

DCN: 5043
American Council on Education



Division of Programs and Analysis

BRAC Commission

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Received

July 18, 2005

Anthony J. Principi
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Chairman, Defense Base Closure
& Readiness Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

The American Council on Education would like to share with the Commission the letter sent by its president David Ward to the Secretary of Defense on the subject of the Naval Postgraduate School.

Accordingly, I am providing for your reference and information a copy of Dr. Ward's April 18, 2005 letter to The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld. In addition, identical letters were sent to Admiral Vern Clark and The Honorable Gordon England, David Chu and Charlie Abell.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael A. Baer', written in a cursive style.

Michael A. Baer
Senior Vice President
Programs and Analysis

MAB/jmh

Enclosure

American Council on Education



Office of the President

April 18, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 The Pentagon
Washington, D.C 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of the American Council on Education (ACE). Recognized as the major coordinating body for all of the nation's higher education institutions, ACE provides leadership and a unifying voice on key higher education issues to a membership of 1,800 accredited, degree-granting institutions and higher education-related associations, organizations, and corporations.

It has come to my attention that some individuals believe that the programs offered by the Naval Postgraduate School can be quickly and inexpensively replicated at other institutions of higher learning. I do not believe this to be the case.

The Naval Postgraduate School is a unique institution. Because its structure encourages its faculty to seek reimbursable research projects from across the Department of Defense (DoD), and because its young officer-students are energetic and fully cognizant of the challenges faced by today's global combatants, it is a leading center of defense innovation. I firmly believe that if the NPS did not exist today, the nation would be working aggressively to create just such a center. NPS can and should serve as a model for all DoD educational institutions.

NPS efficiently affords more than 1,600 military officer graduate students, as well as additional distance learners, the opportunity to work with some 500 faculty who have expertise in education and research. They combine their efforts to learn how new technologies and strategies can counteract future threats to America and how to best advance the global war against terrorism.

NPS offers more than and operates differently from many traditional civilian universities. Its year-round scheduling maximizes course contact hours, allowing students to gain an education in less time than would be required at a civilian university. This accelerated pace translates into enormous savings for DoD because the costliest part of educating officers is financing students' salaries and benefits. By minimizing the time spent on campus, NPS maximizes the benefits that both the students and the country receive from their education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ward', written over a horizontal line.

David Ward
President

DW/jmh