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COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MINORITY, MILITARY READINESS
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
FISHERIES, CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE, AND OCEANS

April 22, 2005

RECEIVED 4/26/05

ORIGINAL

General (Ret) Lloyd Warren Newton
Commissioner
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Polk Building
Suite 600
2521 South Clark St., Arlington, VA, 22202

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

This is to offer my congratulations to you on your appointment as commissioner on the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission. This duty is a monumental and service-altering mission; and all decisions will be painful for our nation and our communities.

I look forward to having an ongoing conversation with you about the national security missions carried out by the military bases in South Texas over the next several months. The support the people of South Texas have shown for these facilities, their critical missions, and our national defense is unparalleled and we look forward to conveying this to the commission.

Your Air Force and pilot training background will provide you with the unique ability to understand and communicate the critical pilot training mission provided by our South Texas Naval Air Stations. The clear and unrestricted skies of South Texas are irreplaceable national assets.

I do not envy you in this role, but you do have my eternal respect for the patriotic task you play on this commission ensuring the needs of our service men and women are maintained.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Solomon P. Ortiz
Member of Congress