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CHAIRMAN,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC POLICY
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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

January 28, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Gates:

We ask that you immediately redirect all Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Marine Corps financial system specialists from DFAS Kansas City to DFAS Cleveland. These jobs were initially slated for Cleveland but were erroneously diverted to DFAS Indianapolis. The error needs to be corrected immediately and the jobs should be redirected to Cleveland.

In 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission determined that Cleveland would be the site for all Marine Corps DFAS jobs, which include the Technology Services Organization working with the Marine Corps Total Forces System (MCTFS). In response to our letter to you of June 20, 2007, regarding this matter, then-Under Secretary of Defense Kenneth Krieg stated that the "Business Plan of record for the DFAS recommendation provides that all Marine Corps Active & Reserve Pay, as well as accounting, disbursing, and reporting functions, will realign from Kansas City to Cleveland consistent with the recommendation. The Department will ensure that all BRAC 2005 recommendations are implemented as approved by the Commission."

A year later, we learned from then-Under Secretary of Defense John J. Young, Jr., that the Marine Corps pay jobs referred to in the 2007 letter would have to go instead to Indianapolis because of "the existing DFAS Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIHMERS) office, which is located at Indianapolis." The Krieg and Jones letters are enclosed for your convenience.

While we were disappointed to learn of this diversion, we understood at the time the rational basis for the decision. Today, however, we understand that the Marine Corps opted out of DIHMERS and it continues to use MCTFS. The DFAS workers in Cleveland have ample experience with this system. The rational basis for these Marine Corps jobs relocating to Indianapolis is obsolete. We ask that you immediately enforce the decision of the BRAC Commission and relocate these jobs to Cleveland as recommended.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

Steven C. LaTourette
Member of Congress