

January 22, 2004

The Honorable Michael Wynne
Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics
3E933 The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3000

Dear Mr. Wynne:

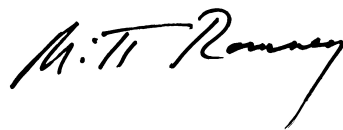
We are concerned about the guidance that DOD is using to develop its draft base list for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process. The general criteria published on December 23, 2003, are necessarily very broad, and therefore provide little specific guidance for the detailed analysis required by the six joint cross-service working groups in their specific areas.

Past BRAC rounds did not adequately assess the military value of facilities in the technical working group. Instead the past rounds limited their analysis to the physical attributes of the bases and overlooked the more complex intellectual and geographic factors that contribute so much to the success of these facilities. Unlike traditional operational bases, the military contribution of technical facilities depends on the application of intellectual assets to research, engineering and management challenges. The key elements that support this function are access to an educated, trained, and experienced workforce and the organizations and institutions that support it.

Because of the complex military value of the technical facilities, we request that you provide to our offices and make public the more detailed goals and more detailed sub-criteria that the joint cross-service working groups will actually use. Releasing the criteria will increase public confidence in the process, and assure affected communities that decisions are based on fair, balanced, and relevant analysis.

Thank you for your consideration of this essential part of the BRAC process, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Massachusetts

Governor Mitt Romney
Massachusetts

Senator John Kerry
Massachusetts

Senator Judd Gregg
New Hampshire

Senator John E. Sununu
New Hampshire

Representative Ed Markey
Massachusetts

Representative Barney Frank
Massachusetts

Representative Marty Meehan
Massachusetts

Representative Charles Bass '94
New Hampshire

Representative John Tierney
Massachusetts

Representative Jeb Bradley '02
New Hampshire