

DCN 5695



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RICHARD J. CODEY
ACTING GOVERNOR

July 25, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

As your deliberations reach an important juncture, I write to you with great respect for the thoughtful, professional and dedicated approach that the Commission has taken under your leadership. Unfortunately, in recent weeks, a number of interested parties have forwarded misleading information to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission related to the capability of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) to absorb the C4ISR missions now located at Fort Monmouth.

Perhaps the most serious misinformation relates to the suggestion of how easy it would be to replace the required skilled workforce if the Fort Monmouth C4ISR mission were relocated to APG. It is a fact beyond refutation that between 75% and 85% of the Fort Monmouth workforce will not relocate to the Aberdeen area. This will create a crisis of great magnitude for the Army and a potential disaster for our War Fighters in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To those who doubt this pending depletion of critical C4ISR personnel, I point to history and a recent employee survey. In June 2005, Brookdale Community College and the State of New Jersey commissioned Harris Interactive, an internationally respected organization, to conduct a scientific survey of Fort Monmouth employees and contractors to determine how many current Fort Monmouth personnel would move to Maryland if the Fort's C4ISR mission were moved to APG. In this Harris Poll, only 15% of the employees surveyed indicated that they planned on relocating to the Aberdeen area. The results of this Harris Poll directly parallel the history and record of the 1993 and 1995 BRAC reorganizations.

In the face of this almost total depletion of critical C4ISR personnel, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission must answer with absolute certainty two basic questions concerning the proposed relocation of the Fort Monmouth C4ISR mission to APG:

1. How will Aberdeen provide the required skilled workforce needed for the C4ISR mission without disrupting critical services currently provided by Fort Monmouth to our War Fighters in Iraq and Afghanistan?
2. How many years will it take to just regain the present skill level of Fort Monmouth's current workforce, realizing that 75% to 85% of which will be lost if the Fort Monmouth mission is relocated to Maryland?

I understand why elected officials from Maryland would defend the quality of Maryland's workforce. But we must remember that home state enthusiasm is not an excuse for ignoring potential damage to national security. The U.S. Census and other unbiased sources clearly show that the quality and excellence of the Maryland workforce does *not* align with the needs of a C4ISR mission. In addition, the skilled workforce unrelated to C4ISR that does reside in Maryland is not located close to APG, but rather in the Washington-Baltimore corridor.

Because of a continuing campaign of hyperbole, I must emphasize that it is not conjecture that Maryland lacks the skilled C4ISR workforce needed to avoid disruption of support for American War Fighters in Iraq and Afghanistan.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Decennial Census, the Fort Monmouth area has more than five times the number of information industry workers as the APG area. The Fort Monmouth area has more than 3.5 times the number of computer and mathematical workers, and nearly twice the number of architectural and engineering workers than the APG region. The Census Bureau also indicates that there were more than 20 times the number of workers hired in 2003 – 2004 in the telecommunications sector and more than twice as many new hires in the same period in other relevant science and engineering sectors in Monmouth and Ocean Counties than in Harford and Cecil Counties in Maryland.

In summary, Fort Monmouth has up to five times more skilled workers available in specialized areas related to C4ISR than the APG region. That is factual, not rhetoric or hyperbole. The Base Realignment and Closure Commission must look to certified factual information – not well-intended enthusiasm.

Beyond workforce, there is an array of questions related to the readiness of APG to accept the C4ISR mission from Fort Monmouth. One of the most important relates to the historic and intractable levels of pollution and contamination that have plagued APG for decades. It is fact that of the total 72,500 acres at APG,

37,900 are land acres and 34,600 are water acres. It is troubling that only approximately 11% of APG – only 7,900 acres, is free of contaminants. The Base Realignment and Closure Commission must be convinced beyond doubt that the historic and massive pollution problems and contamination of water sources at APG have been adequately remediated before the Commission endorses a recommendation to relocate the Department of Defense's and the nation's most important asset – people – to APG.

