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Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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BRAC Commission

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Received

Dear Chairman Principi,

First, thank you, the commission, and the commission staff for your commitment and personal sacrifices in executing your complex mission on a very tight timeline. I, as you, want the final 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) actions to be based upon the best information available and logical application of BRAC selection criteria. The DoD has presented recommendations for enhanced leverage of the natural and intellectual resources associated with the military installations in Florida's First Congressional District. Their recommendations all include some realignment of missions away from these installations.

As I mentioned in my remarks at the New Orleans Regional hearing last week the justification for some of these realignments is flawed. I discussed the NAS Pensacola issues in detail in New Orleans. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, I was not able to address the issues surrounding Eglin AFB. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to address those flawed recommendations associated with Eglin AFB.

The DoD Technical Joint Cross-Service Group recommended actions intended to consolidate Air and Space C4ISR Research, Development and Acquisition, Test and Evaluation (RDAT&E) within the Air Force. I fully support the intent to increase efficiency through reductions in the number of technical facilities engaged in Air & Space Sensors, Electronic Warfare, Electronics and information Systems RDAT&E where feasible. One of these actions was the realignment of Eglin AFB, FL, Air & Space Sensors, Electronic Warfare & Electronics and Information Systems Test & Evaluation to Edwards AFB, CA. Based upon assessment of the Technical Joint Cross-Service Group's analysis data and rationale, this recommendation is clearly illogical and flawed. The action is inconsistent with the BRAC selection criterion of Military Value.

- Eglin's Military Value for Information Systems T&E is almost double that of Edwards. The Group made a significant error in methodology for lumping military value data of dissimilar functions into one bin: Air & Space Sensors; Electronic Warfare & Electronics; and Information Systems. The Group's flawed methodology also included significant under estimating of the infrastructure and manpower required to support this type testing. The resulting MILCON error is in the range of \$50-70M. The ability to reconstitute the capability did not address the synergistic joint environment consisting of the 505th Command and Control Wing at Hurlburt Field (located within Eglin range) and the Navy's Expeditionary Warfare Test Bed 65 miles East in Panama City, FL.

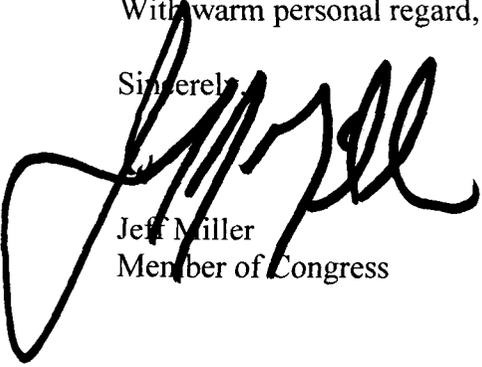
- The Cross-Service Group's analysis of Electronic Warfare & Electronics was significantly flawed. There will be no savings accrued if these capabilities are consolidated at Edwards. However, as recognized in the BRAC 95 legislation, degradation in operational readiness of Air Force Special Operations forces and timely, cost efficient operations in support of Air Combat Command forces will occur. The reason these capabilities exist on the Eglin range, is to provide operational test and training needs of the 16th Special Operations Wing and operational test needs of the 53rd Wing. The 16th assets (high demand, low density) are located at Hurlburt Field which lies within the Eglin Range and the 53rd is located on Eglin main base. Due to the high ops tempo and limited availability of aircraft (helo and fixed wing), special operations forces, the distance to Edwards ranges and limited schedule capacity of those ranges deny our special forces the opportunity to train and test. This is an unacceptable degradation in operational readiness. Likewise, the 53rd Wg issue is timely access to Edwards ranges in support of real time needs and the costs for deployment. There will be no savings, just degradation in operational readiness. Just as importantly however, with the fielding of new data link capable high precision air armament systems such as the Small Diameter Bomb and others, these range capabilities are now recognized as an integral part of Air Armament RDAT&E which is already consolidated at Eglin.

Had this Cross-Service Group validated their data and logic this realignment by vetting findings with AF leadership at Air Force Material Command, Edwards AFB, and Eglin AFB, I am certain this recommendation would have been abandoned. This recommendation makes does not result in a more efficient infrastructure and degrades the Air Force's ability to sustain operational readiness of its special operations and combat air force.

Respectfully, I request your analysis team review my comments and meet with my staff subject matter expert to review additional detail prior to commission final deliberations on this issue.

With warm personal regard, I am

Sincerely,



Jeff Miller
Member of Congress