

July 25, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

BRAC Commission

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Received

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing this letter as a private citizen in response to a letter to you from William M. Thomas, Member of Congress, dated 18 July 2005. In his letter, Mr. Thomas attacked two very fine senior Naval Officers, Vice Admiral Massenburt, Commander of Naval Air Systems Command, and his Vice Commander, Rear Admiral Bachmann, for failing to support recommendations to move a very large quantity of personnel to the Naval Air Warfare Center location at China Lake, California.

It should be noted that this recommendation did not originate from within the Navy, but instead originated within the Weapons and Armaments panel of the Technical Joint Cross Service Group. This, despite the fact that the recommendation has absolutely no cross-service features, is definitely not transformational, and applies to internal changes within the same Navy organization. It should also be noted that two previous Naval Air Warfare Center commanders, Rear Admiral (ret) Strohsahl and Rear Admiral (ret) McKinney, also publicly opposed the personnel relocations in the recent BRAC commission hearings in Los Angeles, California.

Don't you think that it is potentially biased and self-serving that this recommendation, which is so strongly opposed by past and present Navy leaders, was generated by the Technical Joint Cross Service panel chaired by the current Executive Director at China Lake, California?

Sincerely,



Ward Leslie
2073 Viking Drive
Camarillo, Ca 93010

cc:

BRAC Commission
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