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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
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July 12, 2005

Mr. Anthony Principi  
Chairman  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

It has just now come to our attention that the base realignment and closure (BRAC) recommendations made by the Secretary of Defense on May 13, 2005, could affect an Air Force Reserve facility in Morgantown, West Virginia. We are deeply alarmed that the Civil Engineering Squadron, Detachment 1, of the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing could be targeted for closure, even though this facility is not anywhere to be found in the Secretary's BRAC recommendations submitted to Congress.

In his BRAC recommendations, Secretary Rumsfeld proposed the realignment of the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, based at the Pittsburgh International Airport. Despite the fact that the Secretary's detailed BRAC recommendations to Congress runs to more than 350 pages, there is not a single mention of the Air Force Reserve Civil Engineering Squadron, Detachment 1, based in Morgantown, West Virginia, anywhere to be found in his report.

This week, the Air Force confirmed that this facility "was not mentioned specifically to relocate" under the BRAC recommendations. Instead, the Air Force meekly contends that "it was the intention and part of the full Air Force analysis" to close the facility in Morgantown. This assertion by the Air Force ignores the plain text of the statute that established the BRAC process.

Federal law requires the Secretary of Defense to "transmit to the congressional defense committees and the [BRAC] Commission a list of military installations inside the United States that the Secretary recommends for closure or realignment." There is no provision of law that would allow the Department of Defense to modify its BRAC recommendations based on its "intention" or "analysis."

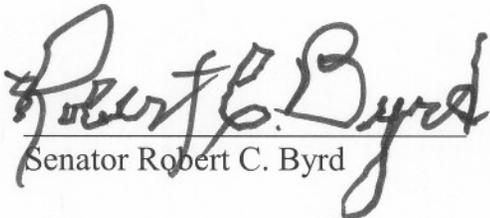
If a facility did not appear on the Secretary's list, and the Air Force has acknowledged that the Civil Engineering Squadron in Morgantown did not, Federal law only allows additions to the base closure list if seven of the nine BRAC Commissioners vote to

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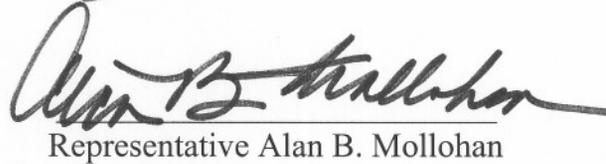
include a facility not recommended by the Secretary of Defense.

We urge you and the other members of the BRAC Commission to oppose any effort by the Department of Defense to sneak additional facilities into the Secretary's base closure recommendations, and we urge you in particular to oppose the addition of the Civil Engineering Squadron, Detachment 1, of the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing to the BRAC list.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Robert C. Byrd

  
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV

  
Representative Alan B. Mollohan

cc: The Honorable Michael L. Dominguez  
Secretary of the Air Force