



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

- COUNTY OF MONMOUTH -

MUNICIPAL BUILDING - 222 MONMOUTH BLVD. - OCEANPORT, N.J. 07757

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MARIA GATTA
MAYOR

06262005

June 22, 2005



RECEIVED

Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find a resolution adopted by the Borough of Oceanport supporting the removal of Fort Monmouth from the BRAC list.

Very truly yours,

Maria Gatta
Mayor

Enclosure
MG/jd

R-05-74
6-20-05

WHEREAS, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 stipulates that closure and realignment decisions must be based upon selection criteria developed by the Secretary of Defense; and

WHEREAS, the Final Selections Criteria requires the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) to consider the economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations in its selection of military installations to be closed; and

WHEREAS, Fort Monmouth is the Army's premier center for research and development in communications, electronics, and network-centric warfare, supported by a highly educated skilled people that have proven expertise that cannot be replaced by transferring their work elsewhere or by contracting out to private laboratories; and the loss of more than 5,300 people employed by Fort Monmouth due to closure will have a significant impact on the unemployment rate and tax revenues in the region; and

WHEREAS, 412 acres of Fort Monmouth falls within the limits of the Borough of Oceanport's eastern boundary and

WHEREAS, the reduction of disposable income due to the closure of Fort Monmouth will impact Oceanport shops, restaurants, service establishments and business in general; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in spending of such significant amount would likely cause some marginal business to fail, resulting in the loss in tax revenues, subsequently raising property taxes for Oceanport residents and the business community; and

WHEREAS, as significant an issue as the loss of on-site employment, is the number of defense and maintenance contractors operating from offices in Oceanport that would likely be vacated should Fort Monmouth be closed, thereby, affecting the value of office buildings, resulting in a reduction in the tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, BRAC elected to hold the required public hearing on the closure of Ft Monmouth one hundred and seventy five miles from Fort Monmouth, thereby, limiting public comment by Oceanport residents and members of the business community;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oceanport, on behalf of the residential and business community of the Borough of Oceanport that will be potentially impacted by the proposed closure of Fort Monmouth and that are precluded from attending the public hearing in Baltimore on July 8, 2005, endorses the Department of Defense requirement for in-depth review by BRAC of its recommendation to close Fort Monmouth and the United States Government Accountability observation that BRAC has an obligation to use specific models for assessing the potential economic impact on communities affected by the closure of Fort Monmouth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the community of the Borough of Oceanport objects to the addition of Fort Monmouth to the BRAC closure list that is based on the Final Selections Criteria focused more on assessing military value based on military missions and operational capabilities without recognizing important support capabilities such as research, development, test, and evaluation.

I certify this to be a true copy of R-05-74 which was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oceanport at their regular meeting on June 20, 2005.


KIMBERLYA JUNGFER, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK