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BRAC Commission

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2501 Kelso Court
Fallston, Maryland 21047
19 July 2005

Chairman Anthony J. Principi
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and Members of the Commission:

This letter contains comments about the recent New Jersey presentation at Goucher College regarding Ft. Monmouth and Aberdeen Proving Ground.

I listened with great interest to the testimony given to you by the delegation from New Jersey on Friday, July 8, 2005, at Goucher College. I wish especially to correct the sworn testimony that you heard concerning Ft. Monmouth and the countermeasure systems that are being fielded in Iraq and Afghanistan to neutralize the insurgent's Improvised Explosive Devices. You were told, quite pointedly, that this program would be harmed at the wrong time if the mission and functions and staffing of Ft. Monmouth were to be transferred to the Aberdeen Proving Ground. Not true.

During 1956 – 1996, most of my service as a soldier and as a civilian employee of the Army was at Aberdeen Proving Ground, in positions that required intimate knowledge of how the various electronics systems, fielded and in development, were designed, how well they performed or were intended to perform, and their technical specifications, durability on the battlefield, acceptability by soldiers, and overall operation in combat. I studied and worked with radios, sensors, command and control systems, air and ground reconnaissance platforms, and signal warfare equipment. On numerous occasions I was asked to lead investigations for the Department of Army and for HQ U.S. Army Materiel Command. For more than 20 years I had desk space in a secure facility where I was given access to many C4ISR programs. I visited the various parts of Ft. Monmouth on many occasions, and took part in the highest level program reviews both at Ft. Monmouth and in the Pentagon. I chaired reviews of Ft. Monmouth's compliance with recommendations of the Army Science Board, I participated as a member of source selection advisory boards, at Ft. Monmouth and elsewhere, and I served as technical evaluator of many electronics development programs over the years. In addition I worked closely with the Army's electronics test facilities in the U.S., at and around Forts Huachuca and Hood, and with the operational test evaluation groups in the Training and Doctrine Command. For several months, I served as Acting Technical Director of the Operational Test and Evaluation Agency. I participated, along with the British Army, in the evaluation of electronic warfare systems that prepared the U.S. Army for its 1986 reorganization. I headed and participated on teams that evaluated combat system performance in the Middle East in 1973 and again in more recent years. I am familiar with the Ft. Monmouth programs and the command's approach to new system development. I've had occasion to meet with many of Ft. Monmouth's contractors across the U.S. I was a member of the Senior Executive Service for 14 years. I am retired, and I am an unpaid volunteer member of the Aberdeen Army Alliance. I have no expectation of financial reward as a result of any actions that I might influence regarding

the DoD. I have no relative employed by the federal government, in Harford County or in any other place, in any role other than as a soldier currently deploying to Iraq. I am interested only in improving the U.S. Army by supporting the DoD position concerning Ft. Monmouth and Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Three main points:

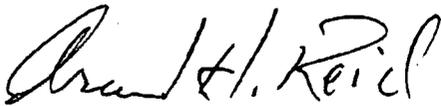
- The Army Research Laboratory's Survivability/Lethality Analysis Directorate (SLAD) at Aberdeen took the initiative to endorse and fund project suggestions by their field test and design group at the White Sands Missile Range. SLAD designed and developed, in collaboration with New Mexico State University, the countermeasure system that is being fielded, and this design will continue to be fielded. It is one of four concepts that are now managed by the Program Executive Office IEW&S at Ft. Monmouth in a program called Warlock. The alternative designs appear to have been created by contractors, not by the Ft. Monmouth staff. Contractors provide the SLAD field support, not the Ft. Monmouth staff. Every part of the logistics support and program management is, by nature, highly portable. I have been unable to discern a single aspect of this program that would be harmed if the functions and staffing were transferred elsewhere, at any time. The SLAD team was one of ten Army groups honored for their inventions for the year 2004, because their creation works. The Army's active-duty divisions and the Training and Doctrine Command chose the ten winning programs for their impact on Army capabilities. Nominations for the program were submitted from across the Army laboratory community. None of the New Jersey testimony to you regarding this very important program was factual. It was irresponsible, in this and in other instances. I know that you understand the truth in this matter.
- The institutional culture at Ft. Monmouth is not conducive to creative technical thought. There are some wonderful exceptions, most notably at the Night Vision Laboratory and in a few small pockets of Ft. Monmouth. Using whatever wisdom, the Department of Defense recommendation to create a new center of excellence at Aberdeen Proving Ground is right on the mark, because the Aberdeen culture promotes independent technical thought and the pursuit of battlefield know-how among its military and civilian workforce. As a result, electronic system test design, testing, and development test evaluation has been conducted at both Aberdeen and at the Army Test Center's electronic proving ground, Ft. Huachuca. Most of the test work is carried out at Ft. Huachuca and White Sands, because the east coast electronic environment, including commercial radio traffic, air traffic and associated radar create barriers, as you know. The same applies to Ft. Monmouth. For whatever reason, the Ft. Monmouth approach to developing new military capabilities has failed, singularly, to produce a tactical command and control system that soldiers use for much more than e-mail. It has failed to produce a useful system to facilitate the processing of tactical intelligence information (today, the All Source Analysis System is, essentially, tent furniture). Many of the tactical sensors that have been produced under the oversight of the Ft. Monmouth staff are huge, barely mobile "targets." Useful electrical engineering and applied physics know-how is very hard to find at Ft. Monmouth. The real accomplishments of the Ft. Monmouth staff toward fielding useful systems are very few, and that is a main reason that staff spends so much money—the pursuit of failure after failure! In particular, software development (including software performance evaluation) is very weak, and the software must

always be repaired and reprogrammed *during combat*, because the Ft. Monmouth software is not subjected to sufficiently rigorous laboratory tests. Field cellular phones (Mobile Subscriber Equipment) cannot keep up with mobile combat operations. The list is endless. The Ft. Monmouth staff and leaders are not well prepared to supervise their research and development and production contracts. A change in environment cannot harm the missions of the Army's C4ISR developer. It will provide a start on the road to recovery.

- The whole series of presentations by the New Jersey group was replete with misrepresentations concerning Ft. Monmouth and Aberdeen. As one example, one of the New Jersey briefers gave an especially artful set of comments about contamination at Aberdeen Proving Ground. As you are aware, our predecessors did not know enough about chemistry or geology, and they did leave some problems for our generation. We are dealing with them. We have solutions. We are very concerned about the environment in which we and our families live and work. I am reminded of this constantly, in another volunteer role as a Director of the Friends of Harford (County). APG is our welcome neighbor. We actively seek to improve our environment. Apparently that briever has not taken the opportunity to perform a Google search on <"Monmouth County" toxic>. Monmouth County has problems that appear to surpass those in most of our country. In 1994 there were 390 toxic sites in Monmouth County! Long Branch is a source of unusually high cancer rates due to the long-ago use of coal plus chemicals for gas lamps. If I happen to visit that area again, I shall drink bottled water, and hope that it is okay. Like Aberdeen's neighbor, Harford County, Monmouth is working their way through the problem. That briever tried very hard to make Aberdeen sound like a bad place in which to live, and suggested that the Ft. Monmouth staff would not wish to move to our area. Those who do move will upgrade their living environment.

Thank you very much for your service.

Very respectfully,



Arend H. Reid
Director
Aberdeen Army Alliance