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OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

June 28, 2005

Chairman Anthony Principi  
Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202



RECEIVED

Dear Chairman Principi:

On behalf of the University System of Maryland, I would like to submit comments concerning the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's (BRAC) recommendation to consolidate the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) and Research, Development, Acquisition, Testing and Evaluation Command to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. I write to express my strong support for the BRAC recommendations, and pledge our cooperation in ensuring a welcoming consolidation of these commands to Maryland.

The University System of Maryland (USM) has over 140,000 students worldwide in 600 degree programs delivered in classrooms, laboratories, education centers, and online. USM ranks as the fourth largest system in R & D funding. Institutions and research institutes within the USM institutions perform close to a billion dollars annually in research activities in various technology fields.

The USM, in particular, has a strong history of working with DOD laboratories in research, training, and education. I have no doubt that the research activities and personnel proposed to be consolidated at Aberdeen would enhance our partnership with federal laboratories. Institutions within the USM are particularly strong in software engineering, computer engineering, logistics, supply chain management, and sensors research, which lines up well with the research areas of the proposed consolidated command centers. The USM has close research relationships with the Army Research Laboratory in Adelphi Maryland, which is located two miles from the flagship campus in College Park. The Department of Defense has built two laboratories on land owned by the USM to conduct joint research with military researchers and civilian personnel in communications networking, materials research and physics-related technologies. A professor of engineering at UM College Park has a joint appointment with the Aberdeen Test Command, and administers a growing research program in transportation research and logistics between College Park and the Aberdeen Test Center.

In the area of education, the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) is the nation's leading institution providing education to DOD employees. In 2004 UMUC enrolled over 50,000 active duty military and dependents through its overseas programs under contract with the U.S. Department of Defense.

1807  
University of Maryland,  
Baltimore

1856  
University of Maryland,  
College Park

1865  
Bowie State University

1866  
Towson University

1886  
University of Maryland  
Eastern Shore

1898  
Frostburg State University

1900  
Coppin State University

1925  
Salisbury University

1925  
University of Baltimore

1925  
University of Maryland  
Center for Environmental  
Science

1947  
University of Maryland  
University College

1966  
University of Maryland,  
Baltimore County

1985  
University of Maryland  
Biotechnology Institute

UMUC offers on-line courses at Aberdeen with on-site proctors, and the University of Maryland College Park's nationally ranked engineering program offers the Professional Master's of Engineering at the Harford County Education and Technology (HEAT) center in Aberdeen. USM works closely with the community college system of Maryland, ensuring close articulation of education and training for DOD employees and families.

With three historically-black institutions within the USM—Bowie State University, Coppin State University, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)--ensures a diverse and educated workforce upon which Aberdeen can draw. And these institutions are involved in some innovative research projects. Bowie State University, for example, in a partnership with Apple Computer just launched a supercomputer, which is now ranked among the nation's top 100 fastest supercomputers.

The University System of Maryland works closely with the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) on technology transfer programs, including assisting in the Aberdeen Federal Lab Showcase in 2004 and working on technology partnership to help transfer technologies from the DOD to the private sector. USM also works with the Army Alliance, a business support organization, to ensure good communication among the stakeholders in the Aberdeen region and sharing of resources to enhance the quality of life for Aberdeen personnel.

No state has aligned its research, educational and training resources to better serve federal laboratories than Maryland. We look forward to working with the Department of Defense on implementing the BRAC recommendations and welcoming these units to our state.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I or the University System of Maryland can assist further.

Sincerely yours,



William E. Kirwan  
Chancellor

cc: The Honorable Paul Sarbanes, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor  
Secretary Aris Melissaratos, Maryland Department of Business and Economic  
Development