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Virginia Council of Presidents

*FAX MEMORANDUM*

# Fax

**To:** Defense Base Closure and Realignment  
Commission

**From:** The Virginia Council of College Presidents

**Date:** June 30, 2005

**Re:** Memorandum **Pages:** 5, counting coversheet

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*MEMORANDUM*

**To:** 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
**From:** Council of Presidents  
**Date:** June 28, 2005

We write to express our grave concern over the BRAC Commission's recommendation to move major defense research-related agencies out of Arlington and Alexandria. We feel strongly that moving the agencies away from the complex, thriving research and development environment that has emerged inside the Beltway would have a deleterious effect on the overall defense related research environment for the nation.

These agencies include the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA); the Office of Naval Research; the Army Research Institute; and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The success of these agencies depends on their ability to partner with both the academic research community, including the National Science Foundation in Arlington, and a large number of high technology research and development firms that have emerged in the region over the past three decades. The close proximity of these organizations to each other, and their mutual research interests, have led to the creation of a highly complex, synergistic, and productive cluster. Removing the defense research agencies would break up this synergy and impede—even disrupt—this critical defense research environment.

The National Science Foundation reports that in FY 2002, the Department of Defense funded more than \$6.2 billion of research activity, a major portion of which was dispersed through these agencies. Virginia's universities perform in excess of \$50 million in defense-sponsored research, so we are well aware of the importance of ready access to both the agencies and their private sector partners.

It is essential that the United States stay on the leading edge of scientific discovery in order to guarantee our collective security against our adversaries both on the home front and abroad. The success and growth of our national security research will be dependent on the availability of ample opportunities for continued interaction and collaboration between academic, private, and governmental partners. We feel strongly that this goal will be best accomplished through preserving the existing synergistic research environment in Northern Virginia. While we

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appreciate the need for defense agencies to be in secure facilities, it is not necessary and possibly counterproductive for them to be located on a military installation.

We understand that Arlington County is prepared to work with the Department of Defense to create appropriately secure space for these agencies. It is our understanding that this can be done without disrupting the complex and thriving research culture that is currently providing critical support for the nation's defense efforts.

Our institutions are key partners in the nation's security efforts and we therefore have a great and collective interest in the Commission's actions. We respectfully request that the Commission work with local government and the Commonwealth of Virginia to preserve the existing research environment, which has been established over many years at great effort and expense. We believe that ultimately, the continued progress of our national defense research efforts may be at stake.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cc: The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
The Honorable John W. Warner  
The Honorable George Allen  
The Honorable Frank R. Wolf  
The Honorable James P. Moran  
The Honorable Thomas M. Davis, III

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2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Coalition Correspondence

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\_\_\_\_\_  
William M. Anderson, Jr., President  
University of Mary Washington

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Ernest H. Ern, Chancellor  
The University of Virginia's College at Wise

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General J. H. Binford Peay, III, Superintendent  
Virginia Military Institute

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*Frank Friedman*  
Frank Friedman, President  
Piedmont Virginia Community College

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John T. Casteen, III, President  
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Penelope W. Kyle, President  
Radford University

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Longwood University

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*Jack M. Lewis*  
Jack M. Lewis, President  
New River Community College

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*Elizabeth H. Crowther*  
Elizabeth H. Crowther, President  
Rappahannock Community College

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*Alan G. Merten*  
Alan G. Merten, President  
George Mason University

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*Glenn DuBois*  
Glenn DuBois, Chancellor  
Virginia Community College System

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Eddie N. Moore, President  
Virginia State University

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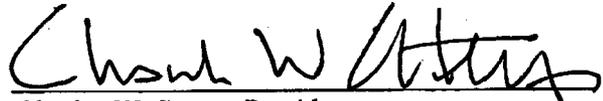
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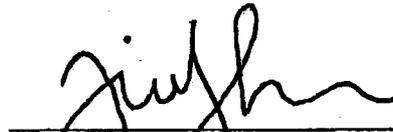
James B. McNeer, President  
Richard Bland College

Alvin J. Schexnider, Acting President  
Norfolk State University

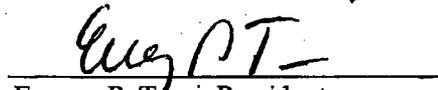
James R. Perkins, President  
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