

BRAC Commission

Executive Correspondence  
DCN 5665

JUL 28 2005

**Thomas J. Vilsack**  
**Governor of Iowa**  
*Judi Cardamon*

Received

*Executive Assistant to the Governor*  
515.281.6611 facsimile

# facsimile transmittal

**To:** *Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN (Ret.)*      **Fax:** *(703) 699-2735*

**From:** *Thomas J. Vilsack*      **Date:** *July 27, 2005*

**Re:** *Rock Island Arsenal*      **Pages:** *Two plus cover page*



For Review

For Review

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*Admiral Gehman, please find attached a letter per our conversation regarding the Rock Island Arsenal. (A hard copy will follow via U.S. Mail)*

*Thank you in advance for you consideration.*

*Tom Vilsack*

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THOMAS J. VILSACK  
GOVERNOR

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SALLY J. PEDERSON  
LT. GOVERNOR

July 27, 2005

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
 2521 South Clark Street  
 Arlington, VA 22202

*Sent via facsimile*

Dear Admiral Gehman:

Thank you so much for taking time out of your hectic schedule to talk with me about the Rock Island Arsenal. As we discussed, the Pentagon's recommendation to relocate the Rock Island office of the Tank and Automotive Command (TACOM- RI) to TACOM in Warren, MI, is not only a bad recommendation from the Rock Island employees point of view, but it is an ill-conceived recommendation from the Army's budget point of view.

The Army agrees that there is no empty office space in Warren for the TACOM-RI employees. As we discussed, the Pentagon's recommendation was based on \$24.6 million in military construction for office space in Warren to house some 750 employees of the relocated TACOM-RI. Even with this level of military construction in Warren, the Pentagon's recommendation never breaks even due to the cost of the 6.7% higher Army civilian employees salaries in Warren.

To make matters worse, however, the Pentagon's military construction estimate is off by a factor of 3 or 4. Our local estimates for office space for 1,000 employees, the actual number of TACOM-RI employees whose jobs would move to Warren, is approximately \$67 million, and I am told that the Army is now processing the initial military construction paper work in the \$110 million range. This is a far cry from the initial estimate of \$24.6 million, which any construction expert will tell you is not nearly enough to house 700 employees, let alone 1,000. I again emphasize that the Pentagon's recommendation to move this office from Rock Island to Warren never broke even at \$24.6 million, so it cannot conceivably break even at a \$110 million construction cost.

The other issue with the TACOM-RI recommendation is the lack of additional military value. The BRAC 1993 Commission overturned the 1991 BRAC recommendation to move this same office to Redstone Arsenal. The BRAC 1993 Commission decided it should remain at Rock Island but report to TACOM in Warren. The BRAC 1993 Commission may have decided this because the Rock Island TACOM office works with TACOM organizations. However, most



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of the TACOM organizations that TACOM-RI works with are not located in Warren, so there is little synergy gained by relocating TACOM-RI to Warren.

I know the Army's budget outlook is difficult given the increased costs to recruit and retain their force, the costs of transformation, and the costs of refurbishing equipment being worn out in Iraq and Afghanistan. I also know where they can find approximately \$100 million in savings and that is to not move the TACOM-RI office.

Thank you for your additional service to our country and for your consideration of this BRAC recommendation. I hope you will agree that the above demonstrates that the Secretary of Defense deviated substantially when he recommended this relocation and that you will vote against this Secretary of Defense recommendation.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack  
Governor

TJV/jbc