

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 WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE ON LEAVE TO TESTIFY AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN WITH NO OBJECTION FROM THE PRINCIPAL ARMY ACQUISITION OFFICIAL BUT I AM CURRENTLY PREPARING FOR COMMISSIONER COYLE'S VISIT THIS AFTERNOON. 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. I CAME TO THE ARMY FROM GENERAL ELECTRIC 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 PROGRAMS.

MY PRIMARY CONCERN IS THAT MOVING IT WILL DESTROY IT DUE TO THE LOSS OF IRREPLACABLE HUMAN CAPITAL! MANY OF THE CIVILIAN EXPERTS HAVE DEEP ROOTS 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 SOON 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 CIVILIAN 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 SENSOR WORK CURRENTLY AT ABERDEEN AND NO NEED TO CO-LOCATE WITH THE REST OF CERDEC.

A. James Wilton July 7 2005

MY NAME IS ED SHEEHAN. I AM A FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY'S NIGHT VISION LABORATORY THAT IS SLATED TO MOVE FROM FT. BELVOIR, VA TO ABERDEEN, MD. I AM HERE ON BEHALF OF DR. FENNER MILTON, THE CURRENT DIRECTOR, WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE ON LEAVE TO TESTIFY AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN BUT IS CURRENTLY PREPARING FOR COMMISSIONER COYLE'S VISIT THIS AFTERNOON. DR. MILTON IS A HARVARD PhD IN APPLIED PHYSICS AND HAS SPENT TWELVE YEARS AS A TECHNOLOGY MANAGER AT THE NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY AND OVER EIGHT YEARS IN INDUSTRY. HE CAME TO THE ARMY FROM GENERAL ELECTRIC AND SERVED A TERM AS THE ARMY'S SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE/ CHIEF SCIENTIST. SO HE IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH WHAT IT TAKES TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN A QUALITY LABORATORY UNDER CIVIL SERVICE CONSTRAINTS. HE 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 PROGRAMS.

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I AGREE WITH EVERYTHING THAT DR. MILTON HAS SAID. THE BRAC IS PUTTING IN JEOPARDY A NATIONAL TREASURE. THE US ARMED FORCES ARE SECOND TO NONE IN NIGHT OPERATIONS IN THE WORLD. THIS IS DUE IN A LARGE PART TO THE EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE AT NVL AT FT. BELVOIR. THE FIRST 30 YEARS OF MY CAREER WERE WITH THE NIGHT VISION LABORATORY, BEGINNING AS A PROJECT ENGINEER AND PROGRESSIVELY ADVANCING TO BECOME THE DIRECTOR. THE LAB HAS MADE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR ABILITY TO FIGHT DAY AND NIGHT ON THE MODERN BATTLEFIELD, DEVELOPING FROM SCRATCH OUR MOST EFFECTIVE TARGETING SENSORS. MY CAREER HAS CONTINUED WITH MY OWN CONSULTING FIRM, AS A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF DARPA AND CURRENTLY AS A RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR TO PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITIES. IT MAKES NO SENSE TO MOVE THE NIGHT VISION LABORATORY. FOR SENSORS, THE SYNERGY THAT SOMEONE IS TRYING TO CREATE ALREADY EXISTS RIGHT HERE IN THE DC/ NORTHERN VIRGINIA AREA. DARPA, THE ARMY AND NAVAL RESEARCH LABS, THE INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES, THE MARINE CORPS RESEARCH CENTER AT QUANTICO, AND THE LAB'S PARTNERS IN FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ARE ALL HERE. THE PEO/PM CUSTOMERS FOR THE LAB'S SENSOR AND COUNTERMINE TECHNOLOGY ARE MOSTLY HERE AS WELL. DAVISON ARMY AIRFIELD, QUANTICO, FORT AP HILL, BLOSSOM POINT AND INDIAN HEAD ALL SERVE AS LOCAL TEST FACILITIES. THERE IS NO REAL SYNERGY BY PUTTING NVL TOGETHER

WITH FT. MONMOUTH ASSETS AT ABERDEEN. NVL HAS BEEN ADMINISTRATIVELY SEPARATE OF FT. MONMOUTH FOR 45 YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE AND ALTHOUGH NVL WORKS EFFECTIVELY WITH CERDEC, FT. MONMOUTH AT A DISTANCE, ITS COMBINATION IS REALLY A MARRIAGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE.

OUR WARFIGHTERS, FIRST RESPONDERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONALS NEED AND DESERVE THE VERY BEST. THERE IS NO REASON TO DISRUPT AND POTENTIALLY DESTROY AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES IT, AND EVERY REASON NOT TO.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

Edward J. Elaskan
7/7/05