

2005 BRAC COMMISSION REGIONAL HEARING

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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

established the Maryland Military Council, wherein state and the private sector worked with our seven military alliances around the state. Our Business and Development Agency's referred to as DBED. Secretary Melissaratos will be heard from in a few minutes with General Tuxill -- he represents the best of the best of this Administration. Within that Business Development Agency, we have the Office of Military and Federal Affairs. Its purpose, its charter, to facilitate partnerships between our bases and our communities. It has been, and will be, a one-stop shop with respect to the BRAC process.

Further, our Business Training Agency Secretary Fielder is here today -- and Secretary Melissaratos, as I said -- are here. Our institutions of higher learning are prepared to move forward with your recommendations and any workforce issues that might arise as a result of your decisions.

As Senator Sarbanes articulated, we have a lot of pride in Maryland, because we have one of the most highly educated workforces in the nation. Not opinion; simply fact. We have now seen the confluence of technology companies, federal laboratories, and higher education institutions. The bottom line is, we take our federal assets, we leverage those federal assets with a dynamic private sector, which draws businesses to Maryland. And, by the way, we've taken that up for the past two and a half years.

We have a world-class transportation infrastructure, including the Port of Baltimore, Marshall BWI Airport, and commuter rail service. We have a terrific quality of life -- a subjective determination; I'm a little prejudiced -- but a fact, nonetheless.

You will hear a number of concerns from my fellow panelists today. One of my primary concerns -- one, Mr. Chairman -- is that I understand you have heard from other governors regarding our concerns impacting the capabilities of the Maryland National Guard -- and National Guards, generally. We are concerned about the proposal to move the C-130Js -- an issue that I have worked with Senators Sarbanes and Mikulski on for many, many years -- but to move our C-130Js from our 135th Airlift group, which is playing a critical role in our war on terror. Later this morning, you will hear from General Tuxill, our adjutant general, who will detail our concerns regarding the impact of this proposal on our state and our nation.

Again, this is an incredibly difficult and uneasy process. I've lived through it, and there's very little else to say, other than, we are prepared to receive your recommendations. We are prepared to increase our, our nation's, military presence in the state of Maryland. I can only add a personal thank you to you, Mr. Chairman, and your fellow commissioners, with respect to your time, your

efforts, your caring, and your love of country. And we welcome you.

Thank you.

Senator Sarbanes: Mr. Chairman, I'd now like to yield to Senator Mikulski.

TESTIMONY OF HON. BARBARA MIKULSKI, U.S. SENATOR FROM MARYLAND

Senator Mikulski: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. And to Commissioners, we welcome you and, two, express our gratitude and the service that you are providing the nation.

I am here today -- I'm here as part of Team Maryland -- to ask the BRAC Commission to do some very specific things: number one, to keep the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency in Maryland; number two, to agree with the Pentagon's recommendation to move jobs from Fort Monmouth at White Sands, to the Aberdeen Proving Ground; number three, to approve moving Walter Reid to the campus of the Naval Bethesda, and creating a new facility there; and, number four, as to Martin's Airport, I ask you to listen to General Tuxill, professional soldier, who will tell you what I believe will enable you to make wise decisions.

I will speak only to NGA and APG.

Commissioners, I come here today not only as the junior Senator from Maryland, but I'm not here as a Maryland booster; I'm here as a member of the Senate Intelligence

Committee, I'm here as a member of the Defense Appropriations Committee. I know what it's going to take to make the tough decisions to make our country safer, stronger, and smarter. And I believe our recommendations are absolutely based on mission and merit. This is not a booster exercise for us. We, too, take national security very clearly and seriously.

Let's talk about NGA. NGA is an "I Spy" on the world. It provides telemetry that protects our troops and our nation. It's been located at Bethesda, but, if it's got to move, I recommend strongly that it move with other technical intelligence assets in Maryland. NGA's mission is closely tied to that of the National Security Agency, America's greatest listening post. NGA and NSA are the technical eyes and ears of U.S. intelligence in the world. And on this melancholy day, given what's happened in London, we must commit ourselves to making sure these agencies work well together. By moving NGA to Fort Meade, you can get rid of bureaucracies, the old frameworks that have often shackled us since the Cold War, and to provide the synergy to really fight in the global war against terrorism, for counterterrorism, intelligence, and proliferation.

