

JUL 19 2005

Received

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter to express my serious concerns with the Base Realignment 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.

Crane has been a leader in providing the best value to the Warfighter by increasing the efficiency of our processes through Business and Process Reengineering. In the past three years, Crane has accelerated the pace of our improvements by implementing Lean principles. These efforts have garnered hundreds of thousands of dollars in cost savings, and have led to improved responsiveness and customer satisfaction. In recognition of our extensive continuous improvement successes, Crane has received the following awards: 2002 Commander in Chief's Award for Installation Excellence, 2002 and 2004 DoD Value Engineering Awards, 2004 NAVSEA Engineer of the Year, 2005 NAVSEA's High Performing Organization.

The commitment required to implement such extensive change is in large part due to the sense of ownership Crane's employees feel about this installation. Many of the employees are veterans who have supported their country through military service and have elected to return to work as civil servants. 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 Warfighter as well as the Warfighter after next.

As highlighted in the BRAC guidance, Military Value is an important criteria being used to determine where work should be performed. Crane seemed to score quite well, yet scenarios were only run looking at removing work from Crane. Many installations that are scheduled to receive work from realignments scored lower than Cranes in Military Value. This concerns me, as it appears that the recommendations concerning Crane stray from the stated evaluation criteria.

One area that truly represents Crane's high Military Value is our exceptional support of the nation's Special Operations Forces in the Global War on Terrorism. The U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and other Special Operations customers have come to rely on Crane as their preferred source for night vision, small arms, ordnance, targeting systems, and other equipment. Crane is able to rapidly field solutions for these special mission requirements due to the co-located technical expertise that has been developed in areas such as electro-optics, lasers, small arms/ammunition, power supplies, and pyrotechnics.

Crane's integrated, multifunctional capabilities are not only well suited for support of Special Operations Forces, but provide the perfect environment for rapidly fielding solutions to the Force Protection challenges faced by our Warfighters. For example, in response to the attack on the USS *Cole* in 2000, Crane created the Integrated Radar Optical Sighting Surveillance System (IROSSS), an integrated weapons, electro-optic, radar, and software system that allows ships to

quickly detect, identify and deter or engage threats. Crane took IROSSS from concept to the first fielded system in 11 months.

Another important BRAC goal is to facilitate Joint operations. Crane is already Joint, with Crane Army Ammunition Activity and Naval Surface Warfare Center as tenant activities. The two organizations work jointly on numerous tasks related to ordnance and pyrotechnics. This jointness and co-location has allowed Crane to produce infrared countermeasures when the private sector was unable to produce; to rework and provide much needed laser-guided bomb kits; and to modify in-service bomb fuzes to prevent premature detonations.

Other factors considered in the BRAC were environmental impact and economic impact to the local community. Crane continues to be a leader in environmental stewardship and innovative ideas, and has won many environmental awards, such as the NAVSEA Award for Achievement in Environmental Quality.

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. Crane's economic area of Martin County, Indiana was the second most severely impacted in the nation, with a 13.1% job loss that will result from DoD's realignment recommendations.

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 continuous improvement and ever-increasing value has kept these customers coming back, allowing for the creation of a Joint, multi-functional set of capabilities that is unequaled in the DoD.

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. My fellow employees at Crane are dedicated to our Warfighter's mission and prove it through their hard work.

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

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jerry L. Parsons in black ink.

JUL 19 2005

Received

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

14 July 2005

Dear Commissioner Skinner,

I am writing this letter as a member of the defense community and as a taxpayer.

I am particularly concerned with the move of the Chemical/Biological function from Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division (Crane Chem/Bio), located on NAVSUPACT CRANE, IN to the US Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center in Aberdeen, Maryland. I have several specific concerns as follows:

I. Cost.

The whole goal of the BRAC act was to save DOD money by eliminating unneeded facilities.

According to the Department of Defense Base Closure and Realignment Report, Volume I, Part 2 of 2: Detailed Recommendations dated May 2005 (BRAC Report), section 8: Recommendations – Medical Joint Cross-Services Group, “Joint Centers of Excellence for Chemical, Biological, and Medical Research and Development and Acquisition” (BRAC report pages Med-15 to Med-19) total twenty year savings for moving a maximum of 559 direct jobs and 582 indirect jobs from various activities to Aberdeen Proving Ground were given as \$46.0 M.

