

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and Commissioners,

We are writing to express our disappointment in the Base Closure and Realignment Commission's (BRAC) July 19, 2005 vote, which added the Defense Financial and Accounting Service (DFAS) facility in Denver to the 2005 list of installations to be considered by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission. While we understand that this vote was not final and that the Commission will be conducting a final vote in August, we are deeply troubled that the importance of DFAS Denver to the Department of Defense (DoD) and to the State of Colorado may not be fully appreciated.

Since its activation in 1991, DFAS Denver has become one of the Department of Defense's premier finance and accounting operations centers. It maintains the largest pay system in the world, paying 2.2 million military members and 295,000 DoD civilians and is responsible for overseeing five field sites. DFAS Denver also manages accounting and reporting for the collection of individual and contractor debt and provides financial services for the Department of Defense's Security Assistance Program.

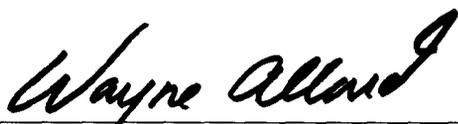
DFAS Denver's proven ability to manage administrative and payroll services became apparent during the DoD's analysis in preparation of the 2005 BRAC round. For example, DoD's Military Value analysis ranked DFAS Denver third of 26 DFAS locations. The Department of Defense further recognized the value of DFAS Denver when it recommended to the BRAC Commission that DFAS Denver be realigned for the purposes of expanding its operations as part of the Department's larger DFAS consolidation plan.

DFAS Denver, housed in the 600,000 square foot Buckley Air Force Base Annex on the former Lowry Air Force Base, also meets the Department's objective of fully utilizing the Department's owned property. Currently, the Annex is not fully occupied, with approximately 30,000 to 40,000 square feet sitting vacant. Even more space will become available when the Air Force Reserve Personnel Center, which also is currently located at the Buckley Annex, realigns to Randolph Air Force Base in Texas as part of the Department of Defense's 2005 BRAC recommendations.

You should also be aware that DFAS Denver is important to the State of Colorado and provides vital economic benefits to the city of Denver and its surrounding suburbs. DFAS Denver provides nearly \$150 million per year in wages, purchasing and military costs, which would be very difficult to replace in a time when the city is struggling to recover from a significant economic downturn.

We urge the Commission to take these points into consideration when it meets in August to vote on its final recommendations for base closures. We remain available to answer any questions you might have about this important facility.

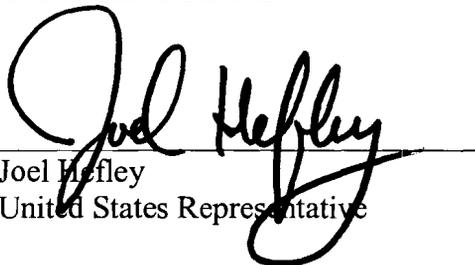
Sincerely,



Wayne Allard
United States Senator



Ken Salazar
United States Senator



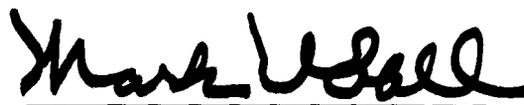
Joel Hefley
United States Representative



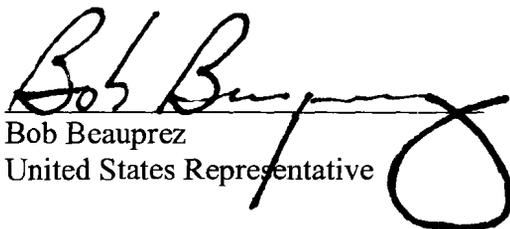
Diana DeGette
United States Representative



Tom Tancredo
United States Representative



Mark Udall
United States Representative



Bob Beauprez
United States Representative



John Salazar
United States Representative



Marilyn Musgrave
United States Representative