



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

In advance of the anticipated final votes this week by the BRAC Commission, I wanted to remind you of the strengths of the exceptional military facilities in Illinois and the outstanding bipartisan and bi-state support they enjoy. I further want to raise some serious and specific concerns I have with several of the Department of Defense's ("DoD") recommendations that will weaken national defense and waste taxpayer dollars.

THE ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

As you are aware, the Rock Island Arsenal ("RIA") is situated on a large island in the Mississippi River between Illinois and Iowa. This location provides not only natural force protection but also ample room to expand missions without being encumbered by civilian encroachment. Despite this, DoD has proposed moving more than 1,900 positions off the Island. I believe that many of these moves will hurt both our national defense and waste scarce defense dollars. I urge you and your fellow Commissioners to closely examine the following proposals:

- **Moving the Tank Automotive and Armaments Command – Rock Island ("TACOM-RI") to the Detroit Arsenal.** This realignment will result in approximately 1,100 positions moving out of Rock Island to Warren, Michigan. This recommendation is highly suspect for several reasons: (1) According to the Army's own rankings, RIA has a higher military value than the Detroit Arsenal. It is contrary to sound judgment to move a mission out of a higher ranking installation to a lower one; (2) the Detroit Arsenal does not have enough space to accommodate all of these new positions, which will result in more than \$115 million in construction costs; (3) the civilian wage rate is 6.7 percent higher in Warren, Michigan than Rock Island; and (4) there will be no efficiencies created by moving TACOM-RI to Detroit. The missions of TACOM-RI and the Detroit Arsenal have no overlap, and the Army will not be furthering its goal of creating a Center of Excellence through this realignment.
- **Moving the Regional Civilian Personnel Office (CHRA) to Fort Riley in Kansas.** The CHRA office at RIA is the top ranked personnel office in the Army. DoD has

recently admitted in its submission to the Commission that it would not have proposed moving this office except for the fact that the Army anticipated closing RIA. (See August 16, 2005 letter from Michael Wynne to Chairman Principi). Since RIA is remaining open, this realignment should be reversed. To do otherwise would violate BRAC criteria because a mission would be moving from a higher rated location to a lower rated one and waste taxpayer dollars.

- **Closing the Defense Finance Accounting Service at Rock Island (“DFAS-RI”).** DFAS-RI has the highest value ranking of any DFAS office in DoD. RIA has ample room to take on additional DFAS positions and Illinois has an outstanding educational system that is and will be an important pipeline for qualified professionals for DFAS-RI. Accordingly, RIA should be viewed as a DFAS expansion location, not the other way around.

RIA is an outstanding facility that enjoys strong bi-partisan and bi-state support from both Illinois and Iowa. This was never more evident than at the June 20, 2005 regional hearing in St. Louis where U.S. Senators Durbin, Obama, Grassley and Harkin, along with myself, Governor Vilsack and U.S. Representative Evans, all testified on behalf of the Arsenal and pledged our support for it going forward. Speaker Hastert and U.S. Representative Nussle have also provided key support to RIA. Further evidence is the fact that both Illinois and Iowa have made matching \$200,000 contributions to the Arsenal Support Program Initiative at RIA. This bi-partisan/bi-state coalition will continue to support the Arsenal as its missions evolve.

CAPITAL AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE

DoD has recommended that the F-16 jets currently located at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport (“Capital ANGB”) in Springfield, Illinois be relocated to the Air Guard base in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. This realignment must be reversed for several reasons:

- **Capital ANGB has a higher military value ranking than Ft. Wayne.** It does not make sense to move scarce resources from a higher ranked installation to a lower one.
- **The move will cost not save money in the long run.** Air Force figures show that it will cost \$10 million to move the aircraft out of Springfield. The payback period for this move was listed as “never” by the Air Force.
- **The removal of the fighter mission and associated units will create an unacceptable homeland security risk.** Without the F-16s based in Springfield, the entire lower Midwest will be left without fighter protection. The events of September 11, 2001 should be a reminder to us all that such a situation is unacceptable. Further, the firefighters currently based at Capital ANGB are also slated to be moved out of Illinois. These firefighters are some of the most valuable first responders in Illinois, and their loss would be a needless homeland security risk with little associated savings.
- **Recruiting and retention at Capital ANGB is outstanding.** The only reason the Air Force provided for moving the fighter mission out of Capital ANGB to a lower value installation was that Ft. Wayne has a better recruiting record. This is a stretch of the truth and clearly aimed at justifying an otherwise unjustifiable recommendation. Springfield has an outstanding recruiting record and has consistently maintained force

levels at 99 to 100 percent of allocated positions. Such a record would be the envy of almost every other Air Guard unit in the nation.

