

2005 BRAC COMMISSION REGIONAL HEARING

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2005

8:35 AM

KRAUSHAAR AUDITORIUM

GOUCHER COLLEGE

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

STATES TESTIFYING:

MARYLAND, NEW JERSEY AND DELAWARE

COMMISSIONERS PRESIDING:

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman

The Honorable Philip E. Coyle III

General Lloyd W. Newton, USAF (Ret.)

Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret.)

CHAIRMAN:

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

OPENING STATEMENT OF ANTHONY J. PRINCIPI, CHAIRMAN,  
DEFENSE

BASE CLOSURE & REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

Chairman Principi: Good morning. I believe we're ready to proceed.

I'm Anthony Principi, Chairman of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. I welcome you to our Baltimore Regional Hearing.

I'm also pleased to be joined by my fellow commissioners: General Lloyd Newton, United States Air Force; Brigadier General Sue Turner; the Honorable Philip Coyle.

As this Commission observed in our first hearing, every dollar consumed in redundant, unnecessary, obsolete, inappropriately designed or located infrastructure is a dollar that is not available to provide the training that might save a marine's life, purchase the munitions to win a soldier's firefight, or fund advances that could ensure continued dominance of the air or the seas.

The Congress entrusts our Armed Forces with vast, but not unlimited, resources. We have a responsibility to our nation, to the men and women who bring the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force to life to demand the best

possible use of our limited resources. Congress recognized that fact when it authorized the Department of Defense to prepare a proposal to realign or close domestic bases. However, that authorization was not a blank check. The members of this Commission accepted the challenge and necessity of providing an independent, fair, and equitable assessment and evaluation of the Department of Defense's proposals, and the data and methodology used to develop those proposals. We committed to the Congress, to the President, to the American people that our deliberations and decisions will be open and transparent and that our decisions will be based on the criteria set forth in the BRAC statute.

We continue to examine the proposed recommendations set forth by the Secretary of Defense on May 13th and measure them against the criteria for military value set forth in law, especially the need for surge manning and for homeland security. But, be assured, we are not conducting this review as an exercise in sterile cost accounting; this Commission is committed to conducting a clear-eyed reality check that we know will not only shape our military capabilities for decades to come, but will also have profound effects on our communities and on the people who bring our communities and our military installations to life.

We also committed that our deliberations and decisions would be devoid of politics, and that the people and communities affected by the BRAC proposals would have, through our site visits and public hearings, a chance to provide us with direct input on the substance of the proposals and the methodology and assumptions behind them.

To avoid the appearance of lack of impartiality and enhance the public confidence in the BRAC's process, four of our nine commissioners have recused themselves from participating in deliberations and voting on matters directly relating to installations in their home states. Those commissioners continue, however, to attend regional hearings, even if unable to deliberate and vote on all of the installations discussed at the hearings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the thousands of involved citizens who have already contacted the Commission and shared with us their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions about the base closure and realignment proposals.

Today, we will hear testimony from the states of Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey. Each state's elected delegation has been allotted a block of time determined by the overall impact of the Department of Defense closure and realignment recommendations on their states. The delegation members have worked closely with their communities to

develop agendas that I am certain will provide information and insight that will make up a valuable part of our review.

I now request our witnesses for the state of Maryland to stand for the administration of the oath that is required by the Base Closure and Realignment Statute. The oath will be administered by Major Dan Cowhig, the Commission's designated federal officer.

Danny?

[Witnesses sworn.]

Chairman Principi: Again, it's certainly a pleasure to welcome Governor Ehrlich and the members of the delegation, Senator Sarbanes, Senator Mikulski, members of Congress, and leaders. And, Senator Sarbanes, I'll turn it over to you, sir.

STATE TESTIMONY - MARYLAND

TESTIMONY OF HON. PAUL SARBANES, U.S. SENATOR FROM MARYLAND

Senator Sarbanes: Well, thank you very much, Chairman Principi and distinguished members of the Commission -- Commissioner Coyle, Commission Newton, Commissioner Turner.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today to support our communities in their response to the 2005 base closure and realignment recommendations of the Department of Defense. I do want to express my appreciation to Goucher College and President Unger and Baltimore County, County Executive Smith, for hosting this event here this

morning.

I'd like to take a moment, Mr. Chairman, right at the beginning, to extend our sympathies to the families of those in London who either lost members or have injured members, and also to express our admiration for the courage and the perseverance of the Londoners, something that has been noted for two or three years. What occurred in London underscores the brutal nature of the challenges we face and the necessity of using all of our resources as a nation in the most effective and efficient manner.

During the past rounds of BRAC, Maryland has demonstrated an outstanding ability to accommodate significant expansion of the military's most critical functions, and, as you will hear this morning, we believe, can certainly accommodate the moves that are recommended in this round.

I think it's fair to say that the capabilities of our workforce are unrivaled. The Baltimore Sun noted, in a recent editorial, Maryland arguably has the most highly educated workforce in the nation, particularly for science and technology. We really rank at the top of every statistical category of workforce proficiency in this particular dimension, and we're well positioned to maintain this high quality because of the world-class institutions of higher education located in this state, one of them we're

sitting in right now.

Our plan this morning would be for the governor to speak, and then Senator Mikulski, and then Congressman Ruppertsberger. And I also have statements for the record from other members of the House Delegation. We'll then go to the Aberdeen Proving Ground, then Fort Meade, and then General Tuxill, the Adjutant General for the State of Maryland, will speak with respect to the Maryland National Guard. And then as we draw towards the conclusion, we'll hear from Secretary Melissaratos, the extremely able Secretary of our Department of Business and Economic Development. And then I'll close at the end of the 60 minutes that's been allocated to our presentation.

And so, with that, now I would like to turn time over to our distinguished governor, Robert Ehrlich.

TESTIMONY OF HON. ROBERT EHRLICH, GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

Governor Ehrlich: Thank you, Senator.

Mr. Chairman, it's good to see you. Commissioner, as well. I'm sorry for the weather.

We, obviously, are extremely proud of the role that Maryland bases play, and have played, in defense of our nation during very challenging times. Senator Sarbanes just articulated, we lead the country, we lead the world, in many respects -- research and development at Aberdeen and Fort Detrick, intelligence at Fort Meade, aerospace at Pax River,

energetics and ship development at Indian Head and Carderock, and transportation support at Andrews.

I think all of you know that I am a former member of Congress. I have lived through this process before. It is a difficult process. It is not an easy process. It is a process I do not miss. Nevertheless, it is a process that is best for the country.

"Maryland stands ready," is our theme. And, I'm not sure you saw it, but when I saw Senator Mikulski this morning I gave her a high-five, and she gave me the old secret handshake on Team Maryland. And we do talk about Team Maryland an awful lot, not as a cliché, but as a fact.

We obviously have a diversity of views with respect to our philosophical orientation and partisan orientation -- and have for many years, and always will -- but my experience as a member of Congress and now as governor of this great state, the Free State, has been, once -- to take Maryland-centric issue -- all the lines fall away. The lines are gone. It is Team Maryland. Everyone supports each other. We make a united front, and always have. And, Senator, I will potentially share the secret handshake with the Chairman later today.

As a function of that spirit of that approach, Team Maryland, we have been anticipating this day and this process for a number of years. In 2003, our Administration















































































































































































































































































































