



July 15, 2005

BRAC Commission

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Received

Mr. Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

In a June 1, 2005, correspondence to Secretary Rumsfeld, you identified a series of issues for which the Commission sought explanations concerning why certain actions were not included in the Department of Defense (DoD) BRAC recommendations.

Our letter today concerns your inquiry into the DoD recommendation to consolidate 26 Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) sites into three locations at: 1) Denver, Colorado; 2) Indianapolis, Indiana; and 3) the Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC) in Columbus, Ohio. DSCC is host to DFAS Columbus and 22 other DoD and federal agencies.

We write today on behalf of Team DSCC, a group of business, government and community leaders that support the retention and expansion of the 23 agencies currently located at DSCC. In preparation for your discussions with DoD, we are providing information why we believe the DFAS BRAC consolidation recommendation should remain unchanged and why DSCC remains an ideal receiver installation for the proposed DFAS or any BRAC consolidation option.

Our community's installation, DSCC, is a superior DoD installation with a landscape dominated by modern buildings and protected by modern security facilities that already comply with DoD's Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Standards. Because the DoD recommendations for DSCC have not fully utilized the excess capacity present in this outstanding installation, the Commission should consider not only retaining the proposed DFAS realignment to DSCC but should consider bringing additional missions to this premier installation.

**The DoD-proposed plan for DFAS is the natural continuation of the consolidation that DFAS has been pursuing since its inception.**

Since its inception nearly 15 years ago, DFAS has continually sought ways to improve its customer service and its operational efficiencies through business systems modernization, process improvement and a continuous analysis of the best mix of government and contract resources to accomplish its mission. Through these and other initiatives, DFAS has been able to significantly reduce the size of its workforce, reduce costs and no longer needs 26 locations to serve its customers. Thus, the BRAC recommendation for DFAS consolidation follows the agency's long-range operational strategy and makes perfect sense especially when you can realign missions to an outstanding installation such as DSCC.

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**With its related missions, DFAS Columbus is the perfect DFAS location to receive the agency's consolidated Commercial Pay and Vendor Pay operations.**

Over the past decade, DFAS has strengthened DFAS Columbus' role as the lead center for the agency's Commercial Pay operations. Currently, Columbus has multiple subordinate Vendor Pay activities. Under the DoD recommendations, these Vendor Pay activities would be relocated to DFAS Columbus. Thus, all DFAS Commercial and Vendor Pay activities would be located in one center with redundant capability at Indianapolis and Denver. This consolidation is consistent with the effort of DFAS over the past several years to organize the agency according to "Business Line."

**Because numerous other DoD agencies with missions similar to those of DFAS Columbus are co-located at DSCC, it makes sense to strengthen the DFAS presence at DSCC.**

DSCC is a true joint installation that hosts a number of DoD agencies with complementary missions beneficial to DFAS. Some of the agencies that DFAS interacts with on a daily basis to accomplish its mission are:

- Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA)
- Defense Information Systems Administration (DISA)
- Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)

This extensive co-location of multiple DoD agencies proves to be a mutually beneficial partnership for working on common DoD issues that would not occur as effectively if these units were geographically separated. Very few, if any, DFAS locations enjoy the operational benefits that DFAS Columbus does from being co-located with so many DoD agencies. Further consolidation of DFAS operations in Columbus only strengthens this partnership and allows DoD to achieve one of its principal BRAC goals of creating more "jointness" through co-location of complementary missions and operations.

**The DSCC installation hosting DFAS Columbus contains superior and modern infrastructure.**

Few DoD installations contain infrastructure as modern and cost-effective as DSCC. In fact, construction on the building housing the DFAS Columbus office was completed in 1999. DSCC enjoys a modernized and affordable infrastructure that has been renovated or replaced over the past five years to include: power, water, heating, air conditioning and fiber optic cable systems. In turn, an aggressive preventative facilities and infrastructure maintenance program has helped drive down operational costs which benefits all tenant organizations, such as DFAS. Add to that the recent addition of new firefighting and emergency response facilities/equipment and you have another important reason why DSCC is logical choice for BRAC expansion.

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**The DSCC installation hosting DFAS Columbus has additional features that make it an attractive site to receive additional missions and employees.**

DSCC contains a 90,000 square foot state-of-the-art Data Center. This facility has 65,000 square feet of raised floor suitable for servers and other computer equipment. The Data Center has back-up generators to ensure that its power is never interrupted and also is wired with two, separate communication lines to ensure that the facility is always connected. While DISA and DLA control a majority of the Data Center's floor space, a significant portion of the Data Center is available for additional missions because of the decreasing footprint of servers and shifts in missions.

The DFAS Conference Center, located in the same building as the DFAS Columbus office, is a premier conference center that hosts DoD and federal agency meetings each year. The center can accommodate up to 500 conference attendees. It features eight conference rooms and a video teleconference room complete with front screen projection capability. Because DSCC is virtually adjacent to our city's major airport, Port Columbus, the DFAS Conference Center is easily accessible for conference attendees traveling from out of town.

DFAS Columbus employees benefit from multiple quality-of-life facilities such as a new Child Care center, a fitness center, a swimming pool and a nine-hole golf course.

**The DSCC installation hosting DFAS Columbus possesses a strong array of security provisions that protect its employees.**

DSCC currently meets the DoD Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection for installations with additional upgrades scheduled in 2006. Every building at DSCC is set off from external roadways by at least 90 feet. Additionally, the installation is encapsulated by a woven, high-grade cable fence to prevent vehicle penetration of the installation perimeter. The entrance to DSCC features a serpentine entryway to slow down traffic and is armed with pop-up bollards which can be deployed in a split second to stop vehicles.

Recently, the security at DSCC has been further enhanced. A new Visitors' Center was opened last month. This feature segregates visiting vehicles from other base-related traffic. The entry into buildings is being more closely controlled. A newly installed entry control system requires the use of proximity cards. These cards track personnel and allow the base to restrict the time and dates that individuals can access buildings. Additionally, motorized cameras throughout the base can be remotely maneuvered and monitored from a centralized security room.

**The DSCC installation hosting DFAS Columbus has the capacity take on up to 1,000 additional employees beyond the DoD-issued BRAC recommendation.**

According to the data submitted by DSCC to DoD, the installation is an excellent receiver location with plenty of room for mission and employee expansion. DSCC has 455,000 square feet of excess capacity and can immediately handle up to an additional 1000 employees beyond the BRAC recommendation.

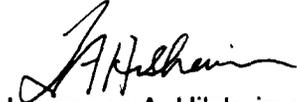
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Our community strongly supports DSCC and all of the missions that are located at the installation. We would request the opportunity to provide additional information to support the proposed DFAS consolidation at this outstanding DoD joint installation.

If you have any questions about the merits of DSCC as a site for additional DoD missions, please contact Steve Tugend, Vice President Government Relations, Columbus Chamber, at 614-225-6943 or [steve\\_tugend@columbus.org](mailto:steve_tugend@columbus.org).

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lawrence A. Hilsheimer  
Chairman  
Team DSCC Steering Committee



Harley E. Rouda, Jr.  
Chairman  
Team DSCC Working Group

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