

BRAC Commission

City of Brook Park

AUG 19 2005

Mandi J. Elliott, Mayor

August 19, 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

also via fax: 703-699-2735; two pages

Dear Chairman Principi

I urge the Commission to reject the Department of Defense's recommendation to relocate the Army Research Laboratory's Vehicle Technology Directorate (VTD) away from the NASA Glenn Research Center. The recommendation conflicts with Base Closure Criteria and common sense with respect to facilities, scientific collaboration and fiscal management of our tax dollars.

Facilities available at Glenn include an Icing Research Tunnel and two subsonic wind tunnels. I understand that the VTD also uses the Propulsion Materials Research Facility, the Engine Research Building, the Propulsion systems Laboratory and the Engine Components Research Laboratory. In a June 30 letter to the Commission, AHS International estimates that it would cost \$650 million to reconstruct these facilities at Aberdeen. Unnecessarily duplicating existing facilities conflicts with Criteria 2, the availability of facilities; Criteria 4, the cost of operations; Criteria 5, the extent and timing of costs; and Criteria 7, the ability of infrastructure of the existing and potential receiving communities to support missions. Having staff travel back to existing facilities would also be nonsensical in terms of cost and performance reliability.

The VTD employees have the potential to collaborate with the approximately three thousand civil servants and contractors that co-locate at Glenn. By all accounts this relationship has served the Army well for 40 years. Making this change and losing access to this resource pool of talent will conflict with Criteria 1, impact on current and future mission capabilities and Criteria 4, manpower implications, since "support" staff would be added at a cost, or lost altogether.

With regards to your Criteria 6, economic impact on existing communities, the impact of losing 50 employees with approximately \$4 million in salaries will be profound on Brook Park and the region, especially considering the multiplier effect of the work and contracts let by the VTD. Greater Cleveland has recently felt the impacts of large companies leaving the region, Glenn itself may lose some of its employees due to proposed changes to the NASA budget, and over 1,000 employees at Cleveland DFAS are in jeopardy because they are also on the BRAC list.

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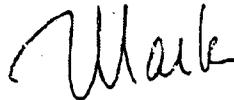
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Honorable Anthony J. Principi
August 19, 2005

Taking an operation that effectively and efficiently serves its mission and moving it to a location that requires re-creating existing facilities and expertise at great cost simply makes no financial or operational sense. On behalf of the City of Brook Park, and indeed of taxpayers across the country, I urge the Commission to reject the proposed relocation of the Army Research Laboratory's Vehicle Technology Directorate.

Sincerely



Mark J. Elliott
Mayor

c: Senator Mike DeWine
Senator George Voinovich
Congressman Dennis Kucinich