

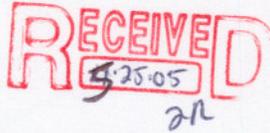
ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**



Thomas F. McKay, President
Kenneth R. Dement, Commissioner
Lawrence D. Jarboe, Commissioner
Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr., Commissioner
Daniel H. Raley, Commissioner

May 3, 2005

The Honorable James V. Hansen
BRAC Commissioner
BRAC Commission Office
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA 22202



Dear Mr. Hansen:

Congratulations on your appointment to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Your appointment indicates that you are committed to continue the strength of our country's national defense, while recommending steps for increased efficiencies.

As elected officials for St. Mary's County, Maryland, we recognize the challenges of your appointment and commend you for your willingness to serve our country in this capacity. St. Mary's County, Maryland, is proud to be the home of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. This installation was opened in 1943 and has since evolved into the center of excellence for naval aviation. We are proud of the installation's management and stewardship of its 13,800 acres. Our community has a long and effective tradition of support for the Department of Defense. We know that current operations at Pax River are the product of the strategic Base Realignment and Consolidation (BRAC) thinking of the past decade and that these integrated capabilities can play a strong role in the continuing transformation of our military. To fully support this federal installation into the future, we recently adopted an updated set of Community Priorities. This Five Point Plan identifies the key long-term investments needed locally to ensure that St. Mary's County continues to be the best place for DOD to do business.

Key investments have included the elimination of a major encroachment problem and the widening and upgrading of MD Route 235, the main thoroughfare leading to the base. Over \$350 million has been invested in community infrastructure since the BRACs of the 1990s expanded the DOD presence at Patuxent River. "Pax River" is our major employer with over 19,000 highly skilled employees, most of who live in our county.

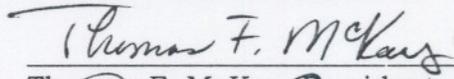
We also appreciate the need for cost-savings and efficiencies. The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission is in the final stages of an agreement to purchase and operate the water and sewer system on the base. In addition, the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) is proceeding similarly and expects to assume ownership and operational responsibility for the electric utility plant on the base sometime this year. SMECO's plans include an aggressive capital improvement program to increase the reliability and integrity of the system.

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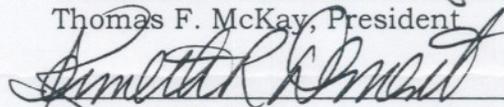
The enclosed copies of our Five Point Plan and brief video, "Embracing Progress," summarize the collaborative approach we have undertaken to support the DOD mission. We will maintain our strong record of support for the defense mission in St. Mary's County. We will continue to identify DOD's needs and move aggressively to meet them.

We are keenly interested in discussing any other potential County role that would help reduce costs and increase the Department's ability to achieve its mission. Such discussions might include the use of County land or facilities adjacent to the base, as well as possible County action to reduce the encroachment potential at Webster Field, an outlying field housing critical security-related operations. We invite you to visit our community and assure you that we are prepared to discuss any possibilities that would assist the Department of Defense.

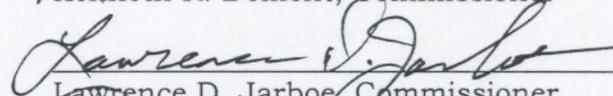
Sincerely,
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



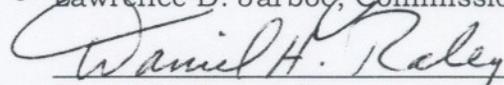
Thomas F. McKay, President



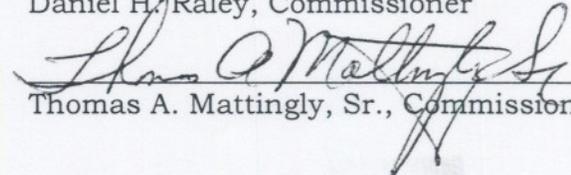
Kenneth R. Dement, Commissioner



Lawrence D. Jarboe, Commissioner



Daniel H. Raley, Commissioner



Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr., Commissioner

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Enclosure
cc: DECD

St. Mary's County
Consolidated Priorities for Community Support of the Navy
Adopted September 21, 2004

1. **Education.** Support all levels of education to ensure local employers can meet their workforce needs. Maintain class sizes which are among the lowest in the state and expand full day kindergarten. Implement a long-range approach to provide public school capacity to meet increased enrollment. Continue to expand higher education opportunities. Support programs and partnerships that increase access to higher education. Support service sector workforce development, including repair, trades, healthcare and transportation.
 - Develop a long-term inventory of potential school sites to meet projected demand
 - Submit one elementary school site for state planning approval each year through 2006.
 - Construct kindergarten additions at elementary schools at Ridge (Fall 2004), Oakville (Fall 2005), Piney Point (Fall 2007) and Town Creek (Fall 2007).
 - Complete new George Washington Carver Elementary at a site outside of the AICUZ (Fall 2006).
 - Complete renovation and expansion of the Forrest Career and Technology Center.
 - Support Southern Maryland Higher Education Center proposal to accelerate architecture and engineering funding for third classroom building.

2. **Transportation.** Support continuous improvement of transportation infrastructure within the County and regionally for access to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station and effective cross-county travel for residents.
 - Complete county-wide transportation plan.
 - Maintain support for construction of funded projects: Chancellor's Run Road expansion, 1.4 mile reconstruction of MD Route 246, and Hughesville Bypass.
 - Continue to seek funding for Route 5 corridor improvements.
 - Explore funding opportunities for widening of MD Route 712 from Gate 3 to Route 235.
 - Support initial steps such as the planning and evaluation to address long-range replacement or reconstruction of the Thomas Johnson Bridge.
 - Begin Pegg Road Extension NEPA study for alternative base access.
 - Complete Environmental Assessment of county airport, proceed with identified infrastructure improvements.

3. **Housing.** Continue to ensure an adequate supply of housing for all ranges of affordability that will serve new employees (e.g., for the JSF program) and the existing county workforce. Assist in the process of Navy housing privatization. Support increased homeownership opportunities.
 - Implement new impact fee waiver and deferral program.
 - Develop funding sources to extend water and sewer service to enable development within development districts.
 - Support increased homeownership opportunities for households with modest incomes.

- 4. Lexington Park Revitalization.** Revitalize the physical and economic infrastructure of Lexington Park.
- Complete the Lexington Manor Redevelopment projects.
 - Proceed with Patuxent River Naval Air Museum.
 - Adopt the Lexington Park Development District Plan.
 - Continue to implement the adopted Lexington Park Plan.
- 5. Quality of Life.** Employ local government regulations and investment to preserve rural character, enhance development districts, increase cultural opportunities and support economic growth and diversification.
- Support projects and initiatives developed under the Southern Maryland Heritage Tourism Management Plan whose objective is to preserve heritage resources while increasing the economic impact of Tourism.
 - Support development and expansion of conference facilities.
 - Implement the goals and objectives of the County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan which is being updated in 2004-05.
 - Support state designation of new St. Mary's River Watershed rural legacy area.