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July 25, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

We are writing to thank you for the opportunity to testify before the BRAC Commission at the July 9<sup>th</sup> regional hearing at Goucher College. We appreciate the opportunity to support our communities in their response to the Department of Defense (DOD) recommendations. In following up on the issues discussed during the hearing, we would also like to correct certain assertions that were made pertaining to the DOD recommendation to consolidate C4ISR functions to Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG).

- **Moving C4ISR functions during wartime will not hinder our ability to provide these capabilities to the war fighter.**

The assertion that closing Fort Monmouth will have a negative impact on military personnel in combat today is without merit. Opponents of this recommendation suggest that it will hinder the fielding of the Warlock Improvised Explosive Device (IED) jamming systems. In fact, these systems were developed by the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) Survivability and Lethality Analysis Directorate (SLAD), which is headquartered at APG, with components at White Sands, NM and Fort Monmouth, NJ. Fort Monmouth's role in this process is largely acquisition management, not engineering. The Warlock systems were developed by a team of ARL SLAD soldiers and Physical Science Lab engineers from New Mexico State University. The Army has also contracted with several private sector firms for further research and development, and the production of the Warlock systems and their replacements. Air Force and Navy researchers play a large role in research and acquisition of IED jamming technologies and systems as well. In other words, work on the IED jammers will continue as usual regardless of BRAC.

More importantly, as has been pointed out in the DOD recommendations, consolidating C4ISR RDA and T&E functions at APG would provide a beginning to end capability in developing and fielding C4ISR equipment – allowing 21<sup>st</sup> Century technologies to reach our servicemen and women in the most efficient and effective

manner and saving lives on the battlefield. As was explained in detail during the July 8<sup>th</sup> hearing, this capability cannot be achieved at Fort Monmouth.

DOD began deliberations and formulated all of its BRAC recommendations during a time of war. Therefore, DOD was able to fully assess any impact its recommendations might have on current operations. Given the nature of today's open-ended conflicts around the world, the DOD determined that the primary goal of this BRAC round would be to transform our military infrastructure to effectively confront 21<sup>st</sup> Century threats. The DOD recommendations would be implemented over a six year period in order to maintain continuity of operations while achieving this critical transformation.

- **Moving C4ISR functions from Fort Monmouth to Aberdeen Proving Ground will not create a "brain drain."**

Surveys measuring the number of workers who plan to move as a result of BRAC-related relocations are rarely accurate. In fact, concerns about the willingness of workers to move with their jobs were raised when the Naval Air Systems Command was relocated from Crystal City to Patuxent River Naval Air Station as a part of the 1993 BRAC. At the time, surveys sponsored by opponents of the DOD recommendation indicated that only 20 percent of the workers would move. However, in practice, 80 percent followed their jobs to Patuxent River. Cooperation among stakeholders at the federal, state, and local level made this relocation a success and we intend to replicate this effort at APG.

It was also asserted that the relocation of the Electronic Technology Device Laboratory (now the Sensors and Electronic Devices Directorate) from Fort Monmouth to ARL Adelphi during the 1991 BRAC is an example of what can be expected in the Fort Monmouth closure and relocation to APG. This is not accurate. Because only a small portion of Fort Monmouth was realigned during the 1991 BRAC, many of the workers who might have otherwise relocated to Adelphi simply went to work for CECOM, driving the relocation numbers down. By closing Fort Monmouth entirely, many more workers are likely to follow their jobs to Aberdeen, which is also 60 miles closer to Fort Monmouth than Adelphi.

Although we believe a large portion of the Fort Monmouth workforce will ultimately move to APG should the BRAC Commission approve the DOD recommendation, it is important to note that nearly 35 percent of the Fort Monmouth workforce is over 50 years old. These individuals are likely to retire in the near future regardless of the outcome of the recommendation to close Fort Monmouth. As was thoroughly supported by independent data in testimony at the regional hearing, Maryland has a highly proficient workforce and an educational framework that will more than adequately fill any need for new and highly qualified workers. In addition, many of the private sector contractors that provide C4ISR research and development services for the Army, including Battelle, Booz Allen, Bechtel, Northrup Grumman, Lockheed

Martin, SAIC, TRW, and Smiths Detection, all have a significant presence in Maryland and a large science and technology workforce already in place.

- **The Department of Defense cost data on relocating C4ISR to Aberdeen Proving Ground is sound.**

DOD has indicated that the cost of moving C4ISR to APG would be \$822 million. However, as a result of synergies created by the co-location of C4ISR work currently located at several sites, cost savings would be generated in the amount of \$143 million per year by consolidating C4ISR functions at APG. This allows for a payback period of six years and would generate overall savings every year after this period. In fact, the GAO recently reported in testimony before the BRAC Commission that the closure of Fort Monmouth is among the top 10 percent of the DOD's recommendations in terms of cost savings. These recommendations account for 79 percent of total BRAC savings projected by DOD.

Arguments that the move would cost more than what DOD has indicated are based on the "brain drain" argument that has been addressed above and assumptions of military construction costs that are not grounded in fact. In fact, if there is a discrepancy in cost, it would be to the benefit of APG. BRAC recommendations relocating the Ordnance School from APG to Fort Lee will free up additional space to house C4ISR administrative offices and military construction costs for additional infrastructure have been built into the DOD recommendations. In addition, the Enhanced Use Lease projects underway and expected at APG will drive operating costs lower, generating additional savings. Conversely, COBRA runs of a limited consolidation at Fort Monmouth indicate that the payback period for that scenario would exceed 100 years.

- **The creation of a regional "mega-base" to include Fort Dix, McGuire Air Force Base, NAVAIR Lakehurst, and Fort Monmouth will not create C4ISR synergies.**

Creating a regional "mega-base" to include Fort Dix, McGuire Air Force Base, NAVAIR Lakehurst, and Fort Monmouth is a simplistic approach that would do little or nothing to improve the efficiency of developing and fielding C4ISR technologies. Gathering an Army Reserve mobilization base, a fuel tanker air force base, and a carrier support naval base and coupling those facilities with C4ISR functions at Fort Monmouth would be a forced and awkward marriage when compared to the synergistic relationships envisioned under the DOD recommendation to consolidate at APG. Indeed, the "mega-base" concept is simply a rearranging of administrative management that puts all these facilities under one Garrison command, but has no effect on operational capabilities.

Actual consolidation at APG would co-locate the acquisition and contracting functions of Fort Monmouth with the research, testing, and evaluation functions of Army Research Laboratories and the headquarters for the Army Research, Development and Engineering Command located at APG.

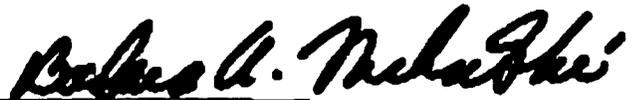
Furthermore, the DOD recommendations recognize APG as a "full spectrum Research, Development, Test and Evaluation installation" and propose consolidating two additional Army Research Laboratory Directorates and the headquarters of the Army Test and Evaluation Command to APG, joining the organizations it manages and that are already located at APG. These are the complexities of the DOD recommendations that the Secretary of Defense referred to in his May 16<sup>th</sup> testimony before the BRAC Commission. Given its overall military value rating, size, and low operating costs APG is the only feasible location to produce these relationships.

Thank you for the opportunity to follow up with you regarding these important matters. We look forward to working with you as the Commission continues to examine the DOD recommendations.

With best regards,



Paul S. Sarbanes  
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress