

814 22ND AVENUE
MERIDIAN, MS 39301

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May 9, 2005

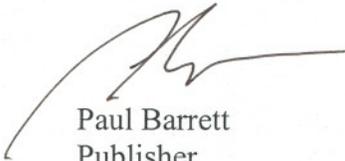
The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission

Dear Secretary Principi and Members of the Commission:

Meridian, Mississippi and our military installations have long been strong and united partners for the vital cause of national defense. To help illustrate our community's deep connections with and unwavering commitment to our military bases and the outstanding job they do, The Meridian Star, East Mississippi's daily newspaper, has published various tributes.

As you make difficult decisions in the days ahead, I am delighted to present you with this collection of publications that serves to underscore the fact that this community readily embraces the military presence. I hope these publications give you at least a glimpse of the tremendous role played by the military personnel in this community and how highly we as Americans value their presence.

Sincerely,



Paul Barrett
Publisher
Meridian Star