



STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue  
GOVERNOR

August 10, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi,

Thank you and your fellow commissioners for the vital work you are doing for this nation. The BRAC process is important for many reasons, not the least of which is the government's responsibility to use taxpayer dollars effectively and efficiently. As a state with a long-standing military tradition, we look forward to your decision and are prepared to continue to do our part to support our nation's military.

Georgia is prepared to welcome and support the organizations, service members, and families that will be arriving here from other parts of our country as part of the BRAC realignment recommendations. Fortunately for us, transformation initiatives prior to BRAC have given us a model to manage large numbers of new arrivals. We are confident we will welcome all new members of the military and their families with the necessary amenities expected.

As you know, during the recent regional hearing in Atlanta, Georgia's communities made their cases for why those installations identified by the Pentagon for closure should remain open. As you, the commission, and the commission staff prepare your final recommendations, I would like to highlight the concerns we have with the Department of Defense recommendations:

- a. Ft McPherson and Ft Gillem: We are concerned that splitting FORSCOM, USARC, 3d Army and 1<sup>st</sup> Army will adversely impact the Army's war planning and reserve component training readiness, by destroying the synergies they currently share. Additionally, for all headquarters scheduled to move on both installations, command and control will be more difficult given the additional travel cost and time that would be required. Also, abandoning the communications and transportation hub of Atlanta for a less robust region could impact continuity of operations and increase costs. Finally, as you have mentioned often during regional hearings, it is difficult to understand why the Army, using the COBRA model, would argue successfully to keep McPherson and Gillem open during BRAC '93 and conclude just the opposite in 2005.
- b. Navy Supply Corps School: The Navy's analysis for closing the Navy Supply Corps School appears to deviate significantly from the BRAC selection criteria. The most striking divergence is the Navy's miscalculation of the impact in the annual per diem costs that would

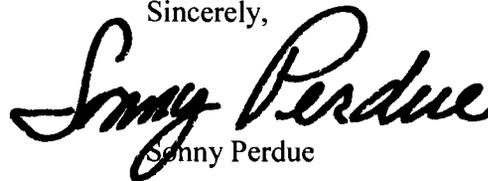
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occur in a move to Newport, RI. Per diem costs in Athens are among the lowest in Navy training areas. Certified data, which has now been provided to your staff, shows that the Navy would spend \$24 million for a move that will cause them to lose at least \$800,000 annually. The proposed move also fails to recognize the 21st Century military value and combined joint-training resources currently provided by the Navy Supply Corps School.

- c. Naval Air Station Atlanta: This base has been unusually active in the war on terror. Two of the four squadrons located there have been successfully deployed to the Middle East, reinforcing the mission value perspective that combat readiness can be sustained by keeping them positioned in Atlanta. Secondly, this area is the most demographically rich area for aviation specialties in the southeast. Given the absolute need for the Reserve Component to recruit constantly to retain directed strength, it seems reasonable that the Department of Defense would want to continue to take advantage of this area. Finally, as in the case of the other three bases, we feel that the Navy cost data is in error and that the savings are far less than cited.

Again, thank you for the job you are doing under challenging circumstances. We appreciate your support for our military, and we stand ready to be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Sonny Perdue

Cc: Senator Saxby Chambliss  
Senator Johnny Isakson  
Congressman John Barrow  
Congressman Sanford Bishop  
Congressman Nathan Deal  
Congressman Phil Gingrey  
Congressman Jack Kingston  
Congressman John Lewis  
Congressman John Linder  
Congressman Jim Marshall  
Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney  
Congressman Charlie Norwood  
Congressman Tom Price  
Congressman David Scott  
Congressman Lynn Westmoreland