

## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Commissioner Principi:

As the Base Realignment and Closure Commission reviews current recommendations by the Department of Defense regarding facilities and installations for closure and realignment, we ask that it reconsider and reverse the decision to close and realign Defense Finance Accounting Service, Glenn Research Center, and Navy-Marine Corp Reserve facilities in Cleveland, Ohio.

The employees of the Cleveland Defense Finance and Accounting Service take pride in serving the men and women who defend America everyday. The Cleveland facility is the fourth largest federal employer in Greater Cleveland and has operated in the city since 1942. The Cleveland DFAS office employs over 1,200 people in the Northeast Ohio area and is a cutting edge model of operational efficiency and customer service of U.S. military pay operations around the world.

According to the Secretary's recommendation, over the next 12-18 months, the City of Cleveland will lose over 1100 jobs through the BRAC process; 1,028 at Cleveland DFAS facility, 50 at Glenn Research Center, and 25 jobs at the Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center. These job losses will have a devastating economic impact on the City of Cleveland which has been named the most impoverished city in the country, according to the United States Census. In addition, the loss of these high wage jobs would cost Greater Cleveland an estimated \$128 million, further eroding the regional and state tax base.

We are aware that recommendations for closure and realignment were based on the evaluation of eight criteria; however, we believe the Department of Defense deviated substantially from some of those selection criteria used to evaluate the Cleveland DFAS and all Northeast Ohio facilities.

First, the evaluation of cost operations and the manpower implications of the facility should be re-evaluated with respect to military value. The people who work in Cleveland's DFAS office are an integral part of the system that supports our armed forces. The Cleveland office which has a \$65 million annual payroll has been the world center for Navy pay operations and personnel data management since the advent of DFAS.

Next, we would ask that the BRAC commission reconsider the potential costs and savings criteria based upon the development of a new state of the art facility for the Cleveland DFAS office. The Cuyahoga County Port Authority has provided a parcel of

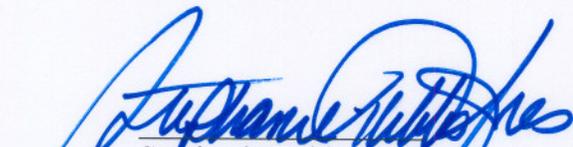
land at no cost for the construction of a new facility that would house DFAS. In addition, community and business leaders are working with a private developer who has agreed to build the facility. This facility would have the ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge, and future total force requirements. The new facility would also have the ability to accommodate a 25% growth rate and significantly reduce overhead costs to the federal government by offering office space at a substantially lower rent.

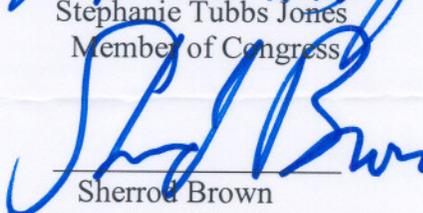
Finally, with regard to the economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations, we sincerely recommend the BRAC commission re-evaluate its assessment of the economic impact the process will have on the Greater Cleveland area. According to the Government Accountability Office, in addition to 1100 federal positions, 1,000 private-sector jobs; \$92.3 million in total payroll; and \$6.9 million municipal and county taxes would be lost through the BRAC process. The City of Cleveland has suffered great economic distress over the years and as previously noted, is at the top of the ranks as the poorest city in the country. Losing 1100 jobs will cause further detriment to Cleveland and will amplify a continuous economic downturn.

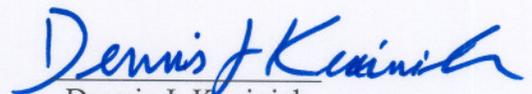
The economic impact in the Greater Cleveland area and the potential for substantial savings to the federal government are reasons enough for a reassessment. Therefore, we urge the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to reconsider its decision to close and realign the Cleveland DFAS, Glenn Research Center and the Navy-Marine Corps Reserve facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We believe jobs at Cleveland DFAS and all Northeast Ohio facilities should be preserved. We look forward to working with you to ensure economic stability for all communities affected by the BRAC process.

Sincerely,

  
Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
Member of Congress

  
Sherrod Brown  
Member of Congress

  
Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress

  
Steven C. LaTourette  
Member of Congress

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