As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I've spent a substantial amount of time becoming familiar with technical collections. We believe that it is in the nation's interest

to have located here in our state a national listening -- the national home for signals and imaging intelligence.

Why Fort Meade? Because, number one, it would be with the National Security Agency. Number two, it could go, right away, to one of the most secure facilities in the Washington area, the Fort Meade campus. It will have upgraded infrastructure that would literally allow NGA to plug in. There are those within the intelligence community who feel very strongly that a national collection -- a national technical collection agency is very, very much needed. By moving this to NGA, we can really accomplish that.

Originally, it was to move this to Fort Belvoir. Well, now there are 20,000 jobs moving to Fort Belvoir. There's just too much for any base to absorb, the security and transportation. Maryland can alleviate this by keeping these 2,000 jobs in Maryland and creating a framework for a new national technical collection agency.

But, in addition to that, know that I feel very strongly, I want this country to have the best technical collection agency that we can produce, and not the worst traffic jam that we can produce.

Now, as to Aberdeen. Aberdeen, the recommendations should be confirmed -- again, based on mission and merit. Aberdeen is a one-stop shop for military technology. It

helps our warfighters be safer and smarter. Aberdeen was founded to serve the nation back before World War I, but it's gone from a gritty ordnance munition agency to a culture of transformation in creating itself into an Army super-lab. With the legacy of the Cold War, we've gotten rid of mustard gas, we've built new laboratory facilities. And what do we do there? We develop and test everything from concept to combat, from protecting equipment -- from protective equipment for our troops, to the communications systems that give them unchallenged command on the battlefield, to road vehicles.

Why do we say this is based on merit? We work to ensure that Aberdeen is ready to meet the new challenges for these new threats.

What is being proposed? APG would gain, from the Army Research Lab and other parts of the country, the ability to test new vehicles. And we have a road-testing facility that could make sure that they were combat ready for the new transmissions -- where right now we're only getting 20,000 miles out of them -- so that we can make sure we harden up our troops.

Number two, by moving the Computational and Information Science Directorate from White Sands, and it goes right to creating the center of excellence that we want to create, called C41ISR. What does it mean? It's by -- that means a

new framework for technology and a new framework for tactics to protect our troops and our equipment by finding and fixing vulnerabilities, things used by the warfighter. It would allow -- literally enable the warfighter to see the battlefield coming at him and be able to protect himself and be able to protect this nation. But we need others to maximize their synergy.

And this is where Fort Monmouth comes in. Their Army communications and electronics community is an outstanding one. It manages contracts and inventory. It acquires field and sustaining technology in the battlefield. It manages inventory for these items. Most of all, it maintains the computer software and fixes the problems with information systems.

So, you see, what we're doing at Aberdeen, spunky Aberdeen, is to move the -- to use the technology we have, where we are already testing, from concept to combat, value-add these new facilities to get our troops ready for the new battlefield.

Aberdeen is ready. We produce a rocket science -- Mike Griffith, who heads up the National Space Agency, Cal Ripken, the Iron Man, and we bring values, patriotism. And we hope you bring the best to us.

Chairman Principi: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Sarbanes: Mr. Chairman and Commissioners,

we'll now hear from Congressman Ruppertsberger. Actually, a number of these installations are in his congressional district.

TESTIMONY OF HON. C.A. "DUTCH" RUPPERSBERGER, U.S.

REPRESENTATIVE FROM MARYLAND

Rep. Ruppertsberger: Thank you, Senator Sarbanes. And thank you, good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. It is truly an honor to appear before you today, literally in my backyard and representing my constituents in the Maryland 2nd Congressional District.

Our nation and the President have charged you with a critical mission in this BRAC round, and we certainly recognize the monumental challenge that has been placed in your care. In the words of General Douglas MacArthur in 1931, quote, "We must hold our minds alert and receptive to the application of unglimped methods and weapons. The next war will be won in the future, not in the past. We must go on, or we will go under," end quote.

