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BRAC Commission

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BY HAND

Admiral Harold Gehman, Jr.
BRAC Commission
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*Admiral -
Great to see you looking
and doing so well.
Thank you for taking a
look at this -
Dan Coats*

Dear Admiral Gehman:

It was a pleasure to see you again at the recent BRAC hearing and thank you for your continued service to the nation. I would like to follow up on all of the information you and your fellow Commissioners and staff have received, concerning the Naval Support Activity Crane. I can assure you that as a representatives of Governor Daniels and the State of Indiana, we appreciate the time and interest granted us to present information for BRAC consideration. I'd like to briefly summarize our position regarding the Crane facility.

Crane is a joint Navy-Army installation that contains some 100 square miles, is completely encroachment free, combines ordnance and electronics expertise in state of the art facilities, has synergistic technical and industrial capabilities that support all Services, and has the lowest labor rates among all of its peers. We were surprised that , in spite of these "model" installation attributes, DoD apparently never considered moving any functions into Crane. The reason behind this may have been that Crane was placed on the potential closing list very early on in the process. By the time the decision was ultimately made to keep Crane open, there may not have been sufficient time to identify and develop possible additions. We have suggested that several of the decisions realigning functions out of Crane will impact negatively on overall military value and return on investment for the Department. As such, we have made the following recommendations for BRAC consideration:

- The recommendation to move the airborne Electronic Warfare system (ALQ-99) depot from Crane to Whidbey Island as part of the Fleet Repair Center (FRC) consolidation doesn't appear to make sense. It moves the depot from the highest military value to a low military value and from a high industrial capacity to a low capacity. It is the highest cost

driver of the consolidation and, looked at individually, continually loses money. Furthermore, the consolidation at Whidbey doesn't integrate the entire ALQ-99 world-wide operational and intermediate level repair with the depot. Therefore, the consolidation just changes the shipping address for many activities from Crane to Whidbey.

- Crane has initiated a Readiness Support Center concept that through virtual technology, makes engineering and depot level repair knowledge available in real time to operational and intermediate repair facilities world wide including the fleet. This is a more effective and comprehensive way of merging operational, intermediate, and depot level capabilities. In addition, the ALQ-99 starts leaving the Navy inventory around the same time the depot would be up and operational at Whidbey. Finally, the recommendation fractures a joint technical and industrial facility that supports Electronic Warfare systems from all services. Crane is the DoD "center of mass" for Electronic Warfare with over 1,000 engineers and technicians and the most comprehensive technical and industrial facilities devoted to EW and its related microwave systems and components.
- The recommendation to move Crane's ordnance and weapons technical work to China Lake and Picatinny also raises significant concerns. The special warfare community from all services, over the last two and a half decades, has established a "center of excellence" at Crane for quick response, high security "joint special missions." This extremely responsive technical and industrial center combines capabilities in weapons, munitions, pyrotechnics, visual augmentation devices, targeting devices, electronics, physical security systems and more from the joint Navy-Army team at Crane. Functions of the center include development, commercial product modification, prototyping, test, acquisition, safety certification, repair, and training. In other words, Crane is an extremely responsive one-stop-shop for special mission outfitting. The facilities at Crane are augmented by: a close by, Crane owned, deepwater lake where explosive testing can be conducted; extensive ground and air weapons ranges at nearby State owned Camp Atterbury; and, a nearby State owned urban training center Muscatatuck. The DoD BRAC recommendations scatters this integrated, synergistic capability among several different installations. This will undoubtedly lengthen response time, increase cost and, potentially, increase risk to the warfighter. While the COBRA analysis shows a positive return on investment - although not large that return on the Crane piece is based on the generalized 15% reduction in personnel and the \$200,000 per annum cost of contractor personnel. These numbers are suspect in that Crane's contractor personnel are less than \$100,000 and a 15% decrease in numbers of personnel is highly unlikely. In addition, the overall decrease in efficiency and increase in time caused by dealing with several installations, rather than one, will outweigh any benefits achieved by co-location of some of the like functions.

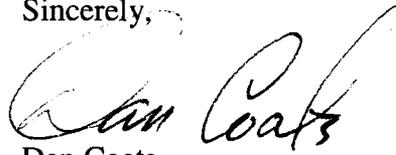
I recognize that you have many significant issues that you are dealing with in the BRAC recommendations that involve many more positions than these. However, I believe these are

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extremely important because of their potential impact on the readiness of our warfighters. We have tried throughout this process to advance suggestions which are constructive and responsible. I sincerely believe the changes outlined above will promote the overall objectives of the BRAC process and we welcome your serious consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Dan Coats