

Consolidate Extramural Research Managers

Issue: DOD issue paper on this matter misstates the facts, is internally inconsistent, and misrepresents the alternatives before the Commission. Related misstatements of fact are found in the issue paper “Leased Space Recommendations” at Tab C-16.

Misstatement: “DOD recommended relocating the Extramural Research Program Managers from seven separate sites to one location at the National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, MD.” “This recommendation co-locates the managers of externally funded research at 7 separate locations at one campus.” In a contradictory statement, the DOD issue paper later states that “With the exception of about 100 personnel currently in North Carolina, the majority of the research managers are currently located within a few blocks of one another.”

Fact: With the exception of the about 100 Army Research Office personnel in North Carolina, **essentially all of the research managers are already co-located within a few blocks of each other in a Co-Located Center of Excellence** in Ballston, VA. Indeed, the Office of Naval Research and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, which DOD refers to as being in separate sites, are located in the same building.

Misstatement: “The co-location [proposed by DOD at Bethesda] allows technical synergy by bringing research managers from disparate locations together at one place. This ‘Co-located Center of Excellence’ will foster additional coordination among the extramural research activities of OSD and the Military Departments.”

Fact: The DOD extramural research managers already are clustered in a Co-Located Center of Excellence not only with each other but also within walking distance of the National Science Foundation. Co-location with NSF is a critical to the military value of the extramural research programs, as recognized by the Technical Joint Cross Service Group. They are also co-located with the contractor base, also key to military value; contractor staff constitutes over 85% of the extramural research team. **The Technical JCSG rated the Ballston site as having a higher military value than the Bethesda site because of Ballston’s co-location attributes. Re-locating to Bethesda would:**

- **add absolutely nothing to the synergy of the already co-located DOD research managers,**
- **destroy their critical synergy with NSF, and**
- **disrupt and diminish their synergy with their contractors.**

Misstatement: “Further, it will enhance the Force Protection posture of the organizations by relocating them from leased space onto a traditional military installation.”

Fact: Arlington County has developed two alternatives that demonstrate it is possible to meet DoD Anti-terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) requirements without undermining the mission effectiveness and military value of the extramural research programs, such as would result from a move to Bethesda. Moreover, these Arlington alternatives would cost DOD far less than the DOD proposed move to Bethesda.

Misstatement: In Tab C-16, regarding Leased Space, DOD asserts that “In all instances, the movement from leased space to owned space envisioned in these recommendations improves the affected organization's force protection posture.”

Fact: DOD's statement lacks any basis in fact and certainly was not validated in the BRAC process. DOD never assessed the AT/FP situation with regard to any leased space nor with regard to any military installation. Instead, DOD simply asserted that leased space inherently failed to meet DOD AT/FP standards and that military installations always meet AT/FP standards. Both assertions are demonstrably false, as documented in Arlington County's July 7 presentation to the Commission. This is notably true in the National Capital Region (NCR). Moreover, beyond what Arlington has already documented, there are additional DOD and non-DOD intelligence community leased facilities in the NCR that meet DOD AT/FP standards. Only in recent weeks has DOD begun an effort to systematically assess the AT/FP characteristics of leased buildings in the NCR, an effort that will require some time to complete.

Misstatement: “From the perspective of efficiency and coordination, the status quo is superior to what will result from consolidating the 100 Army personnel from North Carolina while deleting the 800 DARPA personnel from the recommendation.”

Fact: The DOD statement misrepresents the alternatives before the Commission. The best alternative is to retain the Ballston extramural research managers at a secure site in close proximity to the NSF (and Pentagon) and consolidate the 100 Army Research Office personnel from North Carolina. This alternative enhances military value and is the lowest cost alternative. Consolidation at Bethesda NNMC as proposed by DOD reduces military value of the extramural research programs and is the highest cost alternative.