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Executive Correspondence 13620

General James T. Hill, USA (Ret)  
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Command  
2321 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA.

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July 25, 2005

General James T. Hill, USA(Ret)  
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Hill

I would like to thank-you for taking on the task for being a member of BRAC. It is a task that I am sure has many challenges. I trust that you will be an independent thinker and make up your own mind as to what stays open and what closes.

Portsmouth Naval shipyard is the best at what it does. We overhaul, refuel, and perform short term availabilities on nuclear submarines. We do a large amount of maintenance on submarines. We are a nuclear facility.

We are the place where the innovation takes place. The idea's starts here. The ideas are brought to other facilities so the others can learn from us. Maybe you might call it Yankee ingenuity, strong New England work ethic, pride and ownership of what we do. People at Portsmouth have a pride that is genetic and taught. We have lots of people who are third generation shipyard workers. Others are just happy to be a part of a good team. Work ethic cannot be taught. It is inherent in the person. It is a part of a persons personality. Consider it like being a boxer. A good boxer has to have the ability to hit people. Our work ethic comes from generations of hard work and pride in what we do. We take ownership in what we do.

The NAVY cannot do the work it has now, with the people it has. If you think Portsmouth people will move to other places, think twice. We enjoy a quality of life that is hard to beat. Most people will make do with what they can to get by before giving that up. If after all your data review and meetings and you still can make the honest decision to close Portsmouth, do it. I don't think that you can independently make that decision without the politics pushing you in that direction.

Sincerely,



Arthur A. Nadeau