

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2002

BRAC Commission

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Received

July 8, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

We are writing you to underscore our continued support for the Department of Defense (DOD) recommendation to consolidate Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) functions to Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG).

The DOD made this recommendation in order to create a Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) with beginning to end capabilities in fielding C4ISR technologies. APG is ideally suited to host this new center, which will provide an unparalleled ability to expedite C4ISR equipment and technology to our servicemen and women in the field.

Among the major Army sites currently hosting C4ISR components, APG is ranked highest in military value, which according to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) criteria, should be given priority consideration. In addition, unlike other C4ISR sites, at 35,495 acres, APG has the overall space on post to accommodate all of the beginning to end components of C4ISR. Finally, APG's low operating costs and the ability to co-locate the LCMC will result in long term cost savings at the rate of over \$143 million per year.

We understand that concerns have been expressed about a potential loss of expertise or a so-called "brain drain" as a result of moving these important defense functions to APG. We do not believe these concerns have merit. Those same arguments were made during the 1993 BRAC when the DOD proposed relocating the Naval Air Systems Command from Crystal City, VA to Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland. That move has been completed and there was no loss of expertise.

Moreover, the capabilities of Maryland's workforce are second to none. Maryland is first in the Nation in professional and technical workers and second in the concentration of doctoral scientists and engineers. In fact, our State ranks near the top of every statistical category of workforce proficiency. In addition, Maryland is home to many of the world's most renowned private sector defense contractors. The presence of these companies in Maryland, many of which are already engaged in C4ISR work and perform much of the research and development of these technologies, will help facilitate a smooth transition of these functions to APG.

We are well positioned to maintain the high quality of this workforce because it is supported by world-class schools and institutions of higher education. Post-graduate education is a special strength of Maryland. Academic institutions throughout the State produced over 900 graduate level engineers in 2004 alone and Maryland's 58 accredited universities and colleges will continue to produce highly trained graduates in the years to come. These institutions represent more than 150 research centers in science and technology and perform more than \$1 billion in federal research and development each year.

Maryland is also a premier location to conduct the military's business because of the wide array of cutting edge collaborative partnerships that we have forged between our business community, institutions of education, and our State's defense facilities. These relationships provide a model for much of what DOD hopes to accomplish in the 2005 BRAC round. Many of these partnerships directly coordinate with APG. As one example, the Army and Harford County have collaborated to develop a Science and Math Academy within Aberdeen High School, which benefits both APG and the surrounding community by providing students with a unique educational experience, while drawing Maryland's best and brightest to APG's military labs.

We have also developed partnerships that encourage technology transfer between the military and commercial sector. The Higher Education and Applied Technology Center (HEAT), which is conveniently located just off post in Aberdeen, provides education, training, networking, and state of the art facilities for the technology community surrounding APG. The HEAT Center leverages the expertise within the private sector defense community, our State's premier institutions of higher education, and the Department of Defense expertise at APG to foster innovative breakthroughs that are critical to American military and economic success.

For all of these reasons, we believe APG is ideally suited to become the center for C4ISR research, development, and acquisition and test and evaluation. Given the pace at which the demand for these technologies changes on the modern battlefield, it is critical that DOD have the capability

to field these products in the most efficient and effective manner. Therefore, we urge the Commission to uphold the DOD recommendation to establish this capability at APG.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

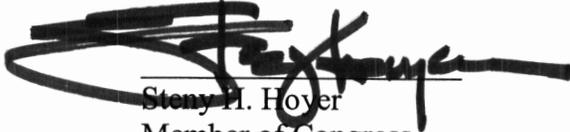
With best regards,



Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



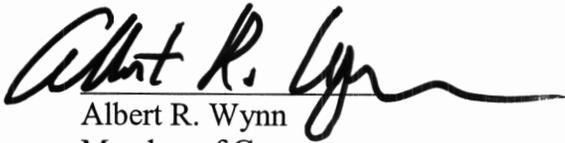
Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress



Wayne T. Gilchrest
Member of Congress



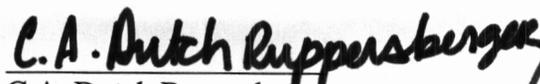
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