



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600

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July 1, 2005

You will find enclosed a letter that I sent today to the Secretary of Defense. Based upon the data provided by the Department of Defense, the facts we gathered during our site visits and regional hearings, and comments we received from the public, the Commission believes it necessary to ask the Secretary of Defense to provide an explanation to questions posed in the enclosure to my letter.

Please be assured that the Commission has not decided to close or realign any installations. Indeed, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 states that before the Commission can even consider making any changes in the Secretary of Defense's BRAC recommendations to add military installations for closure or realignment, it must seek an explanation from the Secretary on the reasons why he did not include such installations in his May 13 list.

We are in the early stages of a multi-step process. Our request of the Secretary is merely for additional data and analysis so that the Commission will be more fully and broadly informed before deciding whether or not to formally consider adding installations to his list.

On July 19, the Commission will consider additions to the Secretary's list in open session. As you are aware, seven or more Commissioners must support adding an installation to the Secretary's list for consideration followed by at least two Commissioners visiting each of the installations in question and public hearings conducted regarding them.

At the Commission's final deliberations the week of August 22, the vote of at least seven Commissioners would be required to effect any change in the Secretary's recommendations.

I respectfully request your assistance in advising the communities concerned that this is a very preliminary stage of the statutory process. The Commission is inquiring, not deciding. Even if, at the July 19, 2005 deliberation, seven Commissioners support formal consideration of an installation, the final outcome is far from certain. It will be critical that we obtain the public's advice, assessments, and analyses at follow-on public hearings to assist us in making the best possible decisions. They must know that the Commission retains an open mind of all matters and that we need their continuing assistance.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Principi
Chairman

Chairman: Anthony J. Principi

Commissioners: The Honorable James H. Bilbray, The Honorable Philip E. Coyle III, Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr., USN (Ret), The Honorable Jim Hansen, General James T. Hill, USA (Ret), General Lloyd Newton, USAF (Ret), The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret)

Executive Director: Charles Battaglia