DCN: 3435

BRAC Commission
Received
6/23/2005

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter to express my serious concerns with the Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) recommendations that you are currently reviewing. It is recommended that the Crane Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center have 672 jobs realigned to other activities.

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division has a long history of supporting our nation's Warfighters dating back to the start of World War II in 1941. Crane has demonstrated the ability to evolve to meet the challenging and changing needs of the men and women that wear the uniform of the United States of America. Crane's employees are skilled and highly trained to provide the necessary support today and are engaged in preparing for the future Defense of our Country.

Crane has been a leader in providing the best value to the Warfighter by increasing the efficiency of our processes through Business and Process Reengineering. In the past three years, Crane has accelerated the pace of our improvements by implementing Lean principles. These efforts have garnered hundreds of thousands of dollars in cost savings, and have led to improved responsiveness and customer satisfaction. In recognition of our extensive continuous improvement successes, Crane has received the following awards: 2002 Commander in Chief's Award for Installation Excellence, 2002 and 2004 DoD Value Engineering Awards, 2004 NAVSEA Engineer of the Year, 2005 NAVSEA's High Performing Organization.

The commitment required to implement such extensive change is in large part due to the sense of ownership Crane's employees feel about this installation. Many of the employees are veterans who have supported their country through military service and have elected to return to work as civil servants. Many employees possess technical degrees with vast knowledge and experience and have chosen to stay in the workplace past their retirement age due to their dedication to the country during this time of war and threat of terrorism. Crane's recognition as a leader in technical areas has allowed it to recruit new employees, providing the skills, knowledge, and abilities to support the current Warfighter as well as the Warfighter after next.

As highlighted in the BRAC guidance, Military Value is an important criteria being used to determine where work should be performed. Crane seemed to score quite well, yet scenarios were only run looking at removing work from Crane. Many installations that are scheduled to receive work from realignments scored lower than Cranes in Military Value. This concerns me, as it appears that the recommendations concerning Crane stray from the stated evaluation criteria.

One area that truly represents Crane's high Military Value is our exceptional support of the nation's Special Operations Forces in the Global War on Terrorism. The U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and other Special Operations customers have come to rely on Crane as their preferred source for night vision, small arms, ordnance, targeting systems, and other equipment. Crane is able to rapidly field solutions for these special mission requirements due to the co-located technical expertise that has been developed in areas such as electro-optics, lasers, small arms/ammunition, power supplies, and pyrotechnics.

Crane's integrated, multifunctional capabilities are not only well suited for support of Special Operations Forces, but provide the perfect environment for rapidly fielding solutions to the Force Protection challenges faced by our Warfighters. For example, in response to the attack on the USS *Cole* in 2000, Crane created the Integrated Radar Optical Sighting Surveillance System (IROSSS), an integrated weapons, electro-optic, radar, and software system that allows ships to

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quickly detect, identify and deter or engage threats. Crane took IROSSS from concept to the first fielded system in 11 months.

Another important BRAC goal is to facilitate Joint operations. Crane is already Joint, with Crane Army Ammunition Activity and Naval Surface Warfare Center as tenant activities. The two organizations work jointly on numerous tasks related to ordnance and pyrotechnics. This jointness and co-location has allowed Crane to produce infrared countermeasures when the private sector was unable to produce; to rework and provide much needed laser-guided bomb kits; and to modify in-service bomb fuzes to prevent premature detonations.

Other factors considered in the BRAC were environmental impact and economic impact to the local community. Crane continues to be a leader in environmental stewardship and innovative ideas, and has won many environmental awards, such as the NAVSEA Award for Achievement in Environmental Quality.

Crane is so critical to the economic health of the state that Indiana recently enacted P.L 5-2005, the Military Base Protection Act, protecting Crane from development that would adversely impact its critical missions and preventing future encroachment. The impact of Crane to the immediate surrounding area is even more acute. Crane's economic area of Martin County, Indiana was the second most severely impacted in the nation, with a 13.1% job loss that will result from DoD's realignment recommendations.

In summary, Crane truly exemplifies the BRAC criteria of Military Value - rapidly providing innovative, best value solutions to our nation's Warfighters. This high level of service has attracted the most demanding customers from across DoD, including USSOCOM, Navy Strategic Systems, as well as US Army and US Air Force Special Operations Commands. Crane's commitment to continuous improvement and ever-increasing value has kept these customers coming back, allowing for the creation of a Joint, multi-functional set of capabilities that is unequaled in the DoD.

I hope that you will take these thoughts into consideration as you go about the difficult decisions on what will be best for the Department of Defense and this great Country. My family and friends who are employees at Crane are dedicated to our Warfighter's mission and prove it through their hard work.

Thanks for your consideration, as well as for your service.

Sincerely,

Karen LeCocq

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