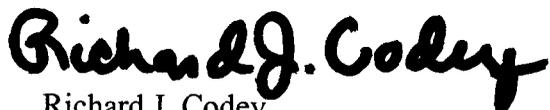
Aberdeen is a munitions and vehicle proving ground. It does not have the instrumented C4ISR ranges, C4ISR aviation support capabilities, access to troops and their equipment for experimentation, or Joint access -- already in place -- with Fort Monmouth and its historic, nearby partners at Fort Dix, Navy Lakehurst and McGuire AFB.

On a related matter of preparedness to accept the Fort Monmouth mission, APG must currently carry out its robotics testing at Fort Indiantown Gap in Pennsylvania. Will APG need to send C4ISR experimentation, as well, to a distant site, like the Joint Base in New Jersey?

Mr. Chairman, the New Jersey Congressional delegation and the New Jersey Commission to Support and Enhance Military and Coast Guard Installations will continue to forward additional technical information related to issues that arose at the Public Hearing on July 8, 2005. In particular, we have updated the so-called payback period to 33 years. When one adds the costs to re-constitute the lost workforce and when one eliminates the military personnel savings, per Comptroller General Walker's testimony, the payback period rises to an unacceptable and unattainable 54 years. America cannot afford the risk or the cost of this experiment.

I thank you and all the members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission for your dedicated service and your commitment to assure the security of our nation and the safety of our War Fighters during these most difficult times.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Codey
Acting Governor

cc: Members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation



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RICHARD J. CODEY
ACTING GOVERNOR

To: BRAC Commission Staff
From: Acting Governor Richard J. Codey
Subject: Poll of the Fort Monmouth Workforce
Date: July 27, 2005

OVERVIEW

Brookdale Community College and the State of New Jersey commissioned Harris Interactive® to survey civilian and contracted employees at Fort Monmouth to find out whether the percentage of Fort Monmouth employees likely to move to Aberdeen, Maryland was greater or lesser than the "move rates" experienced in previous rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

KEY FACTS

- According to Michael J. Marshall, author of "Private Sector Downsizing: Implications for DOD" (published in the Spring 2000 edition of The Acquisition Review Quarterly), the percentage of all civilian employees who moved as a result of the 1995 BRAC was 25%.
- A more specific review of BRAC moves involving Fort Monmouth shows that the likely move rate to Aberdeen may be even lower.
 - In 1993, only 40 of 300 employees (13%) move from Fort Monmouth to Adelphi, Maryland.
 - In 1995, only 29 of 180 employees (16%) moved from Vint Hill, Virginia to Fort Monmouth.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Harris Interactive conducted the telephone survey on behalf of Brookdale Community College and the State of New Jersey between June 24 and 28, 2005 among employees (aged 18+) at Fort Monmouth, of whom 169 are civilians and 71 are contractors. Names and numbers of those polled were obtained primarily through employee representatives. Data were not weighted and are therefore only representative of those employees surveyed. Sampling error is plus or minus 6 percentage points.

FINDINGS

- *Only 15% of the employees surveyed at Fort Monmouth say that they are planning to relocate to Aberdeen.* A full 70% are planning to stay in New Jersey, with only 13% undecided. The remaining 2% are neither moving to Maryland nor staying in New Jersey.
- Family commitments (45%) is the top reason cited for why civilian and contract employees surveyed do not want to move to Aberdeen. Preferring New Jersey (15%), having roots in the community (13%), and having access to better job opportunities (12%) are other reasons often cited for not moving to Maryland.

CONCLUSION

If Fort Monmouth is closed, only a small percentage of the workforce that was surveyed (as low as 15%) is likely to move to Aberdeen, MD. This conclusion is also supported by historical data from previous BRAC rounds. Even if half of the undecided employees who were surveyed decide to move to Aberdeen, the survey results suggest that the move rate would only increase to 22%, which is still below the overall BRAC move rate of 25% and far below the Department of Defense's assumption that 75% of Fort Monmouth employees would move to Aberdeen.