

what matters.™

BRAC Commission



United Way of
Greater Cleveland

August 9, 2005

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Received

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

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Cleveland, Ohio 44115
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Dear Mr. Principi:

Thank you for your recent evaluation regarding the Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS) in Cleveland. All of us in Cleveland understand what a difficult job it is and we appreciate your strong support of the fair and impartial review that must take place.

Having spent over 20 years with the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce and the last 10 years as president of United Way of Greater Cleveland, I have a clear understanding of the importance of a strong economy in our region. Most studies and reviews of Greater Cleveland's economy and the effectiveness of DFAS certainly point to its efficiency here in Cleveland and the low cost of services and employees relative to many other parts of the country. In fact, I would be so bold as to say that a strong case could be made for consolidating other centers into the Greater Cleveland area. The Federal Reserve Bank, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, and many others have provided economic information attesting to the competitive edge that Cleveland has.

You know from your own review how effective and efficient the Cleveland DFAS center is and how much our community values it. Here at the United Way, we have made sure that the federal employees feel that they are part of this great city and not a separate entity. These employees are valued and important members of our community.

I hope that you will give strong consideration to not only keeping DFAS here in Cleveland but also expanding the center in this region.

Thank you for your consideration. I wish you great success in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

K. Michael Benz
President and Chief Executive Officer
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