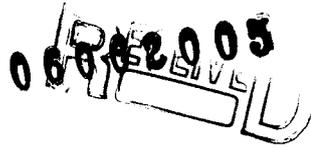


June 2, 2005

Pedro Villafane  
9 Highview Dr  
Smithfield, RI 02917



BRAC Commissioners;

I'm writing this letter to voice my concern about the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard proposed closing. I have never written a letter like this before, but I felt compelled to do so, because of the following two reasons:

- A) National Security – I understand that the US is under a lot of economical stress, but I believe that a shipyard is a major asset for national security. My major concern is that this would be an extremely difficult asset to recreate should the US get involved in a one or more major engagements in the future. I believe that both physical assets (buildings, machinery, dry docks, etc) and more importantly the experience of the workers would be extremely difficult to recreate should the need arise. You can remove trees, pave a few runways, build some hangars and you just built an emergency Air Force Base. That is certainly not the case with a shipyard.
- B) Economic Impact – I live in Rhode Island, even thou I would not be directly impacted by this, I feel that the economic impact in that region of New England will be extremely hard. Even people who don't work at the shipyard would be affected, retailers and service industries will loose a lot of revenue and the real estate market in that area will take a big hit.

I tried to make this letter as concise as I could. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pedro Villafane'. The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Pedro Villafane