DCN: 6571

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RICHARD J. CODEY
Acting Governor

FRANCIS J. MERTZ
Chairman

BRAC Commission
AUG 05 2005
Received

August 4, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

On behalf of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, the planning and coordinating agency for New Jersey's system of 57 colleges and universities, I wish to comment on the potential relocation of Fort Monmouth's Army C4ISR missions to Aberdeen, Maryland.

If those functions are moved, the Army will lose access to the significant education and training resources that New Jersey's rich array of institutions of higher education provide. For example, the colleges and universities produce graduates prepared in areas of importance to C4ISR activities – ten institutions train students at various degree levels in electronics/electrical engineering, four offer bachelor's or master's degrees in networks and telecommunications, and there are four doctoral programs in operations research and civil engineering. In addition, six community colleges produce technicians in civil and electronics engineering. Graduates of these programs supply an outstanding pool of potential civilian employees.

Along with losing access to these educational assets, a move to Aberdeen overlooks a longstanding tradition of interaction and collaboration in support of Fort Monmouth. The Commission on Higher Education is proud of this tradition and cannot stress enough the value of preserving it. In addition, New Jersey is home to a wealth of university research centers and laboratories. Examples include New Jersey Institute of Technology's centers for communications and signal processing research, wireless networking and Internet security, and pervasive information technology, as well as its laboratories in cryptography and telecommunications and data and knowledge engineering. Among the research enterprises housed at Rutgers University are centers for operations research, systems and control, and remote sensing and spatial analysis and laboratories for microelectronics research and visiometrics and modeling.

Of particular relevance is the Princeton Institute for the Science and Technology of Materials (PRISM) at Princeton University. Fort Monmouth, a charter member of two interdisciplinary centers at Princeton upon which the institute was founded, has been an active, collaborative partner. Work in materials technology and photonics and optoelectronic materials technology holds significant applications for military and homeland security. PRISM is also pursuing technologies for conformal and disposable sensors using organic electronics and nano-imprint technologies.

I urge the Base Closure and Realignment Commission to give full weight and consideration to the many advantages provided to the C4ISR missions at Fort Monmouth by New Jersey's unusually rich environment in education, training, and research. Let me assure the Commissioners that the entire New Jersey higher education system stands ready to provide continued support to Fort Monmouth in effectuating its important C4ISR work.

Sincerely,

Jeanne M. Oswald

Jeanne M. Oswald, Ed.D.
Executive Director

c: The Honorable Richard J. Codey
The New Jersey Congressional Delegation