



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Mark R. Warner
Governor

April 21, 2005

ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
4/26/05

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Sixth Floor
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

The Commonwealth of Virginia remains committed to maintaining its historic and strong partnership with the Department of Defense on all issues critical to the security of the nation and the success of the military. Accordingly we seek to ensure that the Base Realignment and Closure Commission possesses comprehensive information about Virginia to accurately inform its decision making process. We are confident this information will underscore Virginia's military advantage in the BRAC process, as well as efforts to "transform" our nation's military.

Virginia is proud of its historic role as a core state for placement of key national defense activities. The range of defense functions, commands and installations located in Virginia are clearly a testament to the Commonwealth's strategic military advantage and its commitment to assisting the Department of Defense with successfully achieving its objectives. Because of Virginia's strategic positioning, it remains the principle foundation for growth and support of both the nation and our military.

Virginia is the center for military thought and gateway for people, equipment and technology necessary to effectively defend our nation and its interests at home and abroad. This preeminent role has evolved because of the state's many natural attributes, including its geographic location in relation to the U.S and the world, terrain and climate, in addition to an outstanding economy and quality of life. These attributes are underscored by the Commonwealth's consistent attention to the needs of the military installations, defense-related businesses and the thousands of men and women in both the military and private sectors who work to protect America and its interests.

Situated mid-point along the U.S. East Coast, Virginia offers unparalleled strategic and tactical military advantages, including one of the finest natural ports in the world. Ready access to vital ocean training and weapons systems testing areas coupled with similar land-based activities allow military activities to achieve maximum readiness. Positioned strategically at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and protected from coastal weather elements, the Hampton Roads region exemplifies Virginia's military value. It epitomizes the concept of "jointness" with key

Mr. Anthony Principi
April 21, 2005
Page Two

components of all military services geographically co-located. This proximity achieves synergy that cannot be replicated elsewhere. Significant naval, aviation and army infrastructures established in Hampton Roads have used this region to prosecute military operations abroad and protect us at home. The Hampton Roads area also offers superior cargo capacity, with new privately operated facilities under construction which will nearly double overall logistics handling capacity.

With the increasingly important role of private industry in supporting military operations, transformation demands efficient access to a very broad array of military contactors and businesses who can respond in compressed timelines. Most already have Virginia-based operations. Additionally, more than 35 percent of the nation's manufacturers are within a day's drive to Virginia's port, enhancing coordination and enabling more efficient movement of resources essential to military operations.

Virginia serves as a point of synergy for efforts to transform the services to a more joint operational culture. Joint operations and supportive industries have naturally developed or relocated here creating Virginia's Military Crescent, which carves a wide swath from Northern Virginia to Hampton Roads where the Air Combat, Atlantic Fleet, Training and Doctrine, Joint Forces and NATO Supreme Allied commands are located, as is the Virginia Modeling Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC) which offers the largest battle laboratory in the world for critical joint training. The VMASC exists to foster innovative concept development and experimentation through war gaming and simulations identified as one of the four pillars of force transformation.

An environment supportive of innovative processes is key to transformation. Virginia has a rich tradition of sound governing practices sensitive to the needs of those entities either conducting or seeking to do business here. The only state to achieve straight A's in all four management categories – Money, People, Information and Infrastructure – of the "Government Performance Project" conducted recently by *Governing Magazine*, Virginia offers streamlined regulations, coordinated state-supported workforce training and export assistance which combined create an innovative economic strategy for the Commonwealth and one of the most prosperous business environments in the world.

Virginia's rich and diverse economy has strong roots in manufacturing and service industries. As the birthplace of the Internet, originally designed to support the Department of Defense, and one of the leading centers of software development, Virginia's high-technology economy continues to excel. It is one of the four U.S. states currently licensed and capable of launching communications satellites and other commercial payloads into Space. Virginia is a leader of the information age. More than 10,400 high-tech companies operate in Virginia. To

Mr. Anthony Principi
April 21, 2005
Page Three

support this rapidly expanding segment of its economy, Virginia develops and attracts a highly trained, skilled and technologically proficient work force. Virginia's colleges, universities and community colleges annually produce more than 57,000 degreed students a year and are key assets in training and developing this high technology work force.

Virginia has the highest concentration of engineers and doctoral scientists in the Southeast. More than 20,000 engineers and scientists live and work in Virginia. Its nationally recognized research and development facilities provide the means necessary for the U.S. military to ensure the nation's strategic advantage on the land and sea, as well as in aerospace and cyberspace.

The Commonwealth's diverse climate offers the U.S. Military training opportunities in all four distinct seasons, while also providing natural protection from the destructive effects of severe weather experienced in other south coastal and western states. For example, hurricane damage in Florida last year resulted in \$20 billion in insured losses. As a result, Virginia offers a lower cost environment for its military installations. The military's critical training venues in Virginia also benefit from the rapid recovery rate of the natural environment that results from the state's moderate and supportive weather conditions.

In addition to the state's beneficial weather conditions, other circumstantial factors benefit Virginia's military presence. With the increasing demands on the U.S. soldier, sailor, airman and marine who must meet the escalating service challenges at home and abroad, quality of life issues can play a pivotal role in mitigating the resulting stress on military personnel and their families, directly impacting force readiness. Virginia offers excellent primary and secondary schools. Its 39 public and 35 private institutions of higher education are recognized globally as models of excellence in learning, leadership and research. The state is committed to affordable, quality higher education, last year providing an additional funding of \$278 million to higher public education in its biennium budget.

Virginia also offers the highest quality health care, affordable housing, transportation choices, award-winning statewide recreational areas and a rich historic setting to explore our nation's past. These quality of life attributes are routinely enjoyed by military families who welcome Virginia assignments.

Virginia is uniquely poised to provide for the future of the U.S. military. As the Department of Defense seeks ever more creative and innovative approaches to the evolving national security challenges at home and abroad, Virginia already possesses the needed resources to contribute to the successful transformation of our nation's military.

Mr. Anthony Principi
April 21, 2005
Page Four

We recognize the challenge the Commission faces as it seeks to validate findings of the Department of Defense in the BRAC process. The attached document is intended to inform that process by providing data about Virginia and its military advantage. If we can be of further assistance to you and your staff by contributing any additional information or by addressing any other matters of interest, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark R. Warner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "W".

Mark R. Warner

Enclosure