

BRAC Commission

SEP 06 2005

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BRAC Commission
Mr. Anthony J. Principi
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am sure you are well aware that we are all breathing a sigh of relief at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Last weeks vote by the BRAC to remove Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from the closure list was like having an incredible weight lifted from our shoulders. We truly believe it was the right decision and I applaud you and the rest of the commissioners for not being that "rubber stamp." We are extremely proud New Englanders and we do not take our work or our livelihoods for granted. At no point during this process did the dedication to our jobs sway. As you probably know, we recently sent two more boats out on sea trials—teamwork prevails once again. We are committed to keeping our noses to the grindstone and to continue with our crucial work so that you can stand behind with confidence your eloquent words that we at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard are the "Gold Standard" for the Navy. We honestly believe that the shipyard is a most integral asset to the country and it would have been an irreversible mistake and travesty to America were Portsmouth to close.

On a more personal note, I must admit...it's wonderful having my husband Earl back at home on nights and weekends now that the BRAC process for us at least is over. I cannot begin to tell you Mr. Principi, how proud I am of Earl and the part he played in this whole process. He and many others spent countless hours making sure you and the rest of commissioners had accurate, factual and truthful information on which to base your decision. It was undoubtedly worth the sacrifices though and we are ecstatic with the final outcome. Most important, my stepson Brian, a Shop 56 Pipe fitter here at the Shipyard, and our daughter-in-law Lisa have a current finish date for their new home of September 17th. Needless to say, they are extremely excited that they can move into their dream home without the worries of Brian having to look for a new job. They had all ready decided that they were not going to sell their new home and relocate away from family and friends, so you can imagine the vote by the BRAC to remove Portsmouth from the closure list was an enormous relief for them. So, Brian and Lisa will be moving out soon and Earl and I want to send a heartfelt "THANK

YOU VERY MUCH" to all the BRAC Commissioners for getting us our space back--YAHOO!

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to you Mr. Principi and to the rest of the commissioners and staff for the exemplary work you are doing not only for us personally, but also for the United States of America. God Bless you!

Very respectfully,


Maureen J. Donnell
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