

Executive Correspondence
DCN 4693



THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SALLY J. PEDERSON
LT. GOVERNOR

July 15, 2005

BRAC Commission

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Received

Anthony J. Principi
Chairman of the Defense Base Closure
and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has recommended that the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) functions at the Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, be realigned off the Island as part of his recommendations to your Commission. Many, including myself, questioned the wisdom of this decision as the DFAS employees at Rock Island – of which approximately 50% live in the state of Iowa – have been outstanding performers over the years and contributed greatly to the success of the Arsenal. Further, the Rock Island Arsenal is a highly secure facility with ample room to grow and take on expanded missions. Accordingly, we expected the DFAS mission to grow on the Island not be realigned out.

I was pleased to learn that your Commission has decided to conduct a close examination of the Department of Defense's realignment recommendations with regard to DFAS functions. When conducting this review, I hope you consider expanding the current DFAS mission at Rock Island.

The Rock Island Arsenal is uniquely situated to take on an expanded DFAS mission not only because of its secure location and room to expand – as mentioned above – but also because the states of Iowa and Illinois have outstanding undergraduate and graduate accounting programs that can provide highly skilled employees for a DFAS expansion at Rock Island. Located within short distance of the Rock Island Arsenal is the Quad-Cities Graduate Study Center which is a publicly funded academic consortium of eleven colleges and universities, including both the Universities of Iowa and Illinois. The Center provides high quality graduate-level educational opportunities in the Rock Island area including post-graduate degrees in accounting.



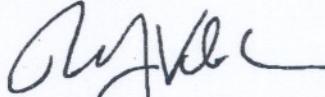
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Please accept this letter as my recommendation that your Commission consider the Rock Island Arsenal as a location at which to expand DFAS functions. Should this occur, the state of Iowa will not only continue its support of undergraduate and graduate accounting programs but also provide any specific additional support needed to put more trained accountants into the DFAS pipeline.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor