

DEFENSE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION
2521 S. CLARK STREET, SUITE 600
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202
(703) 699-2950

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

DATE: August 4, 2005

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

MEETING WITH: Community representatives for the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) , Cape Canaveral, FL

OBJECTIVE:

To obtain information on community position with regard to DOD's recommendation to relocate NOTU to the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic, Kings Bay, GA

Joint Issues Team staff:

**Les Farrington, Senior Analyst
Glenn Knoepfle, Senior Analyst**

OTHER COMMISSION PARTICIPANTS:

NON-COMMISSION PARTICIPANT(S):

**William Borger, Space Coast Defense Alliance, Economic Development Commission
Loyra Wetherman, Space Coast Defense Alliance, Economic Development Commission
Randy Harris, Chairman, Space Coast Defense Alliance, Economic Development Commission
Paul Hirsch, Consultant, Madison government Affairs
Carl Franklin, Consultant, MGA
Al Sack, Vice-president, WBB
Brendan Curry, aide to Congressman Dave Weldon (FL)**

MEETING RESULTS/FOLLOW-UP ACTION:

The community representatives provided the following pertinent comments.

- **The community is concerned about the possible loss of expertise. They estimated that less than 25 percent of mission critical test engineers and technicians would be willing to relocate from Cape Canaveral to Kings Bay. They stated that 65 percent of the test work at NOTU is done by contractors.**
- **Officials believe DOD's COBRA analysis understates the size of buildings that would need to be replicated at the Kings Bay. They stated that the NOTU currently occupies about 300,000 square feet of administrative and test facilities on Patrick Air Force Base, compared to the COBRA analysis which would provide only 60,000 square feet of admin space at the receiving site.**
- **Officials stated that relocation of the test unit from Cape Canaveral to Kings Bay would significantly delay schedules for conducting demonstration and shakedown operational (DASO) and other tests. Many key tests are scheduled to be conducted during the same time that equipment would need to be relocated to Kings Bay. According to the officials, this will result in significant mission interruption.**
- **Officials stated that the proposed recommendation to consolidate the NOTU with the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic at Kings Bay would, in essence constitute co-location of two stand-alone facilities. They stated that due to differences in operational and testing missions the combination should not be considered as a consolidation, and therefore the expected economy of scale savings from combining administrative support functions of the two dissimilar missions would be limited at best. They indicated that the 35 percent personnel eliminations included in DOD's COBRA analysis is extremely questionable. They said that if the testing mission is relocated to Kings Bay, as recommended by DOD, 57 of the current 59-person authorizations would be required at Kings Bay, compared to the 22 realigned positions estimated by DOD. They explained that little or no economies can be gained from co-locating test units with the operational users. Lastly, they stated that the Cape Canaveral test facility only uses inert items, whereas the operational unit handles and uses strategic (live) items.**
- **Officials stated that DOD's COBRA analysis did not consider the cost impact and availability of critically needed mission essential support personnel at the receiving site.**
- **Officials stated that the DOD recommendation did not consider the synergistic benefit of a recent private industry decision to co-locate a Post Production Product Center of Excellence on the Cape Canaveral complex.**

- **According to the community representatives, the realignment would eliminate the daily working relationship of NOTU personnel with the Air Force's 45th Space Wing, which is responsible for the test coordination, safety and control of the Eastern Test range activities and firings. Relocation would adversely impact mission accomplishment. Synergies from this "joint" working relationship are already in place, and realigning the mission to Kings Bay would curtail this day-to-day joint working relationship.**