



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT
400 ARMY NAVY DRIVE, SUITE 200
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-4704



May 17, 2005

Dear Local Official:

I would like to introduce you to the Department of Defense's (DoD) Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA). OEA is the Department of Defense's primary source for assisting communities that are affected by Defense program changes. Our commitment to help communities respond to base realignment and closure (BRAC) announcements can assist in your community's response.

DoD recognizes that no two communities are the same and that DoD's recommendations are not without consideration for impact on local communities. By statute and Executive Order (E.O.), DoD has the ability to bring the resources of twenty-two key Federal agency Secretaries together to help communities adversely affected by BRAC actions. Through OEA, these resources are coordinated to tailor a responsive program of assistance to help your community plan and carry out local adjustment efforts. I am enclosing E.O. 12788 as it was amended by President George W. Bush on May 12, 2005 and information on some of the Federal assistance available to affected communities through the Defense Economic Adjustment Program and the President's Economic Adjustment Committee. Where necessary we will help communities in their work with the private sector to plan or undertake base redevelopment, and we will assist communities to partner with the Military Departments as they implement BRAC actions. Most importantly, OEA in collaboration with the Military Departments will help your community navigate the BRAC process.

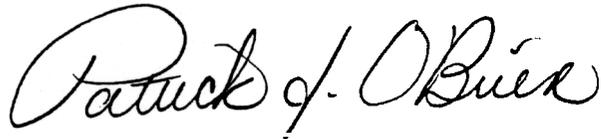
We understand the anxieties and uncertainties that may arise in response to these recommendations. In fact, to assist you in gaining a perspective, we have worked with some local leaders from past base closure rounds to provide their unique perspectives on what you are confronting so that you can benefit from their experiences. I encourage you to review the additional enclosed DVD, "*Communities, Responding to Change*" at your earliest convenience and to share it with other local officials. Besides recognizing that communities can successfully respond to a "BRAC" action, it underscores that success is directly related to effective local leadership. Also enclosed is "*Responding to Change: Communities & BRAC*," containing practical, early-on advice for local and State officials responding to a significant BRAC recommendation.

As the Base Realignment and Closure Commission begins its review of these recommendations and your community actively ensures every consideration is provided to your situation, I encourage you to become acquainted with the actions, roles, and responsibilities that have enabled communities to successfully transition through BRAC.

Following your review of this material and any consultation you may undertake with your community, OEA representatives are available to discuss questions you may have and/or to make a visit locally. You can reach our office or me personally at 703-604-6020.

As this BRAC effort proceeds, OEA will be presenting several additional technical resources to assist communities, including publications on organizing and planning for base reuse. Please feel free to navigate our website at www.oea.gov to obtain more information about community adjustment to BRAC decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick J. O'Brien". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Patrick J. O'Brien
Director
Office of Economic Adjustment

Enclosures:
As stated