STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

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May 2, 2005

Gen. Lloyd Warren Newton (Ret.)
Member, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Sixth Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Newton:

Congratulations on your appointment as a member of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. You have accepted a challenge of great importance to the United States, and I wish you success.

As Governor of Indiana, I am naturally a fervent supporter of the military facilities within my state, especially Naval Support Activity Crane, a joint Navy-Army installation located in Southwestern Indiana. I am also a firm believer in the BRAC process. Assuming both roles is no challenge, I assure you. The BRAC process emphasizes the merits of individual military installations, and Crane's merits are many.

Crane's orientation toward joint projects represents an especially strong argument on its behalf, as the military emphasizes flexibility to meet the threats facing the United States, including those posed by terrorists. With its available personnel and technical and industrial resources, operating in a cost-effective fashion, Crane already performs critical functions for all branches of the U.S. military.

Crane also maintains outstanding facilities and modern test-ranges, freedom from all types of encroachment, relative isolation from external threats, and interconnection with a variety of efficient transportation networks.

Its importance in the state and region's economy also warrants prominent mention: The second largest employer in southern Indiana, Crane contributes to 8,000 direct and indirect jobs and produces an annual economic impact of $1.5 billion. I can say with certainty that Crane's closure would deal a catastrophic blow to the state's economy.

There are several reasons I decided to write to you even before the Commission receives the list of recommended closures and realignments. First, of course, is my high regard for the men and women of Crane and their contribution to the security of the United States. They believe, as do I, on the merits alone that Crane can and should continue to play a vital role in our nation's defense.

I also write to express my appreciation to you and your fellow Commission members for demonstrating your commitment to public service. The BRAC process requires comprehensive and intense study, fair-minded appraisal, and no small measure of political courage. Thank you for accepting this profound responsibility.

Sincerely,

Mitch Daniels