



07012005

Commissioner Philip Coyle III
Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

June 29, 2005

Dear Commissioner Coyle:

As the prior Commander of the Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) and Fort Monmouth, I certified 2/3 of the data provided to the The Army BRAC Study (TABS) group prior to retiring from Army in June 2004. On June 3, 2005, I had the privilege of meeting with Commission Chairman Anthony Principi and Commissioner Lloyd Newton, and had the opportunity to express to them my deep concerns about the devastating ramifications of the Department of Defense's (DoD's) recommendation to close Fort Monmouth. I sincerely regret that my schedule does not permit me to attend the upcoming session with you on June 29th. I did, however, wish to take this opportunity to briefly convey my concerns to you and offer to meet with you at your convenience.

Based on my 32 years of service in the Army, I am *certain* that a re-location of the magnitude contemplated, in this case, will have a direct, immediate and catastrophic impact upon the mission performed by Team C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance) and the Warfighter. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work with and be supported by the many outstanding military and civilian personnel of CECOM/Fort Monmouth. Yet, it was not until I was actually assigned as Commander of CECOM that I recognized the integrated nature of the C4ISR work, as well as, the associated value and impact of the work that was being done at the fort in support of both the current force and the force of the future.

Previously, I served as the Commander of the Army Signal Command and was responsible for Army Signal Brigades and the Army's portion of the Global Information Grid. My mission was directly enabled by CECOM/Fort Monmouth with engineering and logistics support. Additionally, acquisition and sustainment for Army ISR is done at Fort Monmouth. It is this unique and irreplaceable expertise (combined C4 & ISR) resident within this Team C4ISR that enables the rapid development, acquisition, deployment and sustainment of the Army's C4ISR equipment and, in many instances, other services and our allies. I am certain that the Fort Monmouth government team will brief you on the numerous operations, rapid developments, acquisitions, and deployments that have been done by Team C4ISR, as well as, an update on current ongoing support of the war in Iraq and GWOT (Global War on Terrorism). If this extraordinary capability were to be lost through a re-location to Aberdeen, the impact upon the survivability of our Warfighters, as well as, their ability to effectively perform their missions would be devastating. Whether the organizational capability can ever be reconstructed completely is questionable.

The extremists who pose the greatest terrorist threat that our Forces are facing will not permit an *operational pause* to allow time to rebuild the C4ISR capability and expertise that already exist at Fort Monmouth; an organizational structure that is achieving the transformational objectives of Network Centric Warfare, and simultaneously supporting critical immediate requirements of the fighting force. Therefore, what I find most distressing about the recommendation to close Fort Monmouth is the fact that DoD has not identified the alleged shortcomings with the existing C4ISR structure at Fort Monmouth, nor adequately addressed, or even acknowledged, the dire consequences and profound ramifications of the move on the Army's ability to support and protect the Warfighter throughout the Global War on Terrorism in the C4ISR arena. Additionally, I'm not aware of any available plan regarding how this potentially catastrophic risk will be mitigated. Without the Commission's intervention, a world-class organization that plays a critical role in meeting the C4ISR needs of the Warfighter *every day* is going to be arbitrarily and unjustifiably dismantled.

It is my understanding that, this BRAC round was *supposed to be* an opportunity to achieve inter-service jointness within DoD. That objective was identified in the statute, yet DoD has missed that opportunity. The proposed re-location of Team C4ISR to Aberdeen does nothing in this regard and, in fact, completely severs that organization's connections to nearby Fort Dix/Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Center/McGuire Air Force Base. This Joint Base, with its three contiguous service installations, is the home to many C4ISR test and evaluation activities and near the Army's center for C4ISR expertise at Fort Monmouth. Accordingly, it would have been an ideal location for a truly joint DoD C4ISR Command structured in much the same way as a Unified Command and reporting to the Commander, Joint Forces Command. I briefed this concept to Army, Air Force, and Navy leadership during my last year in command. Such a command would ensure that, from concept through fielding and sustainment, C4ISR systems would integrate each service's capabilities, requirements and doctrine and go further than ever before towards achieving real defense transformation. Although DoD appears to have missed this chance, it presents an unparalleled opportunity for the Commission to build upon this existing joint service relationship that is strategically positioned to be the DoD C4ISR Center of Excellence for the future.

I believe that if the Army fully understood the role performed by Team C4ISR at Fort Monmouth, then Fort Monmouth would never have been put on the BRAC List; and it is my sincere hope that the Commission will be able to rectify this situation; the lives of countless Warfighters depend upon it.

In closing, I have no personal equity in the final BRAC decision; I am a resident of Northern Virginia. Yet, as a citizen and tax payer, I do want to ensure the facts are adequately received to ensure the right/best decision is made which impact the safety and well being of our nation; that is the reason that I have elected to share my concerns. Should you wish to discuss any of these points or any other subjects related to the DoD recommendation, I would be pleased to do so at your convenience

Sincerely,



William H. Russ

Major General, U.S. Army (Ret)