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Executive Correspondence



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07 06 2005

# Congressman Frank Pallone

## 6<sup>th</sup> District, New Jersey

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**

7/6/05

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**To:**

Gov't Relations - Deirdre Walsh

**Message:**

Please add to your records  
CC. Dept. of Homeland Security  
(Erin Ocunzzi)

Number of pages to follow: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have trouble with this transmission, please call (202) 225-4671

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Executive Correspondence  
**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 5, 2005

Anthony J. Principi, Chairman  
U.S. Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
Polk Building, Suites 600 and 625  
2521 South Clark Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

We would like to take this opportunity to request that the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission hold a hearing to specifically look at the effects of the Department of Defense's closure recommendations on Homeland Defense.

The Global War on Terror (GWOT) is not a war that will always be fought on far off battlefields. As we learned on September 11, 2001, the terrorists are determined to bring the fight to U.S. soil. That being said, we believe that Homeland Defense is paramount to our success in the current war and should be weighed in all Base Realignment and Closure decisions, as it should have been by the Pentagon in accordance with the December 10, 2004 directive issued by the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics).

Our United States Military infrastructure is incredibly important to defending our homeland and keeping the nation secure. As you know, many bases provide traditional support to homeland defense. The Air National Guard patrol national airspace, and provide troops to defend critical sites. Other bases provide nontraditional support, including research and development, communications technology, and advanced interoperability technology to better integrate organizations involved in protecting our homeland.

Fort Monmouth Army Garrison in Eatontown, NJ is notable for the role it plays in reacting to national security crises. Fort Monmouth's proximity to New York City (30 miles) and its easy access to the city's core by air or by sea makes the Fort a natural base for major homeland security activity. It is currently the closest active military base to New York City. John F. Lehman, member of the 9-11 Commission, specifically cited Ft. Monmouth in congressional testimony for its expertise in communications interoperability and its proximity to critical homeland security responders in New York.

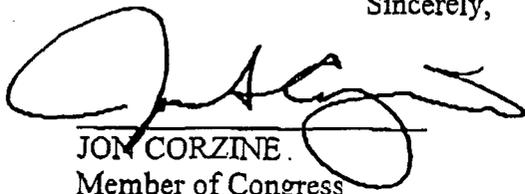
Fort Monmouth proved its importance to homeland defense when, following the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, it deployed technologically advanced systems to aide search and rescue missions. For example, high tech cell phone locaters were able to locate hundreds of cell phones within the debris, and adapted miniaturized infrared cameras to look through wreckage and search for survivors and pockets of heat. At the Pentagon, Fort Monmouth's team established an advanced communication infrastructure within 24 hours of the attack, enabling the Pentagon to continue to function after being attacked.

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Today, Ft. Monmouth's C4ISR team is engaged in developing a prototype information sharing network and Radiological Surveillance system consisting of C2, Situational Awareness, radiological sensor networks, and video assets for the Port Authority of NY/NJ. This effort will insure that the critical assets of Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey are protected, as are the millions of citizens that live in those states. Leveraging dual-use C4ISR and radiological technologies is the key to the success of this GWOT effort.

These are just a few examples of why the Base Realignment and Closure Commission should hold a hearing to explore the effects of BRAC on our national security. We believe that some of the Pentagon's recommendations will seriously hinder our ability to win the Global War on Terror and protect our citizens at home. Thank you in advance for your consideration. For additional information, please contact Tim Del Monico in Congressman Pallone's Office (202-225-4671) or Pat Eddington in Congressman Holt's Office (202-225-5801).

Sincerely,



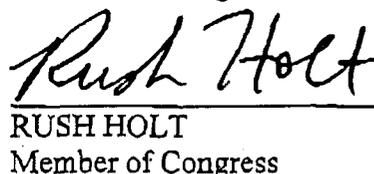
JON CORZINE  
Member of Congress



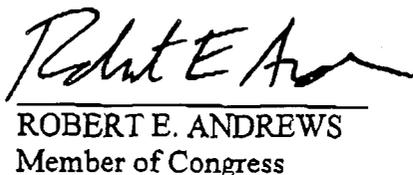
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG  
Member of Congress



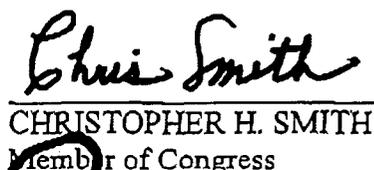
FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress



RUSH HOLT  
Member of Congress



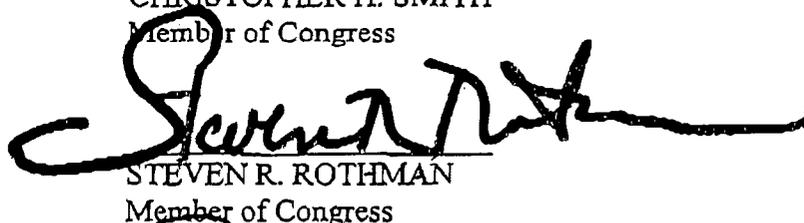
ROBERT E. ANDREWS  
Member of Congress



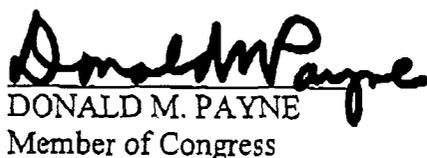
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH  
Member of Congress



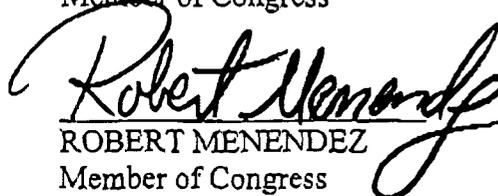
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DONALD M. PAYNE  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress

CC:

Secretary Michael Chertoff, Department of Homeland Security