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June 13, 2005



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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Secretary Principi:

I write today concerning the BRAC Commission site visits that are currently being conducted. I strongly encourage you to visit all three military installations in Pittsburgh that were recommended by the Department of Defense for closure or realignment -- the 911th Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, the 99th Regional Readiness Command (RRC), U.S. Army Reserve, and the Charles E. Kelly Support Activity.

The 911th Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, located at the Pittsburgh Joint Air Reserve Station in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, provides airlift of airborne forces, their equipment and supplies, and delivers important materiel by airdrop, landing, or cargo extractions systems. This unit also provides intra-theater aeromedical evacuation for injured or wounded military personnel. As you are aware, the Department of Defense has recommended that the Pittsburgh International Airport Joint Air Reserve Station close, and that the 911th Airlift Wing's eight C-130H aircraft be relocated to Pope Air Force Base and Fort Bragg, North Carolina to form a sixteen aircraft Reserve/Active Duty unit. In addition, DoD has recommended that all remaining Expeditionary Combat Support elements at the 911th Airlift Wing be relocated to Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

The 99th RRC, in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, is responsible for supporting Army Reserve mobilizations during periods of crisis and war, and to reconstitute units following demobilization. As you know, the Department of Defense has recommended that the 99th RRC be realigned and for headquarters functions at the unit to be transferred to a new Northeast Regional Readiness Command Headquarters to be established at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

The Charles E. Kelly Support Facility in Oakdale, Pennsylvania provides administrative and logistical support to tenant and satellite units and activities and organizations, departments, and agencies of the government. The current commissary at this site serves over 60,000 military personnel and their dependents. However, patrons of the current facility find the location and condition of the installation lacking in many regards. It continues to be my hope that the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) and Army and

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Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) will make building a new commissary and post exchange near the 99th RRC a top priority. As you are aware, however, DoD has recommended that the Kelly Support Facility close and that those units at the installation be relocated to the Pittsburgh Army Reserve Center.

I believe that a site visit to Pittsburgh by you, as the Chairman of the 2005 BRAC Commission, would be beneficial to the Commission in performing its own independent analysis and evaluation of DoD's list of recommendations, and providing first-hand experience to the Commission's deliberations and findings. I believe that visiting those installations and meeting with stakeholders from all three military installations will enable you and the BRAC Commission to fully realize the capabilities and excellence of the men and women of these installations.

I strongly urge you to visit Pittsburgh, either with General Lloyd W. Newton (USAF, Ret.) during his site visit on June 21, 2005, or in conjunction with your visit to the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NASJRB) Willow Grove, Pennsylvania on July 5, 2005.

I appreciate your kind consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of additional assistance to you on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Santorum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Rick Santorum
United States Senate