

Bruce A. McCrodden
Senior Vice President



June 20, 2005

06222005

Lloyd W. Newton, General, USAF (Ret)
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission

As a board member of the Downtown Cleveland Partnership, I urge you to preserve the Cleveland office of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service as you consider the proposed list of closures and realignments submitted to you by the U.S. Department of Defense on May 13, 2005.

DFAS is currently the fourth largest federal employer in our region. The 1,028 jobs we could lose are vital to the health of Northeast Ohio, and significantly enrich the ranks of our local professional workforce. But repercussions of closing the Cleveland DFAS office far extend the estimated \$128 million cost to our local economy.

The Cleveland DFAS office is an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, truly a "nerve center" for the entire DFAS organization. It is the world center for Navy payroll services and personnel data management as well as the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. Many of the best practices of the larger DFAS organization were pioneered by the people who work here.

In FY 2003 the Cleveland DFAS distributed \$101 billion and served 2,745,000 military and civilian personnel, retirees and annuitants. Relocating the Cleveland DFAS during a war will disrupt a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service, thus impacting U.S. military pay operations worldwide.

Sincerely,