I proudly represent three critical assets that would be greatly impacted by this BRAC Commission's recommendations: the Maryland Air National Guard C-130J Wing, assigned to Martin State Airport, Fort Meade, and Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

Major General Tuxill will be speaking specifically about the C-130J Wing. I would like to give my full support

to his comments and add my concerns about removing this asset, given its role in the National Capitol Region protection. Should the wing move, the next-closest asset with the legal authority to respond in civil matters would be over 200 miles away. The unique state-to-state agreements that exist in the NCR today must be taken into consideration when you make your recommendations.

Regarding Fort Meade, my role on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and as the first congressman to directly represent NSA in the House of Representatives, I see every day what our troops on the ground go through and what our intelligence officers face. I believe we need to unify our capability to make sure all elements can effectively communicate in real time, sharing research and technology, and testing equipment and capabilities as quickly as possible to get them in the field. In order to win the war on terrorism and protect our homeland, our military and intelligence officers must come first in all that we do.

Fort Meade is picking up capabilities that are essential to the warfighter. Sound intelligence is the key to any defense system. And I'm pleased to see that the adjudication of military clearance services will be brought to Fort Meade. This Department of Defense recommendation is a critical step in reforming our current clearance process,

ensuring that we get the people we need in the field as quickly as possible to protect our nation.

Finally, I would like to talk about Aberdeen Proving Ground. APG already supports an array of joint mission and capabilities, and this one -- this is one of the reasons it rates so high in military value. The establishment of a life-cycle management command for C4ISR fits perfectly with what already happens at APG. APG is already home to Research, Development, Engineering Command Headquarters, which is responsible for the Army Research Laboratory and the Communications Electronic RDE Center. The Development Testing Command is located at APG, and its headquarters, the Army Test and Evaluation Command, is recommended for relocation to APG. This offers a high-payoff opportunity to further transformation of DOD by allowing infrastructure to provide seamless, joint RDT&E capabilities in communications and electronics for the Department of Defense. The alignment is completed when the acquisition and sustainment activities are brought together under the LCMC, as proposed.

These recommendations represent the kind of transformation objectives Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld is trying to achieve in this round of BRAC.

I want to make it clear, I am not simply advocating a position because it benefits my state or district. BRAC always involves gains and losses. But the goal here is to

do what's best for the nation. As General MacArthur said, as leaders we must make decisions that will prepare our nation to win the wars of the future. That means we need to be more resourceful in our military industrial decision-making. And I believe this DOD recommendation is the right decision.

As you will hear throughout our presentation, Maryland stands at the ready, not just in testimony, but with a true and proven track record.

Thank you.

Senator Sarbanes: Mr. Chairman, one of the strengths, we think, in our state, is we have these military alliances, seven of them, connected with each of the major facilities.

The alliances are made up of representatives of the local community -- the defense contractor, the business community, the local elected officials. They work together, as the Governor pointed out, under the Maryland Military Council. And we think they're an important strength. And they don't come into existence just for BRAC; they're there all the time, trying to figure out ways to be supportive of the facility, to back up their mission, to help respond to any infrastructure problems that may exist, and so forth.

We're going to hear now from two of these alliances -- one related to Aberdeen Proving Ground, and the other to Fort Meade. And, for the Proving Ground, I'm going to yield

time now to Wyatt Colclasure, the President of the Army Alliance there, 30-year veteran of the Army, and now a leading defense contractor; and Tom Sadowski, who's the Director of the Harford County Office of Economic Development.

Wyett?

TESTIMONY OF WYETT COLCLASURE, PRESIDENT, ARMY ALLIANCE, AND
TOM SADOWSKI, DIRECTOR, HARFORD COUNTY OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Colclasure: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
Commissioners.

Senator Sarbanes has already spoken to the alliances and our activity. We appreciate our military forces, and we are all very proud of our partnership with them.

Because the DOD staff has an objective of BRAC 2005, the transformation of our Armed Forces, the recommendations are far more complex than for previous BRAC rounds. And that has compared in the impact on APG with the loss of the Army Environmental Center, the Ordnance Center and School, and the Ordnance Museum, one of our most popular tourist attractions. But we do recognize, at this time in the global war against terrorism, the need to remake our military into a more effective and flexible military force.

