I know the commission has much work ahead of it, and I hope you can find the time to carefully evaluate ASU's proposal.

Best regards,

J.D. Hayworth
Member of Congress

Cc: BRAC Commissioners