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To: BRAC Commission

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From: George Tobin

Date: 8/25/05

To : Secretary Harey
 Mr. Coyle
 BRAC Commission -

My testimony/statement re: Ft. Monmouth, NJ and other NJ Base closures. I attempted to submit these comments on your web site, but as you can see from the attached error message, I was NOT successful. I can be reached directly here at my office in MD @ 301-443-0083.

Sincerely, George Tobin, CSA, MSA



Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

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August 25, 2005

Secretary Harvey, Mr. Coyle -

As a former New Jersey resident and former Ft Monmouth employee and current NJ property owner I realize my comments may fly in the face of some of my former and current NJ friends. However, as I see it there is NO reason that New Jersey / the military needs to maintain, within 25 to 30 miles of each other, the number of military installations that it does. (I'm referring here to the close proximity of Fort's Dix and Monmouth, not to mention Lakehurst NAEC, Earle NWS, and McGuire AFB). Not only could/does this make NJ a PRIME strategic military target, but the support costs alone are undoubtedly more significant than in lower cost of living areas.

Having seen, back in the 80's/90's, the closure of the CECOM office building and the relocating of some 6,000 employee positions onto former space at Fort Monmouth (some of that space was never fully utilized until then) I know that Ft Mouth's/CECOM's facilities functions are TOTALLY transferable. I know most politicians only support what is good for them/their constituents, but this is about a long range plan that will make sense economically and strategically for tis country. It is time New Jersey residents wake up and realize that bases in that area cost a lot to maintain. There's no doubt that my property's value may drop in the face of base closures in NJ, and as a current Federal employee I may never have the chance to transfer back to Monmouth County, New Jersey, but I think for the strategic and economic reasons' one or two of NJ bases can be closed or co-located. And I fully agree with the testimony given last week that indicated that there is NOT enough land area around Ft Monmouth to adequately test some of the new weapons systems, nor is not an insurmountable effort to relocate operations. The idea that is in the heads' of many FT Monmouth employees that only THEY can do the kind of work they do is RIDICULOUS!

I would be glad to discuss my thoughts, make a public statement, testify, etc. I can be reached at either 301-443-0083 (office) or 732-771-4091 (C)

Sincerely,

George Tobin, Jr.

George Tobin, Jr.