



PRESIDENT EMERITUS RICHARD C. ATKINSON

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July 13, 2005

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

BRAC Commission

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Received

Dear Mr. Principi,

I am enclosing a letter of support for the Naval Post Graduate School (NPS) that I sent to Secretary Rumsfeld in March of this year. Before I became president of the University of California System, I served on the NPS Educational Advisory Panel, from 1990 to 1993. At the time, I was chancellor of the University of California, San Diego and was well aware of the critical role that NPS served in the preparation of the nation's military defense efforts.

I would be happy to discuss these issues with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Atkinson
President Emeritus



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March 28, 2005

Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld,

The Base Realignment and Closure process is an extraordinary challenge, and I do not wish to add to your many difficult decisions. However, I would like to draw your attention to an opportunity to create a lasting force for transformation within the Department of Defense and to further strengthen a national asset, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS).

As President of the University of California from 1995 to 2003 and having twice served on the Board of Advisors of NPS, I have monitored developments at NPS. In its 100-year history, NPS has evolved from a single engineering department at the US Naval Academy into the Nation's premier defense oriented research university. Today, NPS provides the Department with an effective, diverse, and sustainable educational institution that supports current and future readiness, advances in technology, and the educational programs that facilitate getting our superior technology into the hands of the warfighter. NPS is a Joint/Coalition/Inter-Agency research university with nearly 500 faculty and researchers and an overall enrollment of more than 2,000 students. It reaches out to our coalition partners and friends abroad by educating hundreds of international officers in its in-residence programs and it offers an important instrument of strategic communication by reaching thousands of international civilians and officers with its mobile education teams. It is not a "rear-view mirror" organization, hell-bent on preserving legacy systems and traditional ways of doing business. It is a source of positive change within DoD by bringing junior officers from all services (only 45% of its students are from the Navy), scholars and DoD representatives together to work solutions to tomorrow's defense problems.

Recent accomplishment of the faculty and students at NPS are too numerous to list, but several achievements clearly support the transformational goals of this BRAC and the effort to win the Global War on Terror:

- NPS has been active in unmanned vehicles (air, surface and sub-surface) for many years;
- NPS is probably the best center of area studies in the United States (and it is co-located with the Defense Language Institute);

- NPS developed a significant program of education and research for SOCOM about a decade ago;
- NPS established an innovative in-residence/distance learning masters degree program, which is the only degree program funded by the Department of Homeland Security;
- NPS is the foremost center for study and research in Information Systems, Information Operations, and Information Assurance, which led you to designate it as DoD Center for Information Operations.

NPS has always been highly responsive to national security needs, creating or modifying programs in response to today's demands and tomorrow's problems and I believe that the institution can do even more for our country in the future.

As you examine and realign our military infrastructure, I would ask you to consider an expanded role for NPS: to provide focused educational programs for the total force, including both our enlisted and civilian members, and those civilians who support our efforts in the overall national security workforce. The sustainment and development of the civilian government workforce faces its own challenges. United States universities are filled with those seeking degrees in scientific, technical and engineering areas, both at the Master's and Doctoral level. Yet, too small a percentage of these students are United States citizens who will be eligible for jobs requiring security clearances. The Office of Naval Research has estimated that Navy labs alone will need to hire up to 500 people a year over the next ten years to replace its existing citizen workforce. I believe that NPS can provide leadership in attacking some of these problems, but to do so NPS will have to develop partnerships with other universities and R&D facilities. The University of California System along with the LLNL would provide an ideal partnership in this endeavor, perhaps through a Public-Private Partnership or other administrative structure.

NPS has evolved to become a national asset; it is the only research university in the world that is focused exclusively on national security issues. I believe that the demand for the products that NPS can provide has outgrown the institution's current relationship with the rest of the Defense Department. I believe that NPS might better serve the country if it becomes a DoD institution, recognizing that the School now serves all of the Services, OSD, NSA, CIA, etc. Alternatively, NPS might become a part of the UC System – perhaps having a status and relationship similar to that of LLNL so that it can serve as a mechanism to attract U.S. civilians into technical defense related work.

I would be happy to discuss these issues with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
RICHARD C. ATKINSON

Richard C. Atkinson
President Emeritus