

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

June 3, 2005

Subject: Comptroller General BRAC Analysis

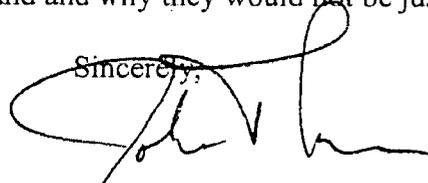
Dear Mr. Walker:

As GAO begins the process of preparing detailed analysis and a report due to Congressional defense committees by July 1, 2005 on the Secretary of Defense's 2005 Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) recommendations, I respectfully request that you direct your staff to review one particular GAO observation made in 1995 and assess its relevance to the current BRAC recommendations.

In GAO's April 1995 report titled, *Analysis of DoD's 1995 Process and Recommendations for Closure and Realignment*, page 67-68, it was noted that Ellsworth AFB (which then, as now, housed B-1 bombers) was considered for closure. Of interest, GAO observed in the report that "in discussion between the Air Force Secretary and Executive Group regarding Ellsworth, concerns were raised about overloading Dyess AFB, Texas, the other B-1 base." It went on to note, "other concerns were the placement of all B-1 assets at a single location..." Presumably, this refers to concerns about the wisdom of consolidating the entire inventory of a high-value bomber platform like the B-1 at a single location.

As you know, Ellsworth was not on the final recommendation list for closure in the 1995 BRAC round. However, in the current set of BRAC recommendations, the Secretary of Defense concludes that Ellsworth AFB should be closed and all B-1s consolidated at Dyess AFB. I merely bring this to your attention and suggest that you may wish to explore whether the concerns brought up by the Air Force in 1995, were adequately addressed in this BRAC round and why they would not be just as valid today.

Sincerely,



John Thune
U.S. Senator