

August 15, 2005
DCN: 8197

Defense Base Closure and Realignment
Commission

2521 S. Clark St.,
Suite 600
Arlington, Va, 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 17 2005

Received

att: Brac panel:

I would like to give voice to this important issue, which affects all of us throughout the region.

The closing of Fort Monmouth would cause highly skilled personnel to seek jobs outside of the military sector and place the development of new military technologies in great jeopardy, certainly impacting U.S. soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At a time when our country is at war, this would be devastating to us and our troops.

Very truly yours,
Rosemary Amarel

AUG 21 2005

Received

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a New Jersey resident for 48 years. I have been a resident of Oceanport for 20 yrs.

My husband and I are average hard working people. We have worked together building a home for our family.

Our main source of our retirement will be a 2 family home which we totally renovated when we were young.

Our current home, in Oceanport, also needed major repairs. Despite constant hard work on both these homes, we have always felt that our efforts would lead to a stable future.

New Jersey is an expensive place to live, and as our retirement inches closer, we now fear that the closing of Fort Monmouth, if it occurs, will result in a dramatic reduction of our oceanport investment. Should Fort Monmouth

be closed, the surrounding communities will suffer. As taxpayers we already face a heavy burden. Please help insure that our future will be economically sound. Living in this area is already difficult. We need your help!

Respectfully yours,
Karen + John Ferrugiare

AUG 22 2005

Received

1651 Center Street
Point Pleasant, New Jersey 08742
August 19, 2005

Base Alignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Va. 22202
c/o Anthony Principi, Chairman

The United States is not only very much embroiled in an open-ended war in two countries in Southwest Asia for the foreseeable future, but facing an unprecedented and uncertain threat to national security through global terrorism with our basic freedoms at stake. In fact, the sheer number of combinatorial threats and geopolitical forces presently in play, including the two axis-of-evil countries developing nuclear weapons, instability in the mid-east, and China's military and economic expansion, make predictions about the true military requirements for 21st Century national defense and the necessary force structure to implement it dubious at best. The only thing truly clear is that the United States and other democratic countries are being seriously challenged in a world that has not appeared so threatening since the late 1930's.

Amidst this ominous background, the Pentagon has blithely entered into a BRAC round, and erroneously recommended that Fort Monmouth which provides the research and development for many key military technology programs protecting American soldiers be closed. Some key programs at Fort Monmouth include frequency monitoring and disruption of IED's, LCMR's to protect against mortars, and FBCB2 with Blue Force Tracking(BFT) to prevent fratricide, provide situational awareness, and a valuable interface to the lower tactical internet to name just a few. Other Fort Monmouth systems of note include the Army Battlefield Command System composed of 11 functional battlefield systems, IEW battlefield sensor systems, Future Combat System work, and sophisticated satellite and software systems. All these systems provide enhanced operational capabilities and protection for the warfighter.

Through many years of organizational evolution, Fort Monmouth presently has a highly talented scientific and engineering work force in place in the many Program Management Offices, Technology Centers, and Program Executive Offices located at Fort Monmouth. Together, they function as a synergistic research and development C4ISR team in support of the warfighter. It is important to note that the effective organizational structure at Fort Monmouth evolved over time, and was not simply thrown into place through rapid national recruitment under the pressure of time.

Closure of Fort Monmouth and the subsequent interruption of the valuable R&D work conducted there would be an outright disaster for the American soldiers presently in

Theatre, and to the United States future. The research and development work being performed at Fort Monmouth is being led by a highly skilled senior team with many years of experience that has also benefited from years of mission location stability to form cohesive organizations. Relocation to Aberdeen will mean replacing 80% of the personnel through recruitment without regard to the time it really takes to form a cohesive set of organizational R&D teams. The research literature talks in terms of years and decades to put an effectively operational organization in place. Presently 150 to 200 Fort Monmouth personnel are in Theatre supported by these cohesive organizations at home to maintain the technology support flow to the soldiers. The bottom line of the recommended high risk complete closure approach during wartime will be a serious disruption of the flow of technology to the warfighter, loss of the effective research organization through massive personnel turnover, and unnecessary American soldier casualties. The BRAC commission needs to understand this awesome life and death responsibility they have taken on, and how it will impact the warfighter if Fort Monmouth is closed.

The military mission accomplishment of Fort Monmouth over the years has been nothing less than superb. It has provided the relevant technology to save American lives on the battlefield. The Pentagon thinking based on questionable accounting is that at this time the Country can afford the ten year R&D disruption by closing Fort Monmouth, reconstruct it at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, hire a replacement work force for eighty percent of the workers, and somehow establish organizational effectiveness in an R&D environment. This Pentagon thinking is high risk gambling that portends great damage and tragedy for the Country and the American soldier. This approach will result in unnecessary deaths and the loss of a valuable defense capability that can never be recovered once gone as the Nation at war catapults into an uncertain future.

The least disruptive and logical cost-effective solution is to merge Fort Monmouth R&D capabilities with the Joint Mega-base including Fort Dix, McGuire Air Force base, and the Navy Lakehurst facility. This base combination with the contiguous state forest land includes over 100,000 acres of Joint test facilities, and a research organization already in place and performing the mission assigned. Aberdeen Proving Grounds is a little over 7000 acres and not a Joint facility. In fact, Fort Monmouth has already been utilizing the Joint Base experimenting with C4ISR technologies for the Future Combat Program (FCS). During this C4ISR testing in 2003, Blackhawk helicopters simulating UAV's with research radars for SAR and GMTI were flown out of Lakehurst over test vehicles and structures at Fort Dix with the results displayed in ground stations and transmitted back to Fort Monmouth laboratories. The full integration of Fort Monmouth with the Mega-base approach would speed research and development results, not cause interruption of critical R&D capabilities, preserve the intellectual capital already in place, and allow for the continued flow of life saving technology enhancements to the warfighter and Nation.

In summary, the United States is in an open-ended war on multiple global fronts including the Homeland itself, and has need for continuous research and development to provide technological solutions and save the lives of our citizens and soldiers.

Furthermore, there are ample signs that this open-ended war may expand in the near future. Fort Monmouth has fulfilled its highly complex military mission, and saved the lives of countless American soldiers over the last eighty eight years. It can only be hoped that the BRAC commission will be wise enough not to play Russian roulette with our research and development capabilities, keep Fort Monmouth open, and merge it with the Joint Mega-base 24 miles away. The flow of new technology and innovations to the American soldier in this time of open-ended war and turbulence should not be sacrificed by politics, fuzzy and inaccurate accounting, and a lack of understanding of the complexity of organizational research and development. The lives and safety of the American warfighter and perhaps the Nation itself literally depend on the correct decisions of the nine member BRAC commission.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Walsh
Thomas J. Walsh

Cc: Representative Chris Smith
Senator Jon Corzine
Senator Frank Lautenberg
