

BRAC Commission

25 July 2005

The Honorable Samuel Knox Skinner  
BRAC Commissioner  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
3521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va 22202

AUG 01 2005

Received

Dear Commissioner Skinner

My name is Harry Farmer and I am a Senior Electronic Project Technician and Ordnance Team Leader/ Instructor at Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane. I have worked in the Code 4053 Missile Fuze Engineering and Maintenance Branch since 1984.

The reason I am writing you today is because I am one of the individuals that will be relocated if the current BRAC commission remains as first suggested. I believe that moving the Test and Evaluation from NSWC Crane will not accomplish the desired effect that the BRAC commission is seeking.

Let me explain what we do within the Ordnance Engineering Test and Evaluation Department at NSWC Crane to ensure that we continue to meet the war fighters needs. The work performed by the Ordnance Test and Evaluation and Quality Evaluation personnel and the sponsors they support at NSWC Crane are necessary for all of the missile programs both from a Quality Evaluation (QE) and Lot Acceptance Test (LAT) perspective. Our department performs Quality Evaluation and Lot Acceptance testing on several components such as Safety-Arming Devices, Fuze Boosters, Explosive Leads, Target Detectors, Pressure Probes, Gyros, Destruct Charges, Arming-Firing Devices, Rocket Warheads, Bomb Fuzes, Gun Ammo, Flares, Pyrotechnics etc. that are used by many of the current missile systems. These missiles such as the Harpoon, Harm, Amraam, Sidewinder, Standard, Sparrow, Evolved Sea Sparrow, Ram, Maverick, Slam, Slam ER, etc. are critical to our national defense. What our war fighters want to know is "Does the item work" and "What's its service life".

Some of the manufacturers that produce these items for the DOD go out of business after they have built an item for the military. However, the DOD still has to maintain the stockpile and ensure that the service life of these items can still meet the future needs of the Department of Defense. Most of these missile system components have been made by a variety of manufacturers and some of these manufactures have merged with other companies or they are not currently in business. Most of the component we test were designed several years ago and are now part of our defense systems. Many of the people who designed these items are no longer around and some of the knowledge needed to understand how these devices operate is no longer available to the government. If the government does not maintain an Independent Test and Evaluation Department these systems we currently are using as our defense will be severally damaged. In order to know if these older system are still capable of performing in today's environment periodic test must be performed to establish a

service life on each of the components mentioned previously. The government cannot depend on the prime contractors to perform this necessary task.

The Test and Evaluation programs that are currently being performed at NSWC Crane needs to remain at Crane because the military needs an independent assessment of the test items that the government purchases. This independent assessment is necessary for the DOD to ensure that the items they purchase for our national defense are not influenced by the contractors desire to just sell a product to the government. In fact, most of the weapons specifications used to test these items specifically state that an independent laboratory must perform the test and evaluation of the components. The independent assessment is also needed to protect the taxpayers and to ensure that the items the DOD purchase with their tax dollars will perform and provide the government with the capability to defend our nation in peacetime and in war.

The Department of Defense needs to have an ongoing workforce with a knowledge base that has the capability of providing an independent assessment on a variety of military items. The personnel who work at NSWC Crane Code 40 have the knowledge to perform LAT and QE on an enormous amount of the items used by all of the Missile Systems. The test data and how it is obtained and analyzed comes from years of experience and requires the knowledge to understand these complex systems. The Test and Evaluation that is performed at NSWC Crane is essential to both the DOD and to the war fighter.

The labor rate to test and evaluate these items at NSWC Crane is much less than other activities such as Indian Head or China Lake. It costs the government and taxpayers less to have NSWC Crane perform an Independent Test and Evaluation. This means less money required from the taxpayer and more finances for the DOD to maintain a strong defense against our enemies.

Currently, NSWC Crane and Crane Army Ammunition Activity have an excellent relationship with the capability to store and test these items in a remote area. Additionally, the knowledge concerning these complex systems is shared through equipment and personnel to prevent duplication of efforts and added expense to the DOD. NSWC Crane has worked for years with NAVSEA, NAVAIR, AIR FORCE, the MARINES and contractors to provide the best assessment of the items we test at the lowest cost possible. This relationship has taken years to develop and is an ongoing process that ensures the war fighter has the best that we can provide. If I recall correctly the push before the BRAC was to tell everyone that we at NSWC Crane were Ordnance and that was our number one function. Now it seems like the Ordnance Department at NSWC Crane is scheduled to take the biggest hit if no changes are made to the proposed recommendations of the BRAC commission.

