

AUG 08 2005

11 Lexington Court ^{Received}
Red Bank, NJ 07701
August 5, 2005

2005 Defense Base
Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the BRAC Commission reconsider its plan to close Fort Monmouth.

It defies logic that the Fort Monmouth facility could be duplicated at Aberdeen, MD and result in a cost savings. Simply put, the knowledge base would be decimated and the technical expertise would take years to reestablish. The DOD contractor support base would be severely disrupted as a result of this relocation; to say nothing of the local industries that rely on the presence of Fort Monmouth for their survival.

Local veterans would be abandoned if medical support facilities were taken away. BRAC Chairman Principi, the former Secretary for Veterans Affairs is well aware of this problem. Also, the gaps in the Homeland Security program point to the need for a strong military presence in the New Jersey/New York area. Relocation/closure simply does not make sense. The old saying "If it ain't broken - don't fix it."

Fort Monmouth consistently out performs similar and comparable commands. Why punish excellence? It is doubtful that the efficiency and effectiveness of our military infrastructure will be increased by Fort Monmouth closing.

Very Truly Yours,

Donoahy L. deFabry
Theresa Martinson
Jane Mason
Walter J. McFike
Monique G. Smith
Sealdin M. Wood
Margaret O'Rourke
Michael Maloney

Jeanne West
Quay Hughes
Mary C. Thompson
Maryellen Stout
Patricia A. Conley
Gloria Wilson

11 Leonard Place
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724-9782
August 4, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 8 2005

Received

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

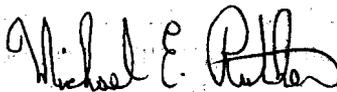
Dear Members of the BRAC Commission:

I respect the difficult decisions that must be made by the BRAC Commission. A lot of time & energy has been spent by the Commission on the road visiting installations/bases/stations and the amount of data has to be overwhelming. I realize that the process is necessary so that we can transform our military into a fighting force to better handle the threats of the 21st Century. I just ask that you consider the critical mission of Fort Monmouth, NJ and remove it from the list you forward onto President George W. Bush next month. I hope someone at Fort Monmouth or within the local community (Save the Fort Committee or Patriots Alliance) has clearly explained the important work that is being done there to help the Warfighter in Afghanistan and Iraq (and more battlefields to come).

The U.S. should not be consolidating so many government personnel in the Washington, DC area and the Southern portion of the US. It is not smart from a National Security perspective and we are going to waste so much of the taxpayers' money building new office space and moving personnel around. If anything, more missions should be moved to Fort Monmouth to assist with fighting the war on terrorism. It would make so much better sense. A Department of Homeland Security Regional Office and/or an expanded intelligence mission would be an excellent fit. The NY/NJ area is so vulnerable to opportunities for terrorism and we should not be removing the DoD footprint in these areas. There are many ports, bridges, tunnels, subways, and trains to protect and the technology developed by the Army at Fort Monmouth should be leveraged to keep our citizens safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my thoughts. I can be reached telephonically (732) 542-7937 or via email meruther@comcast.net if someone should need to contact me.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL E. RUTHER