

MY NAME IS FENNER MILTON AND I AM DIRECTOR OF THE NIGHT VISION AND ELECTRONIC SENSORS DIRECTORATE, BETTER KNOWN AS THE ARMY'S NIGHT VISION LABORATORY THAT IS SLATED TO MOVE FROM FT. BELVOIR, VA TO ABERDEEN, MD. I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT I AM HERE ON LEAVE AND SPEAKING AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN WITH NO OBJECTION FROM THE PRINCIPAL ARMY ACQUISITION OFFICIAL. I AM A HARVARD PhD IN APPLIED PHYSICS AND HAVE SPENT TWELVE YEARS AS A TECHNOLOGY MANAGER AT THE NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY AND OVER EIGHT YEARS IN INDUSTRY MOSTLY AT GENERAL ELECTRIC. I THEN CAME TO THE ARMY AND SERVED A TERM AS THE ARMY'S SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE/ CHIEF SCIENTIST. SO I AM VERY FAMILIAR WITH WHAT IT TAKES TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN A QUALITY LABORATORY UNDER CIVIL SERVICE CONSTRAINTS. I WOULD AFFIRM THAT THE NIGHT VISION LABORATORY IS ONE OF THE FINEST LABORATORIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WITH IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE, PERHAPS SECOND ONLY TO THAT OF THE NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY. THE LAB IS EVEN MORE FOCUSED ON ITS CRITICAL MILITARY MISSION, SERVING A MULTI-SERVICE COMMUNITY WITH ELECTRO-OPTICS INFRARED, IMAGE INTENSIFIER SENSOR TECHNOLOGY AND COUNTERMINE/COUNTER-IED.

MY PRIMARY CONCERN IS THAT MOVING IT WILL DESTROY IT DUE TO THE LOSS OF IRREPLACABLE HUMAN CAPITAL! MANY OF THE

CIVILIAN EXPERTS ARE ENTRENCHED IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA AND THE BEST CAN EASILY FIND OTHER JOBS IN THE DC AREA. I PREDICT A SERIOUS LOSS OF EXPERIENCED SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGERS THAT WILL START AFTER SEPTEMBER 8TH AND HINDER OUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE WARFIGHTERS AND PROTECT THEM FROM ROADSIDE BOMBS/IED'S. PREVIOUS BRAC LABORATORY RELOCATIONS HAVE ALL LOST MORE THAN 60% OF THEIR PERSONNEL. RECONSTITUTION WILL BE EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT. SENSOR TECHNOLOGISTS REQUIRE MANY YEARS OF TRAINING BEYOND THEIR FORMAL EDUCATION. HIRING HIGH QUALITY TECHNOLOGISTS WITH CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND DELAYS IS ALWAYS A CHALLENGE. JUST AS ONE EXAMPLE, THE GRADUATE STUDENTS IN PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING AT THE NEARBY UNIVERSITIES OF JOHNS HOPKINS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ARE ALMOST TWO-THIRDS FOREIGN NATIONALS AND THEREBY INELIGIBLE FOR THE REQUIRED SECURITY CLEARANCES. MOVING THE NIGHT VISION LABORATORY WILL DESTROY THE CURRENT CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE AND RISKS LOSING THE HUMAN CAPITAL WE NEED TO FIGHT THE WAR ON TERRORISM. IT ONLY COSTS THE TAXPAYERS MONEY - AS FT. BELVOIR IS NOT CLOSING AND THE BELVOIR LABORATORY FACILITIES WILL HAVE TO BE REBUILT AT TAXPAYERS EXPENSE AT ABERDEEN, MD. (PAUSE) I SEE NO COMPENSATING SYNERGY TO BE GAINED BY THE MOVE. THERE IS NO

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**SENSOR WORK CURRENTLY AT ABERDEEN AND NO NEED TO CO-
LOCATE WITH THE REST OF CERDEC. THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION.**

**NVESD - BRAC FACT SHEET
(516 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES)**

The Night Vision and Electronics Sensors Directorate aka Night Vision Lab is an Army laboratory belonging to the Army Materiel Command located at Ft. Belvoir, VA. It is by far the largest DoD Center for night vision, infrared imaging, and countermine (counter IED) technology with a significant in-house capability that spans the spectrum from core component technology to integrated systems serving not only the Army but also the Marine Corps and SOCOM. It belongs to CERDEC, Headquartered at Ft. Monmouth, NJ but concentrates on different technology.

This night vision, EO/IR sensor, and countermine/counter IED technology is critical to the Warfighter particularly in the urban operations we now face. NVESD has an invaluable track record of partnership with industry transitioning technology such as image intensifier tubes and focal plane arrays to development (PM) programs and is currently contributing on many fronts to Operation Iraq Freedom with its rapid turnaround prototyping capability.

The DoD BRAC Report recommends moving NVESD to Aberdeen, Maryland. This result in no savings and many costs as Ft. Belvoir is not being closed and NVESD's extensive and often unique laboratory facilities would have to be reconstituted in Aberdeen.

It also risks the permanent loss of Army in-house technical capability to support the warfighter as the civilian expertise that has been built up over the years is unlikely to move in mass given the myriad of job opportunities in the Northern Virginia area. The best estimate from survey and historical experience is that only about 25% would move thereby risking the high performance culture of excellence that has been built-up over the years. Reconstituting the work force at Aberdeen in any reasonable time frame is impossible given civil service constraints.