- **DoD failed to meet its legal obligation to consult with me as Commander-in-Chief of the Illinois National Guard before issuing the Capital ANGB recommendation.** As a result, the recommendation cannot proceed.

This is the wrong recommendation, at the wrong time, for the wrong reasons and, on top of all that, it is illegal. Capital ANGB is a first rate installation with quality people that are key to the protection of Illinois and the entire nation. It also enjoys strong bi-partisan support in Congress from U.S. Senators Durbin and Obama, along with U.S. Representatives LaHood, Shimkus and Evans. Illinois stands ready to do whatever it takes to retain and strengthen missions at Capital ANGB.

GREAT LAKES NAVAL STATION

DoD has proposed moving approximately 2,000 positions out of the Great Lakes Naval Training Center ("GLNTC"). The bulk of these positions involve Naval Corpsmen training that will be consolidated from several locations around the country to one in Texas. While acknowledging that there may be some benefit to this consolidation, I believe it could prove to be problematic for two reasons. First, this approach may result in over-centralization that could lead to future problems due to lack of redundancy. Second, the cost to complete the Great Lakes and associated realignments will likely reach more than \$1 billion according to DoD estimates. This is a staggering figure that should be closely examined by the Commission. I urge the Commission to consider scaling back this consolidation from one to two locations. This will still provide significant cost savings along with needed redundancy. Due to its central location and outstanding facilities, GLNTC would be a natural location to consolidate, which would enjoy strong congressional, state and local support.

As you are about to complete your very complicated and complex task, I hope you take into account these very compelling, factual reasons for reversing DoD's ill-conceived recommendations. This is not about parochialism or politics. This is about doing what is right for our country. The BRAC process is about two worthy goals - saving money and making our military more efficient and effective. The only problem is the Pentagon is not practicing what it preaches. These recommendations fly in the face of reason and must be stopped.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor



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JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2005

Sue E. Turner
Commissioner of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Commissioner Turner:

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- **Moving the Tank Automotive and Armaments Command – Rock Island ("TACOM-RI") to the Detroit Arsenal.** This realignment will result in approximately 1,100 positions moving out of Rock Island to Warren, Michigan. This recommendation is highly suspect for several reasons: (1) According to the Army's own rankings, RIA has a higher military value than the Detroit Arsenal. It is contrary to sound judgment to move a mission out of a higher ranking installation to a lower one; (2) the Detroit Arsenal does not have enough space to accommodate all of these new positions, which will result in more than \$115 million in construction costs; (3) the civilian wage rate is 6.7 percent higher in Warren, Michigan than Rock Island; and (4) there will be no efficiencies created by moving TACOM-RI to Detroit. The missions of TACOM-RI and the Detroit Arsenal have no overlap, and the Army will not be furthering its goal of creating a Center of Excellence through this realignment.
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recently admitted in its submission to the Commission that it would not have proposed moving this office except for the fact that the Army anticipated closing RIA. (See August 16, 2005 letter from Michael Wynne to Chairman Principi). Since RIA is remaining open, this realignment should be reversed. To do otherwise would violate BRAC criteria because a mission would be moving from a higher rated location to a lower rated one and waste taxpayer dollars.

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DoD has recommended that the F-16 jets currently located at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport (“Capital ANGB”) in Springfield, Illinois be relocated to the Air Guard base in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. This realignment must be reversed for several reasons:

- **Capital ANGB has a higher military value ranking than Ft. Wayne.** It does not make sense to move scarce resources from a higher ranked installation to a lower one.
- **The move will cost not save money in the long run.** Air Force figures show that it will cost \$10 million to move the aircraft out of Springfield. The payback period for this move was listed as “never” by the Air Force.
- **The removal of the fighter mission and associated units will create an unacceptable homeland security risk.** Without the F-16s based in Springfield, the entire lower Midwest will be left without fighter protection. The events of September 11, 2001 should be a reminder to us all that such a situation is unacceptable. Further, the firefighters currently based at Capital ANGB are also slated to be moved out of Illinois. These firefighters are some of the most valuable first responders in Illinois, and their loss would be a needless homeland security risk with little associated savings.
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levels at 99 to 100 percent of allocated positions. Such a record would be the envy of almost every other Air Guard unit in the nation.

