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To: BRAC Commission Staff
From: Acting Governor Richard J. Codey
Subject: Poll of the Fort Monmouth Workforce
Date: July 27, 2005

OVERVIEW

Brookdale Community College and the State of New Jersey commissioned Harris Interactive® to survey civilian and contracted employees at Fort Monmouth to find out whether the percentage of Fort Monmouth employees likely to move to Aberdeen, Maryland was greater or lesser than the "move rates" experienced in previous rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

KEY FACTS

- According to Michael J. Marshall, author of "Private Sector Downsizing: Implications for DOD" (published in the Spring 2000 edition of The Acquisition Review Quarterly), the percentage of all civilian employees who moved as a result of the 1995 BRAC was 25%.
- A more specific review of BRAC moves involving Fort Monmouth shows that the likely move rate to Aberdeen may be even lower.
 - In 1993, only 40 of 300 employees (13%) move from Fort Monmouth to Adelphi, Maryland.
 - In 1995, only 29 of 180 employees (16%) moved from Vint Hill, Virginia to Fort Monmouth.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Harris Interactive conducted the telephone survey on behalf of Brookdale Community College and the State of New Jersey between June 24 and 28, 2005 among employees (aged 18+) at Fort Monmouth, of whom 169 are civilians and 71 are contractors. Names and numbers of those polled were obtained primarily through employee representatives. Data were not weighted and are therefore only representative of those employees surveyed. Sampling error is plus or minus 6 percentage points.

FINDINGS

- *Only 15% of the employees surveyed at Fort Monmouth say that they are planning to relocate to Aberdeen.* A full 70% are planning to stay in New Jersey, with only 13% undecided. The remaining 2% are neither moving to Maryland nor staying in New Jersey.
- Family commitments (45%) is the top reason cited for why civilian and contract employees surveyed do not want to move to Aberdeen. Preferring New Jersey (15%), having roots in the community (13%), and having access to better job opportunities (12%) are other reasons often cited for not moving to Maryland.

CONCLUSION

If Fort Monmouth is closed, only a small percentage of the workforce that was surveyed (as low as 15%) is likely to move to Aberdeen, MD. This conclusion is also supported by historical data from previous BRAC rounds. Even if half of the undecided employees who were surveyed decide to move to Aberdeen, the survey results suggest that the move rate would only increase to 22%, which is still below the overall BRAC move rate of 25% and far below the Department of Defense's assumption that 75% of Fort Monmouth employees would move to Aberdeen.