



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY
NEW JERSEY



P.O. BOX 7420
SHREWSBURY, N.J. 07702
TELEPHONE: (732) 741-4200
FAX: (732) 741-6549

June 6, 2005

Barry W. Holman, Director
Defense Capabilities and Management
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Re: Military Base Closures
Observations of Prior and Current BRAC Rounds

Dear Director Holman,

I found your statement made before the Base Closure and Realignment Commission most informative and encouraging, especially the section addressing "Requirements to Ensure Fairness of BRAC Process".

However, your statement that most communities surrounding closed bases are continuing to recover is not reflected in a The New York Times news report of May 17, 2005: "Old Military Bases Still Wait For Hopes to Be Filled", a copy of which is enclosed.

The report indicates that of 23 military bases closed in California since 1988, half the number have yet to be fully turned over to impacted communities by the military. It appears your conclusion "continuing to recover" is probably used loosely, especially if the communities economically impacted due to closure of a military bases have been bleeding for eight years or more.

Respectfully,


Emilia M. Siciliano
Mayor

Cc: Commissioners
Base Closure and Realignment Commission

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**PO BOX 7420
419 SYCAMORE AVE.
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702
TELEPHONE 732-741-4200
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**RESOLUTION #2005-87
SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REQUIREMENT FOR
IN-DEPTH REVIEW BY THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE INCLUSION OF FORT
MONMOUTH ON DOD PROPOSED CLOSURE LIST**

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, the Borough of Shrewsbury is located on Fort Monmouth's northern boundary, four tenths of a mile from Fort Monmouth's main gate, with a two mile commercial district of shops, restaurants, service establishments and office buildings; and

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

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

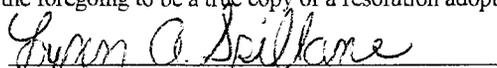
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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Shrewsbury, on behalf of the residential and business community of the Borough of Shrewsbury that will be potentially impacted by the proposed closure of Fort Monmouth and that 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 Shrewsbury 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, Lynn A. Spillane, Clerk of the Borough of Shrewsbury, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council at a meeting held on June 6, 2005.

DATE: 6-6-05


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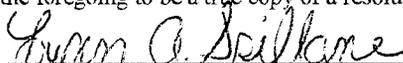
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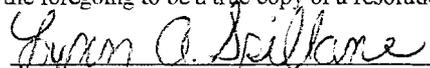
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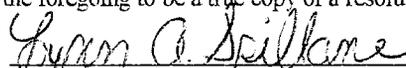
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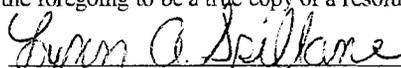
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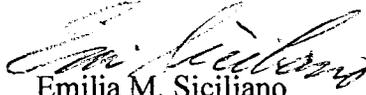
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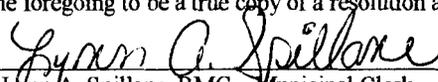
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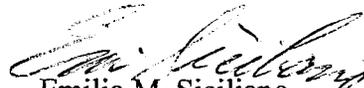
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However, your statement that most communities surrounding closed bases are continuing to recover is not reflected in a The New York Times news report of May 17, 2005: "Old Military Bases Still Wait For Hopes to Be Filled", a copy of which is enclosed.

The report indicates that of 23 military bases closed in California since 1988, half the number have yet to be fully turned over to impacted communities by the military. It appears your conclusion "continuing to recover" is probably used loosely, especially if the communities economically impacted due to closure of a military bases have been bleeding for eight years or more.

Respectfully,


Emilia M. Siciliano
Mayor

Cc: Commissioners
Base Closure and Realignment Commission

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY



**PO BOX 7420
419 SYCAMORE AVE.
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702
TELEPHONE 732-741-4200
FAX 732-741-6549**

**RESOLUTION #2005-87
SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REQUIREMENT FOR
IN-DEPTH REVIEW BY THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE INCLUSION OF FORT
MONMOUTH ON DOD PROPOSED CLOSURE LIST**

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, the Borough of Shrewsbury is located on Fort Monmouth's northern boundary, four tenths of a mile from Fort Monmouth's main gate, with a two mile commercial district of shops, restaurants, service establishments and office buildings; and

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

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

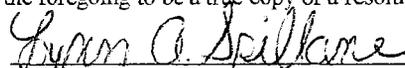
WHEREAS, BRAC elected to hold the required public hearing on the closure of Fort Monmouth one hundred and seventy five miles from Fort Monmouth, thereby, limiting public comment by Shrewsbury residents and members of the business community; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Shrewsbury, on behalf of the residential and business community of the Borough of Shrewsbury 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 Shrewsbury 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, Lynn A. Spillane, Clerk of the Borough of Shrewsbury, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council at a meeting held on June 6, 2005.

DATE: 6-6-05


Lynn A. Spillane, RMC - Municipal Clerk



BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY NEW JERSEY

P.O. BOX 7420
SHREWSBURY, N.J. 07702
TELEPHONE: (732) 741-4200
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June 6, 2005

Barry W. Holman, Director
Defense Capabilities and Management
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Re: Military Base Closures
Observations of Prior and Current BRAC Rounds

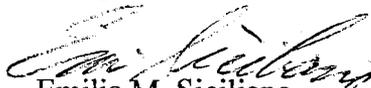
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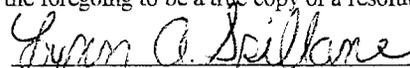
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