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Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor



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JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2005

James T. Hill
Commissioner of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Commissioner Hill:

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Blagojevich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2005

Samuel K. Skinner
Commissioner of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Commissioner Skinner:

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ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2005

Lloyd W. Newton
Commissioner of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Commissioner Newton:

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DoD has recommended that the F-16 jets currently located at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport (“Capital ANGB”) in Springfield, Illinois be relocated to the Air Guard base in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. This realignment must be reversed for several reasons:

- **Capital ANGB has a higher military value ranking than Ft. Wayne.** It does not make sense to move scarce resources from a higher ranked installation to a lower one.
- **The move will cost not save money in the long run.** Air Force figures show that it will cost \$10 million to move the aircraft out of Springfield. The payback period for this move was listed as “never” by the Air Force.
- **The removal of the fighter mission and associated units will create an unacceptable homeland security risk.** Without the F-16s based in Springfield, the entire lower Midwest will be left without fighter protection. The events of September 11, 2001 should be a reminder to us all that such a situation is unacceptable. Further, the firefighters currently based at Capital ANGB are also slated to be moved out of Illinois. These firefighters are some of the most valuable first responders in Illinois, and their loss would be a needless homeland security risk with little associated savings.
- **Recruiting and retention at Capital ANGB is outstanding.** The only reason the Air Force provided for moving the fighter mission out of Capital ANGB to a lower value installation was that Ft. Wayne has a better recruiting record. This is a stretch of the truth and clearly aimed at justifying an otherwise unjustifiable recommendation. Springfield has an outstanding recruiting record and has consistently maintained force

levels at 99 to 100 percent of allocated positions. Such a record would be the envy of almost every other Air Guard unit in the nation.

- **DoD failed to meet its legal obligation to consult with me as Commander-in-Chief of the Illinois National Guard before issuing the Capital ANGB recommendation.**
As a result, the recommendation cannot proceed.

This is the wrong recommendation, at the wrong time, for the wrong reasons and, on top of all that, it is illegal. Capital ANGB is a first rate installation with quality people that are key to the protection of Illinois and the entire nation. It also enjoys strong bi-partisan support in Congress from U.S. Senators Durbin and Obama, along with U.S. Representatives LaHood, Shimkus and Evans. Illinois stands ready to do whatever it takes to retain and strengthen missions at Capital ANGB.

GREAT LAKES NAVAL STATION

DoD has proposed moving approximately 2,000 positions out of the Great Lakes Naval Training Center ("GLNTC"). The bulk of these positions involve Naval Corpsmen training that will be consolidated from several locations around the country to one in Texas. While acknowledging that there may be some benefit to this consolidation, I believe it could prove to be problematic for two reasons. First, this approach may result in over-centralization that could lead to future problems due to lack of redundancy. Second, the cost to complete the Great Lakes and associated realignments will likely reach more than \$1 billion according to DoD estimates. This is a staggering figure that should be closely examined by the Commission. I urge the Commission to consider scaling back this consolidation from one to two locations. This will still provide significant cost savings along with needed redundancy. Due to its central location and outstanding facilities, GLNTC would be a natural location to consolidate, which would enjoy strong congressional, state and local support.

As you are about to complete your very complicated and complex task, I hope you take into account these very compelling, factual reasons for reversing DoD's ill-conceived recommendations. This is not about parochialism or politics. This is about doing what is right for our country. The BRAC process is about two worthy goals - saving money and making our military more efficient and effective. The only problem is the Pentagon is not practicing what it preaches. These recommendations fly in the face of reason and must be stopped.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2005

James H. Bilbray
Commissioner of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Commissioner Bilbray:

In advance of the anticipated final votes this week by the BRAC Commission, I wanted to remind you of the strengths of the exceptional military facilities in Illinois and the outstanding bipartisan and bi-state support they enjoy. I further want to raise some serious and specific concerns I have with several of the Department of Defense's ("DoD") recommendations that will weaken national defense and waste taxpayer dollars.

