



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR

August 12, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 17 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

Texas has been following the BRAC Commission deliberations closely. With each hearing, we better appreciate the magnitude of your task. To assist in your decision making process, I solicit your consideration of the following comments on the **Strategic Value** of Naval Station Ingleside, not only as a U.S. Navy facility supporting the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence but also as an asset for the U.S. Coast Guard's Homeland Defense mission, the U.S. Army's increasing deployment mission, and the increasing need by the Department of Defense (DoD) for joint military training exercise areas:

- **New Modern Port Facility that is Battle Group Capable.** Ingleside is the only Navy installation in the Gulf of Mexico that can base a full Navy battle group (Aircraft Carrier, Battleship, and support vessels). Pascagoula, which has a lesser capability, is recommended for closure. Pensacola, which has limited pier and ship-channel access, has a recent history of being vulnerable to hurricanes.
- **Homeland Defense.** Ingleside is well positioned to be integral to an evolving DoD and Department of Homeland Security mission to establish "a concept of operations for the active, layered maritime defense of the US homeland... ensuring rapid, effective US Coast Guard support to the US Navy and vice versa" as stated in DoD's recently published *Strategy for Homeland Defense and Civil Support*. Ingleside can support this mission by hosting Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) that support both mine warfare training needs and maritime homeland defense missions. The LCS ships would complement the Coast Guard's stated desire to home port three 87-foot Coastal Patrol Boats at Naval Station Ingleside.
- **Strategic Deployment Support.** With 45 percent of the DoD's sealift for Operation Iraqi Freedom originating from the strategic military seaports at Beaumont and Corpus Christi, and with more Army division flags and combat brigades standing up in the Midwest, Ingleside is needed to implement future deployment surge requirements. Of particular military value is Ingleside's capability to handle the largest deployment ships

in the U.S. fleet and to support, without cumbersome waivers, the handling of unit ammunition basic loads in conjunction with real world contingency deployments.

- **Joint Military Exercises.** Ingleside is well positioned to supplement joint training exercises involving NAS Kingsville, NAS Corpus Christi, the Port of Corpus Christi, and training activities involving the multiple sea, air and ground ranges in the Texas Coastal Bend area. With unencumbered airspace, the capability to employ live ordnance, and the availability of Gulf Beach amphibious landing sites, the Coastal Bend is one of a few locations available in the U.S. for supporting combined forces training exercises.

Naval Station Ingleside is a new, cost efficient port with contractors providing base operating support and the community providing housing, schools, and other services to stationed military personnel. The quality of life is high for stationed personnel. In addition, Ingleside has the unquantifiable but essential value of being able to expand and accommodate new missions. The State of Texas and the local community have been and will continue to be active partners in supporting Ingleside by providing adjacent land (1,821 acres, if needed) and by providing rail service to the facility (as outlined in my letter of August 5, 2005 to the Commission) at a cost of \$15.2 million. These initiatives will allow the Ingleside pier to be expanded by 80 percent and will allow the Army Reserve to execute its plan to make Ingleside one of its seven strategic equipment storage sites.

In summary, the state and the South Texas Coastal Bend community see a valuable role for Ingleside in the 21<sup>st</sup> century — a role that supports multiple missions within DoD and DHS. I ask that the BRAC Commission take a broad, joint service and multi-agency look at Ingleside as you finalize your positions on the DoD's BRAC recommendations.

Thank you for your service, consideration and vision.

Sincerely,

  
Rick Perry  
Governor

RP:jek

cc: BRAC Commissioners  
The Honorable John Cornyn, U. S. Senate  
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senate

The Honorable J. Principi

August 12, 2005

Page 3 of 3

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa, U.S. Congressman

The Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz, U.S. Congressman

The Honorable Judith Zaffirini, Ph.D. Texas State Senator

The Honorable Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Texas State Senator

The Honorable Eugene J. Seaman, Texas State Representative

The Honorable Henry Garrett, Mayor, City of Corpus Christi

The Honorable Gene Stewart, Mayor, City of Ingleside

The Honorable David Krebs, Mayor, City of Portland

The Honorable Grace Sanez-Lopez, Mayor, City of Alice

The Honorable Pete Gonzales, Mayor, City of Sinton

Rear Admiral Deborah Loewer, Commander, Mine Warfare Command

Commander Timothy L. Watkins, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Ingleside

Ms. Francoise Kieschnick, Public Affairs Officer, Naval Station Ingleside

The Honorable Loyd Neal, Commissioner, Texas Military Preparedness Commission