We recognize the changes at APG to create a new C4ISR life-cycle command, the consolidation of chemical and

biological defense activity, and the Army Research Laboratory as part of that transformation. Relocation of the Army Test and Evaluation Command provides for a consolidated and more efficient command structure. The result is to create a critical mass for the Army and many joint research, development, acquisition, and sustainment activities.

APG is admirably suited to host these organizations. For instance, it has ample space to accommodate all aspects of the proposed LCMC at a single location. The scientific and technical demands of APG organizations are high, but they take advantage of Maryland's academic and business leadership in technology and its strong and plentiful technology workforce. The organizations at APG are already involved in all phases of RDT&E and acquisition, and these are the same functions as for the activity recommended for relocation. Those joining us at APG will fit in easily.

APG is the Department of Defense major range and test facility base and a national center for technology. Its ongoing operations support development and testing of ground vehicle systems, soldier systems, chemical/biological materiel, and a wide variety of laboratory-type investigations and environments.

And even with its orientation toward R&D and high technology, APG installation operating costs are the second-

lowest in the Army. Those costs will go even lower with the enhanced use-leasing activity already underway and a second opportunity that will be open to bidders next month.

The proposed new organization would benefit from synergies with those already here. APG already has a major joint-service role. A significant portion of its budgets are funded in the Defense budget, rather than single-service budget lines. Its rapidly increasing multi-agent role, not just Department of Defense, in the national homeland security effort brings benefits because of the Army's essential part in that mission.

APG is experienced in siting and hosting new organizations. Because of the attributes I've mentioned, the list of tenant organizations has steadily increased. The continuing operating benefits of proposed actions at APG actually exceed those that are discussed in the DOD justifications. For instance, all Army and Marine Corps reconnaissance vehicles -- the "R" part of C4ISR -- are tested at APG. The upgrades and variance for them are managed and developed here, as well. Co-location permits concurrent T&E of our critical electronic and communication subsystems. The new LCMC can benefit from the use of the \$20 million network-centric node now being built at the Proving Ground to test, prove, and develop the Army's future combat system, which includes unmanned aerial and ground

vehicles, as well as manned ground vehicles.

The combined actions of locating all DOD nonmedical, chemical/biological Defense assets at APG and the Life-Cycle Management Command, co-locate DOD's R&D on radiation detection and monitoring, an area which the Department of Homeland Security emphasized when it established the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office in April of this year.

Perhaps most important, the incoming organizations would benefit from being placed in the larger culture of research and development that APG provides, the ability to draw team personnel from diverse specialties, or simply to walk across the street and talk to the one in charge of the previous or the next stage of system development and testing.

DOD rated the Proving Ground highly in military value in the first quartile, above other installations whose names are much better known. This rating takes into consideration factors such as APG's flexibility, its readiness to adapt to new missions in the future, its low cost of operation, and the large amount of space that it has available for maneuver and test ranges.

The next diagram demonstrates the synergy which already exists from the variety of technical organizations and resources presently located at APG, and it would take the advantage of the factors I have mentioned. It all fits

together, and it provides a crucial start-to-finish capability in support of military requirements.

The organizations at APG benefit from a close partnering relationship with the community and region, a partnership which has developed over many decades. As examples, we participate together in several regional councils and boards. APG personnel coordinated on the development of a science and mathematics magnet high-school program that serves as a model for the application of federal assets to the improvement of science and math education nationwide.

The installation commander and Harford county executive have detailed quarterly meetings, and we work together on technology planning. If the proposed new organizations are, indeed, placed at APG, they, too, will benefit from this close and cordial relationship.

There is a strong contractor support base already in place at APG. Many of those firms already have significant presence at Fort Monmouth, also. This will facilitate the transfer of programs and technical operations and their supporting industrial base for Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The bottom line, Mr. Chairman, is that Aberdeen Proving Ground is already a high-performing installation, and it is ready to accept the proposed consolidation of functions and organizations to achieve more effective and efficient life

cycle support. APG and the region are ready.

And, with that, I'll turn to Mr. Tom Sadowski, of Harford County, to continue our presentation.

Mr. Sadowski: Thank you, Wyett.

Mr. Chairman, members of the BRAC Commission, thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the residents of Greater Baltimore and Northeastern Maryland.

