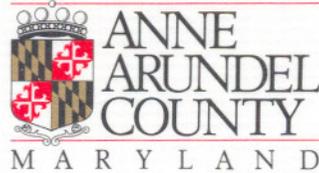


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**JANET S. OWENS**

County Executive



06202005

June 17, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi – Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and Commission Members:

Anne Arundel County has been anticipating the growth of jobs at Fort Meade for the past six years. We are prepared to accept and welcome this new opportunity to our community.

Anne Arundel County is well-positioned to accept this growth because of the many assets that already exist which will serve to support the new and expanded mission at Fort Meade.

These include:

- A thriving cluster of high technology defense contractors is already located within minutes of Fort Meade including Northrup Gruman, Lockheed-Martin and Titan Corporation.
- The Chesapeake Innovation Center, the nations first Homeland Security incubator, which is creating important new technology.
- A highly educated workforce that is nourished and replenished by the outstanding graduate and undergraduate engineering and technology programs at the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins, and Morgan State Universities.
- An opportunity to commute to work by transit to the Odenton Station located adjacent to Fort Meade, for those employees who already live in the Baltimore-Washington area.
- Thousands of new housing units in Arundel Preserve, Dorchester, and Parkside are only ten minutes from work for those new employees who will be moving to Maryland.
- Excellent shopping and convenience retail located in Odenton and Arundel Mills to serve important daily needs of new families moving to the area.

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
June 17, 2005

We have demonstrated our commitment to provide excellent public infrastructure through partnerships with our Federal and State Elected Officials and Agencies.

We have:

- Expanded Route 32, which has improved the access to the National Security Agency.
- Constructed Route 32/Route 198 interchange to facilitate direct access to Fort Meade.
- Designated MD Route 175, a major gateway to Fort Meade, the County's top priority for the State Highway Capital Program.
- Taken over and currently operate Tipton Airfield which provides general aviation services to the community.

These are just a few of the building blocks that we have put in place in preparation for the expanding role and importance that Fort Meade and NSA have in the nation's defense. These building blocks could not have been achieved without the development of the partnerships we have made and sustained with Fort Meade, NSA, and State and Federal elected officials. As you well know, track record is an important criteria when making critical decisions. Mr. Chairman, we have demonstrated that track record and we look forward to your support of the Defense Department's recommendation to realign these 5363 jobs to Fort Meade.

Sincerely,



Janet S. Owens  
County Executive

JWR/JJC/clw

cc: Joseph Rutter  
James Cannelli  
file