THE ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

As you are aware, the Rock Island Arsenal ("RIA") is situated on a large island in the Mississippi River between Illinois and Iowa. This location provides not only natural force protection but also ample room to expand missions without being encumbered by civilian encroachment. Despite this, DoD has proposed moving more than 1,900 positions off the Island. I believe that many of these moves will hurt both our national defense and waste scarce defense dollars. I urge you and your fellow Commissioners to closely examine the following proposals:

- **Moving the Tank Automotive and Armaments Command – Rock Island ("TACOM-RI") to the Detroit Arsenal.** This realignment will result in approximately 1,100 positions moving out of Rock Island to Warren, Michigan. This recommendation is highly suspect for several reasons: (1) According to the Army's own rankings, RIA has a higher military value than the Detroit Arsenal. It is contrary to sound judgment to move a mission out of a higher ranking installation to a lower one; (2) the Detroit Arsenal does not have enough space to accommodate all of these new positions, which will result in more than \$115 million in construction costs; (3) the civilian wage rate is 6.7 percent higher in Warren, Michigan than Rock Island; and (4) there will be no efficiencies created by moving TACOM-RI to Detroit. The missions of TACOM-RI and the Detroit Arsenal have no overlap, and the Army will not be furthering its goal of creating a Center of Excellence through this realignment.
- **Moving the Regional Civilian Personnel Office (CHRA) to Fort Riley in Kansas.** The CHRA office at RIA is the top ranked personnel office in the Army. DoD has

recently admitted in its submission to the Commission that it would not have proposed moving this office except for the fact that the Army anticipated closing RIA. (See August 16, 2005 letter from Michael Wynne to Chairman Principi). Since RIA is remaining open, this realignment should be reversed. To do otherwise would violate BRAC criteria because a mission would be moving from a higher rated location to a lower rated one and waste taxpayer dollars.

- **Closing the Defense Finance Accounting Service at Rock Island (“DFAS-RI”).** DFAS-RI has the highest value ranking of any DFAS office in DoD. RIA has ample room to take on additional DFAS positions and Illinois has an outstanding educational system that is and will be an important pipeline for qualified professionals for DFAS-RI. Accordingly, RIA should be viewed as a DFAS expansion location, not the other way around.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rod Blagojevich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2005

Philip Coyle
Commissioner of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Commissioner Coyle:

In advance of the anticipated final votes this week by the BRAC Commission, I wanted to remind you of the strengths of the exceptional military facilities in Illinois and the outstanding bi-partisan and bi-state support they enjoy. I further want to raise some serious and specific concerns I have with several of the Department of Defense's ("DoD") recommendations that will weaken national defense and waste taxpayer dollars.

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levels at 99 to 100 percent of allocated positions. Such a record would be the envy of almost every other Air Guard unit in the nation.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2005

Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
Commissioner of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Commissioner Gehman:

In advance of the anticipated final votes this week by the BRAC Commission, I wanted to remind you of the strengths of the exceptional military facilities in Illinois and the outstanding bi-partisan and bi-state support they enjoy. I further want to raise some serious and specific concerns I have with several of the Department of Defense's ("DoD") recommendations that will weaken national defense and waste taxpayer dollars.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2005

James V. Hansen
Commissioner of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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GREAT LAKES NAVAL STATION

DoD has proposed moving approximately 2,000 positions out of the Great Lakes Naval Training Center ("GLNTC"). The bulk of these positions involve Naval Corpsmen training that will be consolidated from several locations around the country to one in Texas. While acknowledging that there may be some benefit to this consolidation, I believe it could prove to be problematic for two reasons. First, this approach may result in over-centralization that could lead to future problems due to lack of redundancy. Second, the cost to complete the Great Lakes and associated realignments will likely reach more than \$1 billion according to DoD estimates. This is a staggering figure that should be closely examined by the Commission. I urge the Commission to consider scaling back this consolidation from one to two locations. This will still provide significant cost savings along with needed redundancy. Due to its central location and outstanding facilities, GLNTC would be a natural location to consolidate, which would enjoy strong congressional, state and local support.

As you are about to complete your very complicated and complex task, I hope you take into account these very compelling, factual reasons for reversing DoD's ill-conceived recommendations. This is not about parochialism or politics. This is about doing what is right for our country. The BRAC process is about two worthy goals - saving money and making our military more efficient and effective. The only problem is the Pentagon is not practicing what it preaches. These recommendations fly in the face of reason and must be stopped.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Blagojevich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor