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July 25, 2005

BRAC Commission

JUL 28 2005

Received

Brigadier General Sue E. Turner (USAF, Ret)
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Brigadier General Turner;

As a military dependent for 18 years, I had the wonderful opportunity to move to Aroostook County, Maine in 1967. My father was assigned to Loring AFB where he finished his 30-year USAF military career. When the BRAC commission placed Loring on the base closure list, the area suffered severe economic setback. When Loring left, many of the good jobs left also. Over the years, I have watched with great concern as my siblings, parents, friends and colleagues left this area for no other reason than to pursue meaningful employment elsewhere.

When Loring AFB closed, the Loring Federal Credit Union was a small community based credit union serving the military and civilian workforce of Loring AFB and had to take drastic measures to survive the tremendous loss of population and membership. The name was changed to The County Federal Credit Union and efforts were made to include many smaller communities in central Aroostook County. Our home office was moved to the neighboring city of Caribou and we enthusiastically supported the efforts of the Loring Development Authority as it recruited tenants to occupy the wonderful assets that the former base provided. One of the outstanding successes was the development of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, an entity that has been the cornerstone of the success of the re-development efforts at the former air base. With these successes, our credit union has benefited tremendously from the employment opportunities that have been provided. A total of 353 jobs with an average annual salary of \$39,000 exemplifies this. Many of these employees are our members. These members have helped to grow our credit union because they found stability in a very unstable world.

Now, the possibility that their world will be rocked once again, gives me a great deal of concern. I have talked with my members about their mortgage payments and their automobile payments. They are truly concerned about what will happen to them and their credit issues. Many decisions to improve their quality of life were made based on the good fortune they found with employment opportunities at DFAS.

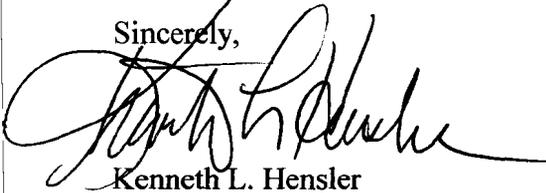
As the President and CEO of The County Federal Credit Union, I truly care about our members and our employees. The loss of 353 jobs at DFAS would be devastating to an

area that has only begun to recover from the loss of Loring AFB. The loss of jobs, payroll and indirect impacts on the economy are the obvious losses, but it goes much further than that. The employees of DFAS feel the economic recovery and the loss of such a premier employer will severely impact their hopes and aspirations.

I urge you to reconsider the placement of the Loring DFAS center on the closure list and look seriously at the proposal to actually increase the workforce. The economic well being of the area is of grave concern but the economic impact on my members, my friends, are of even greater concern to me.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth L. Hensler", written in a cursive style.

Kenneth L. Hensler
President/CEO