



N 5193

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Mount Vernon Gazette
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July 26, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 02 2005

Received

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:

The Mount Vernon - Lee Chamber of Commerce is pleased to write in support of the recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission regarding increased use of Fort Belvoir in southeast Fairfax County, Virginia.

The President's National Security Strategy places a new focus on U.S. military forces to fight the War on Terrorism. There is a new urgency to transform our defense facilities to safeguard national interests. Fort Belvoir is strategically located to provide a secure home for many defense missions while maintaining proximity to the Pentagon, other defense facilities, and key decision makers in Washington, DC.

Enclosed is a statement from our Chamber of Commerce supporting the recommendations of this commission. Should the Department of Defense recommendations regarding Fort Belvoir be approved by all the necessary parties our Chamber of Commerce is confident that elected officials at all levels of government will work together and communicate with the local community to ensure a successful transition for affected parties.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Rinzel
Chairman

Enclosure

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Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce

Statement of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce For the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission

July 26, 2005

The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce is an organization of 400 businesses located in southeast Fairfax County, Virginia. This Chamber of Commerce works to support the economic development of the area and provide a voice for local businesses on significant issues.

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission proposes significant changes for Fort Belvoir which is surrounded by the area serviced by this Chamber of Commerce. Fort Belvoir also has a significant impact it has on our local community. It reaches into the schools, community organizations, and the local economy.

We are sensitive to the crucial role Fort Belvoir plays in our national defense. The President's National Security Strategy provides a new focus for United States military forces and Fort Belvoir is well positioned to be a key player in this new strategy. We are proud to have such an important component of the national defense in our own community.

Those of us who live and work in areas surrounding Fort Belvoir have felt ourselves part of the effort to make this base more secure when force threat requirements necessitated the closing of a main transportation corridor, Woodlawn Road, to make the base and its agencies more secure. It is now a secure post conveniently located to the Pentagon and other defense facilities and ready to accept further missions for the national defense.

The recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to bring new operations to Fort Belvoir take advantage of the opportunities of using this secure military facility with proximity to many key military sites in the Washington, DC area.

Should the Department of Defense BRAC recommendations regarding Fort Belvoir be accepted by the Commission and earn the approval of the President and Congress, the business community will assist to the best of our ability to work with our elected officials on all levels to accommodate this new mission for Fort Belvoir and help make a smooth transition.

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