

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received

300 King farm Blvd., #102
Rockville, MD 20850
14 July 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chair, Defense Closure and Readiness Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

I write to call your attention to a truly unique and highly valuable organization that the US Navy has developed in Monterey, California: the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). As a professional military officer with 31 years service in the US Army, a former member of the Board of Advisors of NPS, and subsequently as president of the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) for almost eleven years, I came to know very well indeed that NPS provides the Department of Defense with an effective, diverse, and sustainable educational institution that supports current and future readiness, advances in technology, and educational programs that facilitate getting our superior technology into the hands of the war fighter.

Many policymakers do not realize that NPS is a leading center of strategic and area studies in the United States. While civilian universities were abandoning their programs in security and area studies at the end of the Cold War, NPS bolstered its programs geared to prepare today's war fighters. NPS also has worked for over a decade to become a truly joint institution and to reach out to and enroll international officers who are so crucial in our fight against global terrorism. Members of the NPS faculty are also specialists in matters of importance to the Department of Defense. They offer innovative programs in Homeland Security, Special Operations, Security Building and UAVs, for example, that exist no where else in the United States.

NPS's teaching and research programs in area studies, counter-proliferation, and counter-terrorism are not replicated elsewhere in the United States. Members of the NPS faculty also have taken advantage of other educational institutions in Monterey to produce a world-class language program with the Defense Language Institute and the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Students enrolled in the regional studies and counterterrorism programs at NPS can take advanced language and translation and interpretation courses at the Monterey Institute, or they can take basic immersion language courses at the Defense Language Institute. NPS offers one stop shopping; students can obtain language training, Joint Professional Military Education, and Masters degrees in fields relevant to their military careers at one location. By accelerating the pace of course delivery at NPS and by eliminating the need to make an additional move to secure language training, the NPS-DLI-MIIS team is geared towards minimizing the greatest expense in educating officers, the cost of their pay and benefits.

Monterey is becoming well known as the outstanding center of language and security studies training in the world. If the NPS-DLI-MIIS team did not exist, the

Defense Department would be working at great expense to create it. In the deliberations of the BRAC Commission, I encourage you and your colleagues to take into account the unique contributions made by the Naval Postgraduate School to our nation's security.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Gard, Jr., PhD
Lt. Gen., USA (Ret.)