It is in the best interest of the DOD to keep the design agent (China Lake) and the test and evaluation activity separate from each other. The NSWC Crane Test and Evaluation activity is responsible to ensure that the aging stockpiles of DOD items can still perform as designed and continue to do so until new items are procured or until they are no longer needed for their intended purpose. Currently, the maintenance department and Quality Evaluation Department share equipment and personnel, which keeps the cost low and the knowledge of the

systems in a government facility. If the Independent Test and Evaluation Capabilities at NSWC Crane were removed it would cost the government several times more to perform testing on these essential items.

Finally, I do not think with the ongoing War On Terrorism that it would be a good idea to have all of the Department of Defense Test and Evaluation capabilities located in one place. If something should happen, heaven forbid, it would take years to recover and almost impossible to replace. I guess that comes from the saying, "DO NOT KEEP ALL OF YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET". Additionally, I do not see many of my co-workers relocating to China Lake in California.

I hope that the BRAC commission and whoever speaks to represent NSWC Crane before the Commission address these concerns. Please feel free to add to or use any part of this to keep the Independent Test and Evaluation capabilities at NSWC Crane for the citizens of our community, the security of our nation, and to the brave men and women who so proudly serve in harms way to keep America free.

Very Respectfully,

Harry Farmer  
R. R. 1 Box 10A  
Cannelburg, Indiana 47519  
812-486-2969

BRAC Commission

**AUG 01 2005**

Scott J. Barnes  
Plant Manager

Received  
Visteon Systems, LLC  
Bedford Plant  
3120 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bedford, IN 47421  
Tel 812-279-6028  
Fax 812-279-6086



*See the possibilities™*

July 28, 2005

The Honorable Samuel Knox Skinner  
BRAC Commissioner  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Skinner,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your recent visit to NSWC Crane, CAAA and Southern Indiana. As a concerned taxpayer and plant manager of one of the largest employers in Lawrence County, I support the work you are doing to ensure that our Military operations remain as effective and affordable as possible. I hope that your visit helped you to realize what important assets NSWC Crane and CAAA are to our Nation's Defense and the Global War on Terrorism.

As plant manager engaged in automotive supply, we have on many occasions benefited from Crane's analytical capabilities in solving complex warranty and quality issues. Crane labs provide us a superior analytical tool and is a competitive advantage to our location in neighboring Bedford.

I have been following the BRAC process closely since the proposed closure/realignment list was published and I am growing increasingly concerned that DOD has not properly followed the law in developing recommendations. The DOD is required to take into account the return on investment resulting from its closure/re-alignment recommendation. Crane has become a one-stop shop for specialized weapons for our Special Forces Warfighters. Crane did this by being responsive, innovative, technically superior and affordable for these outstanding soldiers. As our reputation for delivering what the customer needed, when it was needed, at a cost that was affordable, more work was brought to us. The proposal to the commission to realign work to China Lake and Picatinny will now split the support to special forces to different locations. This will add cost, reduce efficiency and cause a loss in intellectual capital that could take years to replace.

The commitment required to provide such support is in large part due to the sense of ownership Crane's employees feel about Crane and their pride in service and workmanship. Many of the employees are veterans who have supported their country through military service and have elected to return to work as civil servants or support contractors. Many employees possess technical degrees with vast knowledge and experience and have chosen to stay in the workplace past their retirement age due to their

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To: The Honorable Samuel Knox Skinner

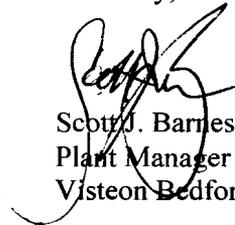
dedication to the country during this time of war and threat of terrorism. Crane's recognition as a leader in technical areas has allowed it to recruit new employees, providing the skills, knowledge and abilities to support the current and the future warfighter.

As highlighted in the BRAC guidance, Military Value is an important criteria being used to determine where work should be performed. Many installations that are scheduled to receive work from realignments scored lower than Crane in Military Value. This concerns me, as it appears that the recommendations concerning Crane stray from the stated evaluation criteria.

Another important BRAC goal is to facilitate joint operations. Crane is already Joint, with Crane Army Ammunition Activity and the Naval Surface Warfare Center. The two organizations work jointly on numerous tasks related to ordnance and pyrotechnics.

I urge you to reconsider the recommendation to re-align work from NSWV Crane by properly taking into account the Return On Investment requirements of BRAC law.

Sincerely,



Scott J. Barnes,  
Plant Manager  
Visteon Bedford Plant

AUG 01 2005

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter to express my serious concerns with the Base Realignment <sup>Received</sup> And Closure (BRAC) recommendations that you are currently reviewing. It is recommended that the Crane Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center have 672 jobs realigned to other activities.

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division has a long history of supporting our nation's Warfighters dating back to the start of World War II in 1941. Crane has demonstrated the ability to evolve to meet the challenging and changing needs of the men and women that wear the uniform of the United States of America. Crane's employees are skilled and highly trained to provide the necessary support today and are engaged in preparing for the future Defense of our Country.

