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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### Washington, DC 20515-4327

July 14, 2005

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RANKING MINORITY, MILITARY  
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SUBCOMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
FISHERIES, CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE,  
AND OCEANS

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

BRAC Commission

JUL 15 2005

Dear Chairman Principi,

Received

Thank you for sending me a courtesy copy of your letter requesting additional information from the Department of Defense on a series of issues relating to installations that might possibly be added to the BRAC list submitted by the Secretary of Defense. I appreciate your diligence in ensuring that the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) remains informed as we conduct our statutory oversight of the process.

As you noted in your letter, many of these questions are a result of information gleaned through a variety of methods, including Commission visits of proposed closure and major realignment sites, as well as information provided by communities during public hearings. Since several communities are scheduled for site visits in the future and some regional hearings will not be held until later this month, I respectfully request that you reserve and execute the right to pose additional questions of the same nature to the Department of Defense for facilities that have minor BRAC impacts (less than 300 employees identified as impacted). As you so wisely noted, it is critical for Members of the Commission to obtain the public's advice, assessments, and analyses at public hearings to assist you in making the best possible decisions.

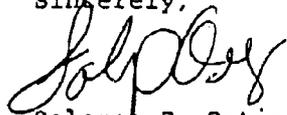
With this in mind, it is imperative that the Commission have the opportunity to visit all sites recommended for closure or realignment and hear from all impacted communities prior to finalizing any list of questions related to potential additions to the list submitted by the Secretary of Defense. Every community must have an equal opportunity to have the Commission question and consider whether or not the Department of Defense sufficiently reviewed all alternatives to the option selected. I respectfully request your confirmation that the Commission will amend your request of July 1, and any deadlines as required, as long as they fit within the statutory timeframe, to accommodate issues brought to light during site visits and public hearings regarding minor BRAC impacts. This is particularly crucial for realignments based on functional consolidations where it is not clear that DoD thoroughly examined the full scope of potential scenarios. This seems to be a possible pattern for some recommendations that may appear to have minor impact at the closing

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location but could have significant impact for the future of facilities, military readiness, and the taxpayer.

Again, I appreciate your sending me a copy of your questions for the Department of Defense, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that the Commission makes the best decisions through a fair and unbiased process. I stand ready to assist you in any way as you continue your distinguished service to our Nation in this important and difficult job.

Sincerely,



Solomon P. Ortiz  
Member of Congress