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BRAC Commission

AUG 19 2005

Received

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

Re: proposed relocation of the Vehicle Technology Directorate of the Army Research Laboratory from NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Chairman Principi:

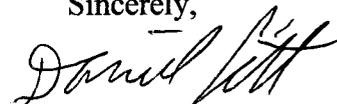
I would like to suggest several reasons why the Vehicle Technology Directorate should be allowed to remain in Cleveland. Moving it would be an unjustifiable expense to the taxpayer and would make research far more difficult.

The Vehicle Technology Directorate performs research that uses many of NASA Glenn's laboratory facilities, including a state-of-the-art wind tunnel and a facility that allows researchers to study flight degradation in cold temperatures. Such equipment is extremely expensive to construct, and the duplication required by a move seems inefficient and an unnecessary expense. As the VTD and NASA Glenn do research in similar fields, it makes sense to allow them to use the same facilities. Moving the VTD while allowing it to pursue the same research would require extremely expensive duplication of equipment that already exists at NASA Glenn.

Furthermore, the close contact between the Army Research Laboratory and NASA Glenn facilitates research in other ways; it provides easy contact between the two groups, allowing researchers on related projects to communicate their results. In the past, the VTD has worked with NASA to develop aviation technologies. The VTD uses NASA facilities, including extremely expensive state-of-the-art equipment that is difficult to duplicate elsewhere. Also, many of those who would be moved have worked with NASA for over two decades; moving them now would severely harm the working relationships that have already developed. The close collaboration that is enabled by the proximity of NASA Glenn and the VTD has benefited and will continue to benefit the Army. Placing the VTD in Aberdeen, Maryland, would end this cooperation and with it the positive impact it has had on aviation.

I urge your Commission to reject the Defense Department's proposed relocation of the VTD to Aberdeen. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Daniel Litt