



Executive Correspondence
STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.
GOVERNOR

June 2, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

On behalf of the State of Maryland, I want to express our appreciation for the challenge that you have accepted as Chairman of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission. My Administration stands ready to assist the Commission in any way possible, as you move forward with the necessary information gathering and preparation of your recommendations to the President. I also want to make you aware of the actions we have taken to prepare for and accommodate the BRAC needs.

We are very proud to have a number of vital military installations in Maryland and we greatly appreciate what they do for our state and our national security, including their role in the global war on terror and the efforts to promote democracy around the world. ***Aberdeen Proving Ground, Ft. Meade, Andrews Air Force Base, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Indian Head are among the Maryland military installations that play vital roles and can further contribute to our national security.***

We believe that the recommendations submitted by the Department of Defense are an affirmation of the unique benefits that Maryland provides to the military. We have a highly educated and trained workforce, highly regarded academic institutions, a great quality of life for personnel and their families, and the geographic proximity to the nations capital and the Pentagon. Specifically, Maryland is second in the nation in the percentage of the population with a graduate or professional degree, and the University of Maryland and The Johns Hopkins University are ranked among the nation's best four-year and graduate schools. In addition, Maryland has the fourth largest cluster of biotechnology companies in the country.

Maryland has been preparing for this round of BRAC for more than three years through our Office of Military and Federal Affairs and the Maryland Military Strategic Installation Planning Council. We are now taking the additional step of establishing a ***Maryland-Delaware Employment Consortium***, an organization of government officials, academia and private sector organizations, to address any employment needs resulting from the DoD's BRAC recommendations, especially the proposed realignment of Fort Monmouth to the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). Maryland and the greater Baltimore-Washington region already have a significant pool of highly educated and trained workers to draw upon, and we do not believe

there will be any unfilled need. However, we are gathering resources and expertise to meet any demands that may result from the movement of military organizations to facilities in the State, especially at APG. To bolster the highly educated and trained workforce that exists in Maryland, we will link the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) and Department Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) with the Delaware Department of Labor, to take advantage of the resources in the entire APG region.

The Consortium will be comprised of distinct divisions to respond to short and long-term employment demands created by BRAC decisions. The states' departments of labor will coordinate resources between both states' departments of veterans' affairs to identify the type of jobs moving from Fort Monmouth, the age distribution of workers in each area, and the education requirements. With this information, the state agencies will plan for potential needs of the military and, if necessary, begin a national recruiting process to identify qualified candidates interested in working at APG.

We will also cull information from higher education institutions in Maryland and Delaware to identify existing and future graduates in the management, math, science and technology programs that meet the needs of the military capabilities moving to Maryland. The departments will identify the academic programs that can provide a steady stream of graduates to fill expected vacancies in the future. Where curricula do not appear to match existing and future needs, the consortium will create or amend the curriculum to provide the training required to fill expected vacancies. In addition, tailored advance degree courses will be developed and offered on site at the gaining commands to expand the job skills of those already present in the area.

I am proud of the hard work that the State and our communities have done to prepare for BRAC. We have accumulated a vast amount of data, developed key relationships and communication channels, and have additional resources that can be made available to the Commission. We look forward to participating in the regional meeting scheduled for July 8th and 9th in the Baltimore area and we stand ready to assist you with your informational, planning and coordination needs.

Again, I appreciate the challenge that you have before you and stand ready to assist in any way that we can in Maryland. I have provided our contact information below for your convenience.

Very truly yours,


Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

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