As a community, while we regret the significant loss of the Army Ordnance School and the Environmental Center, we stand ready, as we have said, to receive and foster the continued success of those operations recommended for relocation at Aberdeen Proving Ground. In my testimony, I will present facts and illustrate our readiness, and answer the question: Why Aberdeen?

The answer to this question is found in the following areas: military value, professional technical workforce, industry base, community planning and infrastructure, and, finally, quality of life.

Aberdeen Proving Ground's value to the military was somewhat addressed in previous testimony. It is important, however, to reiterate that APG did, in fact, score high, with a rank of 18 out of 97 installations evaluated by the Department of Defense as a part of their military-value index process.

When addressing labor force, keep in mind that APG is a

significant regional employer -- 87 percent of APG employees live in Harford, Cecil, and Baltimore Counties; 90 percent of employees live in the state of Maryland, while 10 percent reside in nearby communities in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and even New Jersey. Should impacted employees choose not to move, for retirement or otherwise, Maryland has a young skilled workforce ready to satisfy any labor need. In fact, Maryland ranks among the top in the nation, number one in the percentage of professional and technical workers -- nearly one in four people; number two in the number of people with advanced degrees; and we are ranked four on the Milken Institute State Technology and Science Index.

Within a 90-minute commute of Aberdeen Proving Ground, there are more than 500,000 professionals employed in the management, business, computer, and mathematics sectors. More than 200,000 such professionals reside within a 60-minute commute of APG. Maryland and Delaware universities keep a steady flow of graduates coming into our regional labor pool, awarding nearly 10,000 bachelor degrees in high-tech, business, science, and engineering programs, combined.

In all, there are 58 accredited institutions in Maryland, 15 in the immediate area, including the world-renowned University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University.

Partnerships with higher education and industry are vital to the military mission. For this reason, the State of Maryland and Harford County developed the Higher Education and Applied Technology Center in Aberdeen. Here, Johns Hopkins, University of Maryland, and local community colleges offer advanced degrees and workforce development programs to support APG operations and meet their employee training needs.

It's important to note, at this point, that we, in the state of Maryland, have received a U.S. Department of Labor grant in the amount of 1.2 million to help further workforce development efforts and address accelerated skill training needs. We can do that at HEAT, if necessary. In 2001, the HEAT Center welcomed, as a significant industry partner, one of the largest private R&D organizations in the world, Battelle Memorial Institute. They have plans to have as many as 1500 scientists and engineers at the HEAT Center at some point, and they've begun the construction of their new Eastern Science and Technology Center there.

Along with Battelle are Booz Allen, Bechtel, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, TRW, SAIC, Smiths Detection, all international defense firms who today work to support the Army's communications and electronics activities, and have roots here in the community. More importantly, these are just a sampling of the firms located here.

Local industry growth has been a significant factor leading also to upgrade Harford County's bond rating four times in the last five years. We're very proud of that. That's the ultimate economic measure.

In 2004, we led the state of Maryland in job growth, and we have added more than 16,000 net new jobs to our private sector since 1999. Regional out-commuters present another source of skilled labor, people -- allowing people to work closer to home, given the opportunity presented by this current -- by the current BRAC recommendations.

We have the community infrastructure in place to receive these operations. We have a master plan in place that allows for continued growth. For example, new and expanding industry can select from the more than 4,000 acres of office parks and R&D-zoned land along the I-95 corridor in our three-county area, all projects within ten miles of APG. This includes a 200-acre, 2.5 million square-foot enhanced use leasing project on post at APG, known as the Government and Technology Enterprise. Project information has been submitted as part of the record.

With regard to housing, the current median sales price of a home in the Baltimore Metro Area is 52 percent lower than that of some BRAC-impacted communities. In the three-county area, there's a net residential inventory just shy of 100,000 units; and, combined, we're averaging more than 5600

new housing starts per year. We have planned for this growth. We are investing in it, investing in the infrastructure and public services to accommodate it.

Public education is a priority. We have built ten new schools in 15 years in Harford County. We are spending \$130 million to construct new schools to expand middle- and high-school capacity. We have leveraged federal, state, and local dollars to build a magnet science and math academy at Aberdeen High School. And we are developing three additional magnet programs, one in the area of homeland security studies, all with the help of APG and local industry.

