



Growth Innovators

Aug. 9, 2005

*Mel Baiada*  
Chairman

*Maxine Ballen*  
President & CEO

Hon. Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman, 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Va. 22202

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Dear Chairman Principi:

Fort Monmouth, through its outstanding research and development initiatives, is an important component of New Jersey's economy. Additionally, the New Jersey Technology Council (NJTC) believes that the innovation developed between member technology companies and the U.S. government at Ft. Monmouth is critical to the nation's past, present and future economic prosperity and security.

New Jersey is the place where people who live for technology live. As such, innovation is at the core of our economy and growth strategy. The NJTC's primary mission is to educate and support its members as they grow and prosper. The relationship many NJTC members have forged with Fort Monmouth is indicative of the profitable ways technological innovation is nurtured and strengthened through mutually beneficial interactions with government and industry.

The NJTC represent more than 200 communications, information technology and advanced materials companies. Thanks to the efforts of many of these companies and their relationship with Ft. Monmouth, the U.S. military is able to utilize all-optical broadband and wireless communications, ad hoc networks, infrared imaging, and organic electronics.

These technological advancements have either been successfully deployed in battlefield conditions or are well on their way toward military, homeland security and commercial applications.

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For these companies, New Jersey's economy and for the technological future growth of our nation, keeping Ft. Monmouth open here in New Jersey is of utmost importance. Ft. Monmouth is an important part of the Innovation Garden State – yielding "fruit" this region, country and world will enjoy for years to come.

We implore the Commission to reconsider its decision to close Ft. Monmouth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maxine Ballen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Maxine Ballen  
President & CEO  
New Jersey Technology Council