



NGA Center for
BEST PRACTICES

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Patrick O'Brien
Director, Office of Economic Adjustment
U.S. Department of Defense
400 Army Navy Drive, Suite 200
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

On behalf of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) Mission Growth Working Group, I would like to share with you the attached set of recommendations for federal program adjustments that would strengthen state efforts to support growing military installations. We greatly appreciate your office's support of the Working Group and welcome your assistance in sharing these recommendations with key parties.

Nearly 20 states will experience significant and rapid population growth around their military bases over the next three to five years as a result of defense actions such as the 2005 round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). The NGA Center's Mission Growth Working Group, which includes governor-appointed representatives from 17 of these states and is co-chaired by Georgia and Maryland, has identified workforce development, education, and transportation as the top state mission growth challenges, and is working on strategies they can take to respond to these challenges. In addition, the Working Group has identified a list of recommended adjustments and enhancements to federal workforce, education, and transportation programs that, if implemented, would make state efforts more effective and efficient.

We appreciate your help in making key agencies and players aware of these recommendations as the new administration embarks on its efforts to enhance economic and national security. For instance, as you lead the efforts of the Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC), or similar interagency efforts, the Working Group encourages you to take these recommendations to each of the 22 agencies that sit on the EAC.

The Working Group would welcome the opportunity to facilitate a dialogue with the member agencies of the EAC and others to offer further insights. Please feel free to contact me at 202-624-5357 or tbutler@nga.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tara A. Butler, Esq,
Program Director
National Governors Association Center for Best Practices

Attachment: Recommendations