



**MARK KRUZAN
MAYOR**

DCN 7451

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

401 N Morton St
Post Office Box 100
Bloomington IN 47402

p 812.349.3406
BRAC Commission f 812.349.3455
mayor@bloomington.in.gov

August 5, 2005

AUG 15 2005

Received

Anthony Principi, Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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 realign 672 jobs to other activities.

As you know, 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. Since that time, Crane has continuously evolved and met the challenging and changing needs of the men and women that serve the United States. Crane's skilled and highly trained employees provide the support that is needed today and are also engaged in preparing for the future defense of our country.

The commitment required to provide such support is in large part due to the sense of ownership Crane's employees feel about Crane, and their pride in service and workmanship. Many of the employees are veterans who have supported their country through military service and have elected to return to work as civil servants or support contractors. Many employees with technical degrees and vast knowledge and experience have chosen to stay in the workplace past their retirement age because they are dedicated to our country during this time of war and ever present 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 and the future Warfighter.

As highlighted in the BRAC guidance, Military Value is an important criteria being used to determine where work should be performed. Many installations that are scheduled to receive work from realignments scored lower than Crane in Military Value. This concerns me, as it appears the recommendations concerning Crane stray from the stated evaluation criteria.

Another important BRAC goal is to facilitate Joint Operations. Crane is already Joint, with Crane Army Ammunition Activity and the Naval Surface Warfare Center. The two organizations work jointly on numerous tasks related to ordnance and pyrotechnics.



Other factors considered in the BRAC were environmental impact and economic impact to the local community. Crane has no environmental issues and is an exceptional neighbor. 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.

In summary, Crane truly exemplifies the BRAC criteria of Military Value - rapidly providing innovative, best value solutions to our nation's Warfighters. Crane's commitment to superior service and value has created a Joint, multi-functional set of capabilities that is unequaled in the Department of Defense (DoD).

I understand that during the hearings before your commission in St. Louis, the State of Indiana presented alternatives to the current DoD recommendations. These alternatives, if accepted by the Commission, would provide greater military value, greater return on investment and less risk as well as reducing the negative economic impact of losing nearly 700 positions. 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. I most strongly support our fellow Hoosiers at Crane and their dedication to our Warfighter's mission.

Thank you,



Mark Kruzan
Mayor