I believe that these savings were grossly over exaggerated and that moving Crane Chem/Bio results in increased costs to the taxpayer to perform the same work.

I will base the discussion from this point on the MED CR0028R COBRA Results As of 5 May 2005 (Cobra) (Which, by the way, does not agree with the jobs numbers reported in the BRAC report) and on the reported labor rates for the affected facilities.

A. One time costs.

Cobra reports one time costs for moving Crane Chem/Bio as \$3,775,974 (Cobra page 12) with no one-time cost savings.

Note that Crane Chem Bio's 49 work years represent 20% of the total Chem/Bio force being moved to Aberdeen. Therefore 20% of the Aberdeen Mil-Con costs are accountable to the Crane Chem/Bio relocation.

Cobra reports one time Mil-Con costs at Aberdeen of \$11,911,931. Crane's portion would be 20% or \$2,382,386

B. Recurring costs.

Cobra reports a recurring civilian salary savings at Crane of \$532,000. This represents the salaries of 57 people who would no longer be employed at Crane (or \$9,333.33 per person?)

Cobra reports a recurring civilian salary cost at Aberdeen of \$831,000. This represents the salaries of 246 people who would be employed at Aberdeen. (or \$3,378.05 per person?)

Obviously these last two numbers do not reflect reality. Lets look at it based on stabilized rates that reflect the real cost to the taxpayer for work performed.

Using the FY07 rates (which are the furthest out that I have access to at this time) Crane Chem/Bio employees cost \$69.92 per hour. For a 1720 hour work year that would equal \$120,262 per man-year.

That same man-year worked at Aberdeen would cost \$155,866 (based on NSWC Dahlgren's stabilized FY07 rate of \$90.62 as Navy personnel at Aberdeen would be a Dahlgren detachment working under Dahlgren's rates. (Note that the Cobra civilian locality pay factor is the same for Dahlgren and Aberdeen), or \$35,604 more per man-year than if the work remained at Crane.

Based on the 49 man-years forecasted to be required at Aberdeen that would be a recurring cost of \$1,744,616 per year or \$34,892,320 in additional labor costs over the twenty years of the study.

Also Cobra projects facility savings at Crane. However since Crane Chem/Bio occupies a brand new Mil-Con building, it is very highly unlikely that the facility would be torn down or mothballed. (It would also be a criminal waste of taxpayer dollars.) Facility savings are not addressed in the above \$35M total.

C. Cobra assumption of work year reduction.

While the title of the scenario was Development and Acquisition, the definition of acquisition included fielding and sustainment. Cobra assumes that of the 57 work years to be relocated from Crane to Aberdeen 8 can be eliminated due to increased synergy and efficiency. I take issue with this assumption for the following reasons.

1. Crane personnel deal with Army Chem/Bio personnel on a limited basis, interacting primarily through phone and email contacts. According to current plans Crane Chem/Bio, and Army personnel would be located in different buildings at Aberdeen so current business practices probably wouldn't change. While some meetings do occur most of

these are at contractor facilities and all services representatives travel to that facility to examine the equipment and or testing being discussed.

2. While all chem/bio systems are already acquired jointly, Navy personnel are focused on making sure the acquired system meets Navy specific requirements, just as Army personnel seek to fulfill Army requirements and Air Force personnel seek to fulfill Air Force requirements.

As an example of why this Navy focused function cannot be eliminated please consider the following case. Space aboard US Navy ships is at a premium and maintenance of equipment must take that space restriction into account. Neither the Army nor the Air Force deal with as stringent of a limitation (space abounds at Army and Air Force bases for removing and maintaining equipment.) During the initial design and prototyping of the Joint Biological Point Detection System the designer required access to all four sides of the equipment for maintenance. While the other services had no problem with this, for the Navy it was a showstopper. The Navy doesn't have the internal space to allow for access to all four sides of the equipment. We needed all access to be through the front of the cabinet. The representatives of the other services did not consider this as they were focused on fulfilling the needs of their own services.

Additionally, this space limitation affects intake and exhaust locations and lengths, power requirements, consumables amounts and storage, interference or interaction with other equipments etc. All concerns that require a considerable amount of time to satisfy.

Navy requirements are unique enough that the task to track that each system meets these requirements for the Navy cannot be eliminated. Further complexity is added by the fact that these requirements can vary depending on the ship class, or even within the class.

