

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 26, 2004

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are writing to you in response to the draft selection criteria for closing and realigning military installations inside the United States, published in the Federal Register on December 23, 2003. As outlined in Public Law 107-107, a public comment period of 30 days is provided for before the selection criteria are finalized by the Secretary on February 16, 2004.

After review of the published draft selection criteria, we ask that you consider making the following modifications (recommended insertions have been underlined and deletions have been struck-through):

The current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of the Department of Defense's total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness joint efforts include coordination between military service branches, the Department of Homeland Security and other Executive Branch agencies. (Criteria 1)

The final selection criteria must address the Nation's security both abroad and at home. Facilities that support the DHS fill a vital role in protecting the safety of our citizens.

The availability and condition of land, facilities, ~~and associated airspace,~~ and ocean accessibility (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the Armed Forces in homeland defense missions) at both existing and potential receiving locations. (Criteria 2)

The final selection criteria must also consider the accessibility to open ocean on both coasts. This availability is critical both to the Navy mission but also to support homeland security missions.

The demonstrated ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training. (Criteria 3)


An evaluation of the capabilities of a base must be based on more than an inventory of infrastructure, but must also assess the demonstrated capability to support transformation initiatives and accommodate changing requirements.

The cost and efficiency of operations and business processes related to the mission the manpower implications. (Criteria 4)

An assessment of operations and business processes should include the ability to meet both budget and schedule objectives. Additionally, manpower implications is only one of multiple factors that must be considered when assessing cost and efficiency.

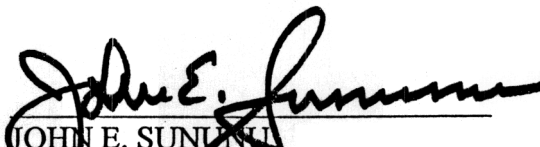
We believe that the recommended changes will provide the Department of Defense with a more comprehensive framework to proceed with BRAC evaluations. Should you require further information or wish to discuss these items, please contact our respective offices. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

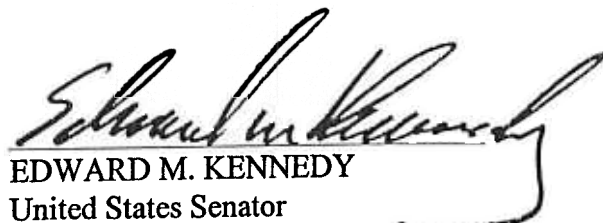
Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator

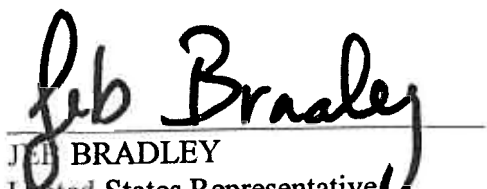

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United States Senator


THOMAS H. ALLEN
United States Representative


JEB BRADLEY
United States Representative

cc: Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment)
ATTN: Mr. Peter Potochney
Director, Base Realignment and Closure
Room 3D814
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3300