DCN: 5144

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

BRAC Commission

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Received

July 14, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

We understand that on Monday, July 18, 2005, the Commission will conduct a hearing to consider adding facilities for closure or realignment to the BRAC list, including the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT). We write to express our support for AFIT and ask that you take into consideration the many benefits realized by the Air Force and the greater defense community from the current location and focus of this quality graduate and professional education center.

As you know, AFIT has a long history of serving the graduate and professional education needs of the Air Force and the greater defense community. Since it began granting degrees in 1956, more than 15,000 bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees have been awarded. Additionally, AFIT has established Centers of Excellence in Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT), Information Security, Directed Energy, Systems Engineering, and Operational Analysis. AFIT delivers education and research on cutting-edge technologies that the Department of Defense and war-fighters require now in places like Iraq.

AFIT's location is also critical to meeting the research needs of successful graduates, the Air Force, and the Department of Defense. Collocation with the Air Force Research Laboratory offers students access to first-rate research tools, the knowledge base of world-class scientists, and hands-on experience. AFIT students conduct more than 400 research efforts annually, with direct relevance to the Air Force and DoD. In fact, end users of the research conducted by AFIT students, rank 90% of that research as significant or highly significant to defense needs. Students at this institute also benefit from its collocation with Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, Aeronautical Systems Center, and access to the DoD supercomputer facility housed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The mix of these exceptional opportunities is not available at any other location in the United States.

Further, AFIT's Center for MASINT Studies and Research is value-added for the intelligence community, specifically the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) also located at Wright-Patterson. MASINT is becoming increasingly important in providing critical information as targets grow in sophistication. In 2005, AFIT's MASINT Center was awarded the first annual Advanced Geospatial Intelligence Award by the National GeoSpatial Intelligence Agency for advancing the art and science of Advanced Geospatial-Intelligence and

developing significant new applications. Having an education center of this quality collocated with NASIC, the lead intelligence center on MASINT, also insures strength in the continuity of training for a quality intelligence community.

Finally, a study conducted in 1998 by the Air University concluded that AFIT's value to the Air Force graduate education mission was such that investment in the continued growth would benefit both the Air Force and the greater defense community. The cost to grow the mission at AFIT is far outweighed by the benefits it provides. It has been estimated that the military can provide this level of education at a cost lower than most state and private universities. This is just one of the analyses indicating that AFIT's programs and location are a good investment for the Air Force. We encourage you to review all of the analyses that have been completed on the subject.

The above points illustrate just a few of the advantages that AFIT provides to the war-fighting community. We strongly encourage you to meet with members of the AFIT faculty and the greater Dayton community, and to review the preexisting reports on AFIT, prior to considering any realignment or closure of this critical asset. We remain ready and available to provide any additional information that will be useful to you and the Commission in evaluating the military value of AFIT.

Very respectfully yours,

MIKE DeWINE
United States Senator

GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
United States Senator

DAVE HOBSON
Member of Congress

MICHAEL TURNER
Member of Congress