



Executive Correspondence  
DCN 4679

# CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

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BRAC Commission

JUL 15 2005

Received

TO: BRAC Commission

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

RE: 14 July 05

COMMENTS: DFAS Consolidation

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 3

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**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
Chairman  
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

We write to share our concern regarding the Department of Defense's recommendation to consolidate the Defense and Finance Accounting Service (DFAS). We note your July 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Secretary of Defense in which you seek additional information regarding the recommendation to consolidate DFAS. We all recognize the fact that the Department of Defense needs to follow the consolidation of finance and accounting services taking place in the private sector, but we agree the recommendation forwarded by the Secretary of Defense did not look at other scenarios that would utilize higher military value rated installations and lower cost options. We urge the Commission to consider Rock Island Arsenal as a "receiving" location for one of these DFAS consolidation sites.

The Headquarters and Support Activities Joint Cross-Service Group (H&SA JCSG) recommends consolidating the 26 sites into 3 sites in Indianapolis, Columbus, and Denver. At all three of these "gaining" locations, the potential for growth is greatly hampered by urban sprawl and encroachment. This clearly contradicts Military Value #2 & #3 as contained in the BRAC criteria published by the Secretary of Defense. Further, these gaining installations all have locality pay increases and significantly higher per diem rates than the rest of the United States.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service- Rock Island (DFAS-RI) is the highest ranked in Military Value (1 of 26) according to the H&SA JCSG. With 1.1 million square feet of available space at Rock Island Arsenal (RIA), DFAS-RI could easily and inexpensively expand to accommodate additional business lines. Not only is it the top rated DFAS installation in military value, but also the top rated facility in the annual DFAS Operational Assessment Survey (1 of 26).

As Members of Congress and Senators representing the workers of Rock Island Arsenal, we would like to make you aware of the potential for growth and additional cost savings to be gained by expanding at RIA:

- As much as 1.1 million square feet of available space and room for 2000 additional people without major renovations and minimal cost; (MV #2 & OC #7)
- No locality pay rate above the general United States rate as opposed to Indianapolis, Denver, and Columbus which have higher locality pay rates; (MV #4 & OC #5)

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- Ample acreage and parking on the installation to meet future surge requirements without urban sprawl constraints; (MV #3 & OC#7)
- Excellent undergraduate and post-graduate institutions in the Quad Cities region to educate or retrain the numerous accountants and technicians needed by DFAS. Local universities and colleges have also promised to expand their accounting programs to accommodate the additional need for certification and executive programs and, (MV #4 & OC #7)
- One of the military's most secure and impenetrable facilities (meeting and exceeding DOD AT/FP anti-terrorism standards) that allows DoD accounting functions to operate in a war-time atmosphere without constant security risks. RIA also produces much of its own electrical power, insulating it from outages and brown-outs that can disrupt the finance and accounting industry. (MV #1)

*\* MV- Military Value / OC- Other Considerations per Sec. of Defense published BRAC Criteria, published March 23, 2004*

We commend you for the Commission questioning of the Pentagon's recommended DFAS consolidation and urge you and the Commission to vote in favor of adding the DFAS consolidation during the Commission's July 19 vote on base realignment and closure actions that were not among the actions recommended by the Secretary of Defense on May 13, 2005.

Sincerely,

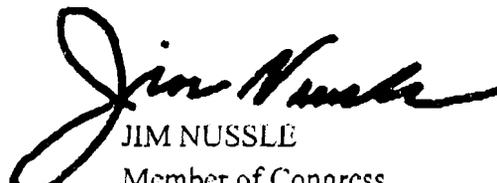
  
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