

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

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

DATE: 28 July 2005

TIME: 1000

MEETING WITH: Supporters of Fort Monmouth, NJ

SUBJECT: Submission of Additional Data Supporting Retention of Fort Monmouth

PARTICIPANTS:

Guests:

Name	Title	Organization	Telephone Number	Email Address
Bob Giordano				
Frank Day				
Harry Carrey				
G. James Papa	Chief of Staff	Congressman Rush Holt	202 225-5801	jim.papa@mail.house.gov

Commission Staff:

Gary Dinsick	Team Leader, Army Team	BRAC	703-699-2950
Liz Bieri	Analyst, Army Team	BRAC	703 699-2938
*Wes Hood	Senior Analyst, Army Team	BRAC	703-699-2950

MEETING SUMMARY: Mr. Giordano and group presented information about the potential consequences of the closure of Fort Monmouth and movement of the mission to other locations..

They presented data on the impact to programs if the mission is moved, including the loss of intellectual capital, program disruption, errors they found in previous cost analysis, deviations in military value criteria, and opportunities for discussion on joint experimentation.

In addition to their new data on these subjects, they presented the commission with letters from various stakeholders and responded to questions that had been asked by commissioners during visits or hearings about the Fort Monmouth recommendation.

Commission staff asked that they forward all COBRA .cbr files that they had run for our use, which they agreed to do.

All data submitted is being reviewed by analysts and is attached to this report for inclusion in the electronic library and public record.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PO BOX 001
TRENTON
08625

RICHARD J. CODEY
ACTING GOVERNOR

To: BRAC Commission Staff
From: Acting Governor Richard J. Codey
Subject: Poll of the Fort Monmouth Workforce
Date: July 27, 2005

OVERVIEW

Brookdale Community College and the State of New Jersey commissioned Harris Interactive® to survey civilian and contracted employees at Fort Monmouth to find out whether the percentage of Fort Monmouth employees likely to move to Aberdeen, Maryland was greater or lesser than the "move rates" experienced in previous rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

KEY FACTS

- According to Michael J. Marshall, author of "Private Sector Downsizing: Implications for DOD" (published in the Spring 2000 edition of The Acquisition Review Quarterly), the percentage of all civilian employees who moved as a result of the 1995 BRAC was 25%.
- A more specific review of BRAC moves involving Fort Monmouth shows that the likely move rate to Aberdeen may be even lower.
 - In 1993, only 40 of 300 employees (13%) move from Fort Monmouth to Adelphi, Maryland.
 - In 1995, only 29 of 180 employees (16%) moved from Vint Hill, Virginia to Fort Monmouth.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Harris Interactive conducted the telephone survey on behalf of Brookdale Community College and the State of New Jersey between June 24 and 28, 2005 among employees (aged 18+) at Fort Monmouth, of whom 169 are civilians and 71 are contractors. Names and numbers of those polled were obtained primarily through employee representatives. Data were not weighted and are therefore only representative of those employees surveyed. Sampling error is plus or minus 6 percentage points.

FINDINGS

- *Only 15% of the employees surveyed at Fort Monmouth say that they are planning to relocate to Aberdeen.* A full 70% are planning to stay in New Jersey, with only 13% undecided. The remaining 2% are neither moving to Maryland nor staying in New Jersey.
- Family commitments (45%) is the top reason cited for why civilian and contract employees surveyed do not want to move to Aberdeen. Preferring New Jersey (15%), having roots in the community (13%), and having access to better job opportunities (12%) are other reasons often cited for not moving to Maryland.

CONCLUSION

If Fort Monmouth is closed, only a small percentage of the workforce that was surveyed (as low as 15%) is likely to move to Aberdeen, MD. This conclusion is also supported by historical data from previous BRAC rounds. Even if half of the undecided employees who were surveyed decide to move to Aberdeen, the survey results suggest that the move rate would only increase to 22%, which is still below the overall BRAC move rate of 25% and far below the Department of Defense's assumption that 75% of Fort Monmouth employees would move to Aberdeen.



Fighting the insurgency at the Jersey Shore

Fort Monmouth struggles to jam IEDs, track mortar rounds and stay alive

By Michael Moran
Senior correspondent
MSNBC

Updated: 10:25 a.m. ET July 18, 2005

FORT MONMOUTH, N.J. -

In an aging office park not far from the Ferris wheels and boardwalks of the New Jersey shore, the Army's fight against Iraq's insurgents and Afghanistan's Taliban is in high gear. Here, where among other things the aircraft altimeter was invented (1933), the first "walkie-talkie" was developed (1936), and where the Army trained courier pigeons until 1957, engineers and researchers are working on ways to counter two of the most deadly and effective weapons in the arsenal of America's enemies: mortar attacks and IEDs -- or "improvised explosive devices." Collectively, these two weapons have taken more than 500 American lives in Iraq and Afghanistan in the past three years.

"A very significant portion of Army casualties comes from mortars and IEDs," says Larry Smith, deputy chief of staff for operations and planning at the base. "We have people working on things that save American lives, and we've been working full out ever since Sept. 12, 2001."

At the start of next month, Fort Monmouth will begin shipping to eager units in Southwest Asia the fruits of its research -- an important software update to a portable radar array its engineers developed several years ago.

The array is known as "Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar" and it was designed to provide protection for special operations forces routinely forced to set up camp behind enemy lines, where attack can come from any direction.

Deployed by U.S. Army Rangers for the first time in early 2004, it allows American troops to quickly identify the exact spot that a mortar round originated and, if all goes well, destroy the weapon before it can get off another round or move to a new position. In June, after just six months of seeing the LCMR in action, the Army named it one of the inventions of the year, and commanders have credited Fort Monmouth and the LCMR's contractor, Syracuse Research Corp., with saving dozens of lives.

devices, each racing against time as the insurgency adapts from cell phones to garage door openers to television remote controls to set off its mines.

Even as its scientists and engineers drill down on these problems, another challenge that could prove as disruptive as any IED has arisen: Fort Monmouth has been listed for on this year's Pentagon base closings list.

But Fort Monmouth is fighting an uphill battle against its own age, a uniformed military that wants to consolidate facilities to put more money into weapons, and parochial factions in Congress bent on taking jobs to their states. The current base closing template announced by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in May would move much of Fort Monmouth's work to Virginia's Ft. Belvoir and the Aberdeen Proving Ground, a weapons testing depot in rural Maryland.

Smith, a professorial-looking man nearing the end of his long Army career, is not at liberty to discuss his views of the proposed move. He concedes, however, that a move like that would pose some challenges. "If the recommendations are implemented, we'll be expected to complete our mission and relocate at the same time. It will be challenging."

Besides extensive labs working on communications, radar, electronic countermeasures and information warfare, Fort Monmouth's offices contain hundreds of white-collar workers who manage large defense contracts. There is also a support center that operates 24 hours a day providing what amounts to customer service to soldiers all around the world who are having trouble with the Army's increasingly complex array of systems and software programs.

Indeed, except for the guard and signs at the front gate, the average person could probably drive through a facility like Fort Monmouth without ever realizing they were on a military base. Its 219 acres employs about 8,000 people – only 467 of them uniformed military. The vast majority of the fort consists of civilian federal government employees, some 5,085 people, who drive to work in skirts or shirts and ties, then drive back out again to homes in affluent Monmouth County, New Jersey.

"Often people come here and say, 'Where are all the soldiers'," Smith says. "We're definitely lopsided toward the civilian side. But we know what our troops need and we're here to provide it. That's our mission."
