



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.
GOVERNOR

BRAC Commission

August 4, 2005

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Received

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

Thank you for taking time to meet with me this week. I am very much aware of the demands of your schedule, and your willingness to get together on short notice is greatly appreciated.

Maryland probably has as many moving parts during this BRAC round as any State. As discussed, our underlying approach is quite simple. Maryland and its many communities serving as both host and neighbor to our superb military installations have the infrastructure, workforce, academic institutions, and experience required to continue to support the Department of Defense to the standard that the men and women serving this nation deserve. Be assured that we can and will support each and every BRAC recommendation impacting Maryland, as well as ensure that the support provided to our military installations remains a top priority.

My greatest concern remains that there are multiple advocacy groups seeking to unravel the very carefully thought-out effort by the Army and Department of Defense to create, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, a base that will most efficiently and effectively develop, test, and field the equipment essential to the challenges of present and future battlefields. We have presented to your staff, in great detail, our workforce and facility capabilities, as well as manageable costs associated with each piece of this complex equation. Ultimately, we recognize that the expertise associated with each of these recommendations, be it the movement of CECOM functions, the transfer of chemical-biological elements, or the consolidation of the Army's Test and Evaluation Command, rests with the Army and Department of Defense. I am aware that they will make their final presentations to you in the near future, and trust that the nation will be well served by your final recommendations.

I would like to specifically comment on the questions being raised regarding the recommended Army Test and Evaluation (ATEC) Headquarters move to Aberdeen Proving Grounds (APG). Based on the positive results seen from the implementation of the NAVAIR model, I believe that DoD would benefit from a similar approach for Land C4ISR. As you may recall, NAVAIR's model is a full spectrum acquisition model for the 21st century. The

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result is a Center of Excellence, which brings synergy among science and technology, research and development, test and evaluation, procurement and acquisition, logistics and maintenance. Similarly, bringing ATEC HQ and the evaluators to the place where these weapons systems are being developed will improve the Army's acquisition process by enabling these systems to go from the laboratory to the field faster, providing greater support to our troops.

As we discussed, I question the proposed shifts of Air Guard assets. Accordingly, I appreciate your including Maryland Adjutant General Bruce Tuxill in our meeting. Like many other Governors around the nation, I am concerned with the impact that the proposed shifts will have on our readiness and response capabilities. This issue is especially sensitive in the National Capital Region. I am confident that the invaluable feedback you have gathered during the course of your hearings and meetings will be of great help as you begin to address these concerns.

Maryland stands ready to continue our strong support of our military installations. As you conclude this critical and challenging work, I wish you Godspeed. Please advise if I may be of any further assistance.

Best personal regards.

Very truly yours,



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor