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August 17, 2005

Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3920

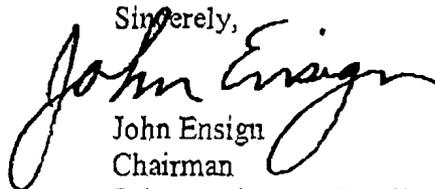
Dear Chairman Principi:

Thank you for your letter of August 9, 2005. After reviewing the enclosures, it is apparent that previously undocumented conversations between the Commission and senior-level Department of Defense officials occurred on matters before the Commission. I commend your decision to take immediate steps to post "reports of future meetings and other contacts" with Department of Defense officials on the Commission's website to preserve our common interest in a fair and transparent process. I request that you continue to make all information received by the Commission part of the public record at the earliest time possible.

Further, the information contained in the summary of your meetings/telephone calls also confirms that discussions occurred with Department of Defense officials who were personally or substantially involved in the preparation of information and recommendations concerning the closure or realignment of military installations. To assess whether *ex parte* communications may have influenced the Commission's actions to date, I request that you provide to my staff a complete detailed account of (1) information exchanged in meetings and telephone calls, particularly as it related to subsequent Commission deliberations; and (2) information on *ex parte* contacts that the other eight commissioners, as well as the Commission staff, had with Department of Defense officials between May 2 and July 19, 2005. I also request that you allow my staff to interview individual Commissioners and Commission staff, as necessary.

I am committed to quickly resolving this matter as to not impede the critical work of the BRAC Commission. I request that you provide the requested documentation and access to my staff before September 6, 2005. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



John Ensign
Chairman

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

cc: The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld



**** SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ****

Fax Cover Sheet

Return this receipt to: M H

FAX TO: Honorable Anthony J. Principi

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COMMENTS:

FROM:
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*This transmission consists
of 2 pages, including
this cover sheet.*