

PATRICK J. KENNEDY
1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

WASHINGTON OFFICE
407 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-4911
FAX: (202) 225-3290
Email: patrick.kennedy@mail.house.gov

DISTRICT OFFICE
249 ROOSEVELT AVENUE, SUITE 200
PAWTUCKET, RI 02860
(401) 729-5600
(800) 392-5772
FAX (401) 729-5608

www.house.gov/patrickkennedy



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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July 13, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

BRAC Commission

JUL 29 2005

Received

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It was a pleasure seeing in Boston last week, and I enjoyed the opportunity to testify before the Commission. The task before you is difficult, and I commend your and your fellow Commissioners' service and dedication to America as you undertake your review of the Pentagon's BRAC recommendations.

As the Commission proceeds in its deliberations, I want to reiterate Rhode Island's strong and demonstrated support for our military, particularly our Navy. We have strived to lower Newport's operating costs, and continue to search for new and innovative ways to support our military. We hope to build upon Rhode Island and Naval Station Newport's distinguished record of service to our country.

Newport's Naval War College is currently the sole provider of Joint Professional Military Education within the naval education establishment and provides a strong foundation upon which to enhance and consolidate the Navy's educational commands, such as those raised in your July 1, 2005 letter to Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld. Related naval educational commands could benefit greatly from the Naval War College's preeminence as the Navy's center of strategic thought and national security policy innovation. In accordance with all the applicable rules and regulations, I am hopeful that the Commission will consider whether relevant installations would be better-served if they were positioned to carry out their educational mission in conjunction with the Naval War College and within Newport's larger naval community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I look forward to welcoming you back to Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Kennedy
Member of Congress

*P.S. Thank you
for your whole families
service to our country!*