

DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
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MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

DATE: 28 July 2005

TIME: 1300 hours

MEETING WITH: Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC)

SUBJECT: BRAC Recommendation #136, relocation of ATEC from Arlington, VA to Aderdeen Proving Grounds, MD (APG).

PARTICIPANTS:

ATEC:

BG James Myles, Commanding General

COL Rick Dorsey, Chief of Staff

Brian Barr, Technical Director

Commission Staff:

Timothy Abrell*

MEETING SUMMARY:

- Discussion of mission of ATEC and locations of subordinated commands
- Focus of subordinate units to provide independent evaluation and testing of weapon systems
- Focus of ATEC command is to coordinate with Army leadership and congress in Washington briefing, explaining, defending the merits or deficiencies of weapons programs and their budgets
- "My battlefield is the Pentagon," says the Commander
- Colocation with other ATEC elements at APG, Army Evaluation Command and Operation Test Command, does not enhance ATEC's mission capabilities. Rather, the Commander feels, it makes it harder since it moves him 80 miles away from the Pentagon and the leadership he has maintain contact with.
- Informal surveys indicate 70% of civilian personnel said they would not move. This is concentrated in the more senior staff. The commander thinks this will be a significant blow to his mission capability because of the loss of his experienced program managers and expert in these field that are not easily replaced. You can't walk in off the street and run a multi million dollar weapons program.
- Over the last 15 years ATEC has shifted to higher percentage of civilian worker and contractors. The remaining military positions are mainly leadership positions.

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- If the Commander loses 70% of his civilian workforce he estimates that it will take until 2012 to recover to a level near where he operates now. He feels it will take much longer to fully recover because of the loss of his most experienced civilian personnel.
- Some personnel have already left to take other jobs as a direct result of BRAC. It is anticipated that it will be very hard to replace these losses while in transition to the new site because people will not want to take a job that will require them to move in a year or two. This will significantly impact on the ability of ATEC to do their missions. We are at a very pivotal point of time over the next few years. There are critical weapons systems being developed to fight an ongoing war and a changing global threat. Disruptions in the workforce because of BRAC will negatively affect the Army's ability to conduct this war and the current transformation of the US Army.
- Commander disagrees with the COBRA analysis to reduce personnel strength by 57. Can only find 12 persons
- The commander would prefer to move to Ft. Belvoir. The Army Evaluation Center (AEC) is currently split between this office and Aberdeen. It would be better if that organization were consolidated with ATEC on Ft Belvoir due to their mission to coordinate with ATEC HQ and the Pentagon.

* Denotes individual responsible for completing the memorandum