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Received

NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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COMMITTEES
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BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

The most compelling reason for continuing operations at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey is the global War on Terror. Fort Monmouth is a critical component in advanced communications in the War on Terror. Without this irreplaceable asset, America and its allies cannot win this global war.

Moreover, 80 percent of the engineers, scientists and hi-tech specialists at Fort Monmouth are on record that they will not uproot their families and move to Aberdeen. The loss of this massive "Brain Drain," coupled with the huge public expense of re-creating Fort Monmouth's vast military infrastructure at Aberdeen, is economically and technically irresponsible. This would be outrageously indefensible!

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (the world's largest public commerce and transportation authority) warns that closing Fort Monmouth would "jeopardize homeland security." Is that what our Defense Department is willing to do?

As a retired Navy Captain serving 42 years, both active and inactive since World War II, I urge the Commission to compare the benefits versus costs of keeping Fort Monmouth in full operation in this critical time in our nation's military history. Today's challenge is greater than our own Civil War, World War I and World War combined.

I have personally worked with countless soldiers and officers at Fort Monmouth since I was a teenager growing up near the fort. We've got the finest team of experts assembled in the communications sector of the Army. To disrupt and dismantle this winning combination now is self-destructive. Is that what the Pentagon really wants?

Respectfully,

NJ State Assemblyman Joseph Azzolina
United States Navy Captain (Ret.)