

**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

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BRAC Commission

**JUL 14 2005**

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Received  
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July 11, 2005

Commissioner Philip Coyle  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Ste 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Coyle:

I thank the Base Realignment Closure Commission for this opportunity to voice my concerns regarding the proposed closure of the Hawthorne Army Depot in Hawthorne, Nevada. This is a topic of great interest to me and the residents in the State of Nevada.

The Hawthorne Army Depot is an integral component in maintaining our country's national security. Its value to the US Department of Defense is noteworthy. The institution is ranked second out of the 23 storage and distribution depots, first out of the 13 facilities with demilitarization capabilities and first of all installations for its future military value. Hawthorne is a future asset to the Department of Defense, offering strengths and assets no other depot can deliver to the war effort. I make that assertion based on the following reasons:

- **LOCATION:** Nevada is the seventh largest state and has the greatest distances between metropolitan areas. Safely tucked inside this state, the Hawthorne Army Depot is strategically located to provide overnight shipping to all west coast ports and training facilities, while remaining relatively obscure.
- **FUNCTIONALITY:** Hawthorne is multi-functional with a cross trained work force and has capabilities ranging from logistics to munitions recycling, from range scrap processing to joint services training.
- **TRAINING FACILITIES:** In the last two years Hawthorne has had a nearly permanent contingent of Navy SEALs for pre-deployment training. This spring more than a thousand Marines were at Hawthorne for pre-deployment training because Hawthorne is one of the few locations where the Marines can practice live fire training. It also houses the only High Angle firing range in the United States. Further, the Army Rangers use Hawthorne for high altitude desert training.

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- **STORAGE SPACE:** In 2003 the Army conventional munitions storage in the US was nearly 70% full, with large quantities of munitions still located overseas. The military plans to consolidate nearly 600,000 tons of munitions from foreign countries into the US depot system, making Hawthorne a vital link to future storage capacity. By 2007, the existing depot system will be at 98% occupancy. This includes the 10 million square feet at Hawthorne, which holds 600,000 tons of munitions. Hawthorne is also working with the Defense Logistics Agency to become the national repository for the Defense Mercury Stockpile.
- **BOMBING RANGES:** More than 80 percent of this nation's live ordinance is dropped on Nevada bombing ranges with Hawthorne strategically based in the geographic center.
- **FUTURE EXPANSION:** Mineral County, the host county for the Hawthorne Army Depot, is working with the Army Commander to withdraw an additional 120,000 to 150,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land for live fire convoy practice for the Marines and to expand our training and testing facilities.

The Base Realignment and Closure Committee now faces the tough challenge of reviewing and validating the recommendations made by the Department of Defense in the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process. I hope in reviewing the recommendations you will take into consideration the important role the Hawthorne Army Depot plays in keeping our country safe and the value we place upon its contributions to our economy.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sandoval", written over a horizontal line.

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
Nevada Attorney General