

ORIGINAL



**State of North Carolina
Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 23, 2005

310 NORTH BLOUNT STREET
20401 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-0401

TELEPHONE: (919) 733-7350
FAX: (919) 733-6595
e-mail: bperdue@ncmail.net

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

On behalf of the State of North Carolina, I want to thank you for the work you are doing to transform our nation's military to meet the security challenges of the 21st century. North Carolina has a proud history of support for our nation's armed forces, and our state is prepared to play a central role in our modernized military of the future.

Governor Easley, our state's Advisory Commission on Military Affairs, our state legislators, our local communities, and our congressional delegation welcome the opportunity to work with you in the coming months as you examine the base realignment and closure recommendations of the Department of Defense. We are pleased that one of your regional hearings will be held in Charlotte.

North Carolina's military bases are a model for the joint forces of the future. They are concentrated in areas of the state with abundant land, sea and air training space. That close proximity and the complementary nature of their missions promote interdependence among our bases that results in a multi-service, multi-mission operation. North Carolina's bases are an unequalled training, stationing and force projection capability for our transformed military forces.

North Carolina lives up to its commitment to be the most military friendly state in the nation. The state and our local communities have worked hard to ensure the long-term viability of the state's military installations by promoting compatible land use initiatives and investing in infrastructure. We work with our local communities to support military personnel and their families by providing in-state college tuition and a variety of quality-of-life programs designed to promote retention.

We are in the process of studying the Department's recommendations and supporting data. We are pleased with the Secretary's recommendation to add the U.S. Forces



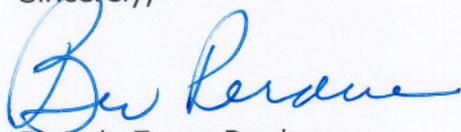
DCN: 1168

Command to Fort Bragg. We are concerned about the proposed changes at Pope Air Force Base, and we hope you will consider carefully their potential impact on the Army's crucial airlift capabilities. We are also disappointed in the proposed reductions at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, particularly at the NAVAIR Depot, and urge you to examine those recommendations closely. We will provide a more detailed response to you in the coming weeks, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our bases or the state's many initiatives in support of our military.

We look forward to hosting the Commission at our affected bases and at the June 28 regional hearing in Charlotte. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way in facilitating those visits and in planning the Charlotte hearing.

Again, thank you for the important work that you have undertaken and for your careful consideration of the Secretary's recommendations affecting North Carolina.

Sincerely,



Beverly Eaves Perdue

BEP/srn