



## SOUTHWEST DEFENSE ALLIANCE

Post Office Box 2494  
 Lancaster, California 93539-2494  
 Tel (661) 723-6103 Fax (661) 723-5926  
 Email: colaero@qnet.com

BRAC Commission

AUG 19 2005  
 Received

August 17, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi,

The Southwest Defense Alliance was formed in 1997 as a civilian alliance of representatives from California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. Texas joined the Alliance in 2004. The six states work together to educate decision makers on the defense capabilities and assets existing in the southwest United States and to promote the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars to attain the highest military value.

We applaud Department of Defense efforts to reduce costs via the very difficult Base Realignment and Closure process. We also recognize that our six state region, known as the Southwest Defense Complex, contains a unique, synergistic mix of military installations that provide the only regional capability in the nation able to meet Department of Defense requirements identified in the Joint Vision 2010 report.

Our six-state complex and the adjacent off shore areas provide the Department of Defense with unparalleled access to high-quality, weather friendly, cost effective joint training for all branches of the armed forces. This network comprises an integrated array of bases, research development testing and evaluation capabilities, training facilities, ranges, and airspace that satisfy individual and combined mission objectives.

What makes the Southwest Defense Complex unique? Several examples follow:

- The capability to launch a cruise missile off the coast of California and recover it on the Utah Test & Training Range.
- The capability for large scale, multi-service exercises such as Roving Sands conducted from many locations in Texas and New Mexico.
- The general lack of air and ground encroachment permitting testing current and future weapons systems.

When closing, relocating or centralizing defense facilities are being considered it is important to know that the resources making up the Southwest Defense Complex are linked in a variety of ways and operate effectively in a joint service environment. It is also prudent to note that the Southwest Defense Complex has the capability to assume substantial additional activity if manpower permits.

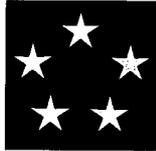
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Sincerely,



Charles G. Thomas

President



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The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Commissioner  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St. Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

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August 17, 2005

Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr. (USN RET), Commissioner  
 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
 2521 S. Clark St. Suite 600  
 Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Gehman,

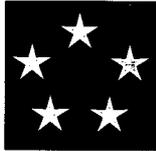
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August 17, 2005

The Honorable Philip Coyle, Commissioner  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St. Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

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August 17, 2005

General Lloyd W. Newton (USAF RET), Commissioner  
 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
 2521 S. Clark St. Suite 600  
 Arlington, VA 22202

*Fig*  
 Dear Commissioner Newton,

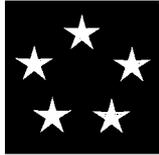
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Sincerely,

  
Charles G. Thomas  
President

*HOPES TO SEE YOU AT AFA IN SEPT.*


**SOUTHWEST DEFENSE ALLIANCE** DRAC Commission

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August 17, 2005

The Honorable James V. Hansen, Commissioner  
 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
 2521 S. Clark St. Suite 600  
 Arlington, VA 22202

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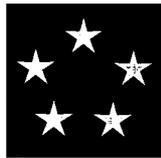
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Brigadier General Sue E. Turner (USAF ret.), Commissioner  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St. Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Turner,

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles G. Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Charles G. Thomas

President



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General James T. Hill (USA ret.), Commissioner  
 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
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2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
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