



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

DCN 5620

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Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone: 703-699-2950

July 27, 2005

*The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20393*

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

I invite you and the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Thomas H. Collins, to appear before the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission on August 11, 2005 to hear your Department's constructive comments regarding the 2005 BRAC Air National Guard recommendations. It is incumbent upon this Commission to ensure that the Department of Defense's closure and realignment recommendations, especially those pertaining to the Air National Guard, do not undermine the unique mission responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security. The Commission strongly believes that our nation's senior civilian and military leadership will not be able to develop a responsible solution to the issues surrounding the Air Guard without significant input from the Department of Homeland Security. In this regard, we anticipate holding two separate panels. The first panel will be comprised of your Agency, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and U.S. Northern Command. The second panel will be comprised of the U.S. Air Force, the National Guard Bureau, and a representative from the Adjutants General Association of the United States.

The Commission would appreciate receiving confirmation of your and the commandant's attendance, as well as a copy of your unclassified statement or statements for the record, in hard copy and electronic format (CD), by noon on Friday, August 5, 2005. My point of contact for this hearing is my Executive Director, Charles Battaglia, at 703-699-2952.

Sincerely,

*Anthony J. Principi
Chairman*

Chairman: Anthony J. Principi

Commissioners: The Honorable James H. Bilbray, The Honorable Philip E. Coyle III, Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr., USN (Ret), The Honorable Jim Hansen, General James T. Hill, USA (Ret), General Lloyd Newton, USAF (Ret), The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret)

Executive Director: Charles Battaglia