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DATE: 7/1/05

TO: Base Realignment + Closure Commission

FAX: (703) 699-2735

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 3

FROM:

**CHRIS CONNELLY**  
Chief of Staff/Director of Communications

**MELISSA CLEMENT**  
Legislative Assistant

**MARY SPRINGER**  
Legislative Director

**JONATHAN KIDWELL**  
Legislative Assistant

**JENNY STEIN**  
Scheduler/Office Manager

**LAUREN RIDENOUR**  
Legislative Correspondent

**BRENT ROBINSON**  
Legislative Assistant/ Deputy Press Secretary

**AMANDA MEADOWS**  
Staff Assistant

**ANDREW HICKS**  
Military Legislative Assistant

COMMENTS:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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If you have any problems receiving this fax, please call (202) 225-4261  
Office of Representative Jo Ann Davis  
1123 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
fax: (202) 225-4382

JO ANN DAVIS

FIRST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4601**

June 27, 2005

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1123 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4261

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
4904-B GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY  
YORKTOWN, VA 23692  
(757) 874-6687

4500 PLANK ROAD, SUITE 105  
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22407  
(540) 548-1086

508 CHURCH LANE  
TAPPANNOCK, VA 22560  
(804) 443-0668

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
Chairman, Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 S. Clark St. Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3909

Dear Secretary Principi:

I am writing to request that the Base Realignment and Closure Commission examine the Department of Defense recommendations for Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Virginia. As you may know, there are two recommendations involving Naval Weapons Station Yorktown (NWSY). First, NWSY is to relocate all Weapons and Armaments Research, Development & Acquisition and Test & Evaluation to the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Indian Head, MD. The second realignment recommendation involves the Space Warfare (SPAWAR) Systems Center Charleston, Yorktown Detachment relocating to Naval Station Norfolk. The recommendations can be found in Volume XII, Technical Joint Cross Service Group Analyses and Recommendations.

Additionally, there is a significant overall discrepancy between the count of affected employees at Yorktown and the overall number published with the DoD BRAC reports. The BRAC report lists a total of 179 workers that are recommended for relocation, while officials at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown only find 87 employees affected. I have requested an official comment from the Department of the Navy and have been informed that this is a simple mathematical error, but I nonetheless believe that it should be brought to your attention.

Along with the seemingly incorrect estimation of the number of affected employees at NWSY, the certified cost data from both the losing and receiving activities were severely cut by the Technical Joint Cross-Service Group. Due to the cost reductions, it would seem that a reduction in capability is unavoidable. For example, the cost of transitioning technical documents for weapons systems was reduced to 25% of its certified cost. Additionally, the cost to move or dispose of hazardous, explosive, and classified materials was reduced to 25% of its certified cost. Finally, the costs associated with temporary equipment storage and office renovation are not included in the estimates for the realignment actions. Given these cost estimates, I believe the above information warrants further review.

While the associated costs of the realignment actions are underestimated, the provided savings data seems to be inflated. For example, a recurring savings of \$75,500 per year was erroneously doubled to \$151,000 per year and a savings of \$400,000 per year for elimination of 2 contractors (\$200,000 per contractor per year) is shown even though Yorktown's actual average

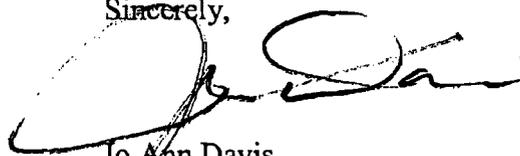
contractor cost per person is about \$50,000 per year. This error overstates the annual savings by \$300,000. Also, equipment disassembly and removal cost of \$1,038,000 was deleted with the justification being "No Closure." Another part of the data shows 142 tons of equipment being shipped to Indian Head and all of it being decontaminated. The equipment must be disassembled and removed if it is to be decontaminated and shipped or slated for disposal. Finally, the \$1,800,000 cost to procure and install explosive press equipment was deleted without explanation, even though a pressed explosive facility MILCON is included in the recommendation. The cost to move existing press equipment as an alternate was also not included. This would result in a building with no equipment.

In closing, I would like to bring to your attention two reports which may be of value during your deliberations. In 1989, my predecessor, Rep. Bateman, requested a GAO study on the feasibility of transferring the Naval Explosives Development Engineering Command (NEDED) from NWSY to Indian Head, MD. While NEDED evolved into NSWC Indian Head Yorktown Detachment, the GAO recognized that Navy savings estimates were inflated by over \$3 million. Also, Naval Sea Systems Command conducted an economic analysis of the transfer of the Yorktown Detachment (Code 930) to Indian Head, MD. This study found a negative Net Present Value (NPV) of \$22,456,097 and recommended that the project should not proceed. Both the GAO and NAVSEA studies suggest that costs are underestimated and savings are inflated by the proposed realignment actions, and I believe these reports would be useful in your analysis.

Thank you for your consideration of the above information. If you have any other questions, please contact me or Andrew Hicks of my staff at (202) 225-4261.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Davis  
Member of Congress

JAD:ah