

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2007

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301-0001

Dear Secretary Gates:

As you may know, in 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission determined that Cleveland would keep its jobs at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and gain other jobs in the realignment for a total of at least 1,500 jobs. Among these jobs are 40 financial system specialists working with the Marine Corps Total Forces System (MCTFS), currently at DFAS Kansas City. These are civilian or contractor positions rated at GS-9, GS-11, and GS-12 or equivalent.

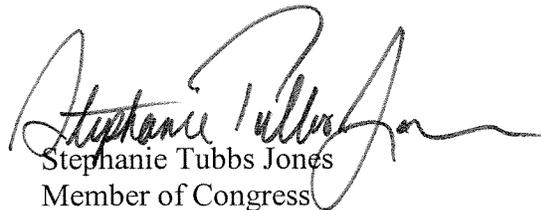
It has come to our attention that the Manpower Information System Support Activity (MISSA), which is part of the U.S. Marine Corps, is working toward having these jobs moved from DFAS to MISSA, and therefore from DFAS to the Marines. However, this is not what the BRAC Commission determined to be the appropriate realignment. It was determined that DFAS Cleveland would take over Marine pay. Therefore, the DFAS jobs which will handle Marine pay would be in Cleveland.

The BRAC Commission was set up so that the Department of Defense could make decisions about the locations of its facilities based upon the merits, not the politics or behind-the-scene deals. Cleveland was selected to handle Marine finance based on the quality of its staff and facilities. We ask that you immediately inquire into the status of these 40 financial system specialist jobs and ensure that they are moved to Cleveland in accordance with the BRAC Commission decisions. We ask that you not allow the BRAC process to be subverted.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress



Steven LaTourette
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton
Member of Congress