The commitment required to provide such support is in large part due to the sense of ownership Crane's employees feel about Crane and their pride in service and workmanship. Many of the employees are veterans who have supported their country through military service and have elected to return to work as civil servants or support contractors. Many employees possess technical degrees with vast knowledge and experience and have chosen to stay in the workplace past their retirement age due to their dedication to the country during this time of war and threat of terrorism. Crane's recognition as a leader in technical areas has allowed it to recruit new employees, providing the skills, knowledge, and abilities to support the current and the future warfighter.

As highlighted in the BRAC guidance, Military Value is an important criteria being used to determine where work should be performed. Many installations that are scheduled to receive work from realignments scored lower than Crane in Military Value. This concerns me, as it appears that the recommendations concerning Crane stray from the stated evaluation criteria.

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Other factors considered in the BRAC were environmental impact and economic impact to the local community. Crane has no environmental issues and is an exceptional neighbor. Crane is so critical to the economic health of the state that Indiana recently enacted P.L 5-2005, the Military Base Protection Act, protecting Crane from development that would adversely impact its critical missions and preventing future encroachment. The impact of Crane to the immediate surrounding area is even more acute with Crane accounting for over 30% of the direct wages in Martin County.

In summary, Crane truly exemplifies the BRAC criteria of Military Value - rapidly providing innovative, best value solutions to our nation's Warfighters. This high level of service has attracted the most demanding customers from across DoD, including USSOCOM, Navy Strategic Systems, as well as US Army and US Air Force Special Operations Commands. Crane's commitment to superior service and value has kept these customers coming back, allowing for the creation of a Joint, multi-functional set of capabilities that is unequalled in the Department of Defense (DoD).

I understand that during the hearings before your commission in St Louis that the State of Indiana presented alternatives to the current DoD recommendations. These alternatives, if accepted by

the Commission, would provide greater military value, greater return on investment and less risk as well as reducing the negative economic impact of losing nearly 700 positions. I hope that you will take these thoughts into consideration as you go about the difficult decisions on what will be best for the Department of Defense and this great Country. I most strongly support our fellow Hoosiers at Crane and their dedication to our Warfighter's mission and significant contribution to the Global War on Terror.

Thanks for your consideration, as well as for your service.

Sincerely,   
WILLIAM BOVENSCHEN  
235 E. Mechanic St.  
Bloomfield, IN 47404

08 July 2005

Admiral (Ret.) Harold Gehman  
Commissioner  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 01 2005

Received

Dear Admiral Gehman,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your attention to the delegation from Indiana during the recent BRAC Hearing in St. Louis. I hope that the testimony helped you realize the importance of Indiana Military installations, in particular NSWC Crane and Crane Army Ammunition Activity, to our Nation's Defense and the Global War On Terrorism. As a concerned taxpayer I support the work you are doing to ensure that our Military operations remain as effective and affordable as possible. I also realize that you have a very difficult job in deciding which activities to re-align or close as part of the BRAC process.

I have been following the BRAC process closely since the proposed closure/re-alignment list was published and I am growing increasingly concerned that DOD has not followed sound judgment in making some of its recommendations. The DOD is required to take into account the return on investment resulting from its closure/re-alignment recommendations. Crane has become a one-stop shop for specialized weapons for our Special Forces Warfighters. Crane did this by being responsive, innovative, technically superior and affordable for these outstanding soldiers. As our reputation for delivering what the customer needed, when it was needed, at a cost that was affordable, more work was brought to us. The proposal to the commission to realign work to China Lake and Picatinny will now split the support to Special Forces to different locations. This will add cost, reduce efficiency and cause a loss in intellectual capital that could take years to replace.

**I urge you to reconsider the recommendation to re-align work from NSWC Crane by properly taking into account the Return On Investment requirements of BRAC law.**

Very Respectfully,

*Barbara J. Myers  
546 W. Turner St  
Bloomfield, IN 47424*

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BRAC Commissioner  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
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I have been following the BRAC process closely since the proposed closure/re-alignment list was published and I am growing increasingly concerned that DOD has not properly followed the law in developing recommendations. The DOD is required to take into account the return on investment resulting from its closure/re-alignment recommendations. Crane has become a one-stop shop for specialized weapons for our Special Forces Warfighters. Crane did this by being responsive, innovative, technically superior and affordable for these outstanding soldiers. As our reputation for delivering what the customer needed, when it was needed, at a cost that was affordable, more work was brought to us. The proposal to the commission to realign work to China Lake and Picalinny will now split the support to special forces to different locations. This will add cost, reduce efficiency and cause a loss in intellectual capital that could take years to replace.

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*Barbara J. Myers*  
*546 West Turner St.*  
*Bloomfield, IN 47424*