Likewise fielding (designing the installation and integration of the Chem/Bio systems into the ship) and sustainment (including fleet support, radiation tracking, training etc) of these common systems within the Navy must be maintained.

Therefore I seriously doubt that these 8 positions could be eliminated. There are no further efficiencies to be gained by moving Crane Chem/Bio as, for the most part, the work does not overlap. (Note that retention of these 8 needed positions would add \$1.247M per year to the labor cost)

D. Total cost above and beyond the costs of performing the work at Crane to relocate Crane Chem/Bio to Aberdeen

One time cost (Crane)	\$3,775,974
One Time Cost (Aberdeen)	\$2,382,386
Recurring cost (labor)	\$34,892,320
Recurring cost (8 wy)	\$24,938,624
Total cost to move Crane Chem/Bio	\$65,989,304

Remember from the BRAC report that the total projected savings for this scenario were \$46.0M.

II. Joint Center of Excellence?

While the title of this recommendation leads one to believe that all Chem/Bio research development and acquisition would be combined that is not the case. The Navy's sustainment function would be moving to Aberdeen, but the Army sustainment function would remain at Rock Island, the Air Force sustainment function would remain at Warner Robins AFB and the Marine Corps Sustainment function would stay at Quantico and Albany Georgia. The USMC acquisition function would also stay at Quantico.

Why move the Navy's support functions while not moving the others?

III. Brain Drain.

The BRAC Report assumes that 37 of 57 Crane Chem/Bio employees would relocate to Aberdeen. This is greatly exaggerated also. The employees of Crane Chem/Bio are for the most part native Hoosiers. Their families go back generations in this area. They are used to low traffic, low cost of living, wide open spaces to live in and play in. The area is convenient to the big city but far enough away that it suffers few of the big city problems. A few areas to consider:

A. Housing.

A roughly 2000 sq ft new home in the Aberdeen area costs about \$410K. A new 2000sq ft home at Crane costs about \$150K. (Good quality used homes on acreage can be had for not much more). The average Crane Chem/Bio employee will never be able to own a home in the Aberdeen area.

B. Traffic.

It takes roughly 30 minutes to drive the thirty miles from Bedford or Bloomington to the Crane Chem/Bio building. In this area a traffic jam is defined as 6 or more cars behind a school bus or tractor. Big urban area traffic is unknown at Crane.

C. Recreation.

Hunting and Fishing opportunities are widespread in the Crane area. Of course the base itself has 800 acre Lake Greenwood but there are an abundance of lakes and farm ponds throughout the area. There are also numerous hunttable woods for deer, turkey, and other small game. I doubt that hunting is looked upon kindly in Maryland.

D. Spousal employment/ family issues.

The Crane Chem/Bio workers do not live in a vacuum. They have spouses and children that must be accounted for. Several of the workers are from farm families or own livestock. Several spouses have their own established careers in this area. Children are planted in schools and churches and surrounded by friends. Grandparents and extended families are here in Indiana.

E. Misc standard of living.

Rising above mere costs and opportunities is something called home. Indiana is home to the workers at Crane Chem/Bio. Aberdeen never will be.

In order to relocate we'd have to abandon family and history and our entire way of life. Most (upwards of 85%) won't relocate, on the one hand we can't afford to and on the other hand we wouldn't want to.

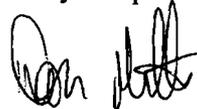
This will, at a stroke, eliminate almost all the corporate knowledge for installing and supporting Chem/Bio detection devices on board Navy ships. A knowledge base extending back to the earliest Chem/Bio detectors fielded in the Navy- dating back to the early 1980's with the fielding and Depot repair of the AN/KAS-1 Chemical Warfare Directional Detector.

IV. Summary:

In summary, since the business practices won't change (we'll still communicate with other personnel based at Aberdeen via phone and email), and since the cost of living in the Aberdeen area precludes most of us from relocating, and since the cost of relocating Crane Chem/Bio negates the total projected savings of the entire scenario, relocating Crane Chem/Bio to Aberdeen makes neither economic nor military sense.

Therefore, I ask that you remove the realignment and relocation of Crane Chem/Bio from the BRAC decision and continue having this work performed at NAVSUPACT CRANE, IN.

Very Respectfully,



Don Miller
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Bedford, IN 47421