Our collaborative relationship with the post has allowed us to budget and implement key transportation improvements. Together with the state, we are building -- we are improving and building new Amtrak and MARC commuter rail stations at both Aberdeen and Edgewood areas of APG. Harford County is spending more than 56 million on roads to and from the post. The State of Maryland is spending more than 115 million on interchange improvements to help serve growth at APG. It's important to note that these are actual capital projects, and not just proposals. Harford County is expanding bus service to and from the post. And, collectively, these investments will offer improved access to a regional multimodal transportation system that includes

four major international airports.

In terms of quality of life, the Baltimore Metro Area ranked number one in a recent "Military Communities of Excellence" study completed by Expansion Management. A copy of the study is available on the Department of Defense Website. Our healthcare system is among the best in the country. We offer all the benefits of being close to Philadelphia, D.C., Annapolis, and Baltimore's Inner Harbor, abundant cultural amenities. Major/minor-league sports are well represented, as are major collegiate sports. We're home to Ripken Way. We have some of the top golf courses in the country, one of which is being named the new home of the McDonald's LPGA Championship. We have historic waterfront communities, 350 miles of shoreline on the Chesapeake, the Susquehanna River, thousands of acres to explore in our state and national parks.

All of this comes at an affordable price. Our cost of living is below the national average, and yet Maryland still reports the second-highest median household income in the nation.

So, as you can see on paper, in practice, in reality, we are ready. And, more importantly, we answer the question more than adequately, "Why Aberdeen?" We appreciate the impact that these recommendations bring, particularly on the impact of the families involved. We have drawn from

successful examples at Pax River, at Redstone Arsenal, to help facilitate employee relocation and to better serve those impacted.

We have recently launched MarylandReady.com, a comprehensive Website offering cost-of-living data, schools information, community information, shopping opportunities, and more. We stand ready for this assignment and to assume the great responsibility that comes with it.

Thank you, once again.

Senator Sarbanes: Mr. Chairman, we'll now hear from the Military Alliance for Fort Meade. Speaking in this regard will be Colonel Clemon Wesley, now retired from the military, engaged in private business. Actually, he was picked as the National Minority Small Businessperson of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. And joining with him on the presentation on Fort Meade will be Joseph Rutter, the Planning and Zoning Officer for Anne Arundel County.

TESTIMONY OF COLONEL CLEMON WESLEY, PRESIDENT, FORT MEADE ALLIANCE, AND JOSEPH RUTTER, PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICER, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Colonel Wesley: Thank you, Senator. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission.

I am the president of the Fort Meade Alliance, the nonprofit organization that supports Fort Meade and the

surrounding communities.

Fort Meade is a big part of our military transformation into the kind of force we need to defeat current and future threats. Fort Meade stands ready to accept future missions related to its core competencies, including strategic-level intelligence, singular-level education and training, communications, information operations, and security.

Since September 11, Fort Meade has focused on force protection and infrastructure renewal. The Fort Meade comprehensive master plan supports a population growth far more than the BRAC recommendations require, and in a manner that will ensure that Fort Meade gets better as it grows.

The privatization of utilities and housing and installation of a secure communications network infrastructure are currently underway at Fort Meade. Force-protection initiatives include tightening of the installation security zone and pursuing enhanced use lease options and other activities to make operational facilities more secure, and to make space for future requirements.

A more detailed statement is provided for the record; however, time dictates that I turn to Mr. Joe Rutter, of Anne Arundel County, to continue our presentation.

Thank you.

Mr. Rutter: Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you about the partnership that exists between Anne Arundel

County and Fort Meade.

The communication and working relationship between this federal campus and the county is a model for the future. We appreciate the economic development opportunities that are provided by Fort Meade and NSA, and have worked to provide the infrastructure to support the mission of the Fort and NSA. We believe we are ready for the proposed growth and the additional private-sector growth that will be driven by the BRAC initiative.

Anne Arundel County is at the center of the fourth-largest regional labor market in the United States. The labor force is highly educated, highly mobile, and focused on the Defense industry. Chesapeake Innovation Center, located in Anne Arundel County, is the nation's first homeland-security incubator creating new technology. Eight of the top ten Defense contractors already have a presence in Anne Arundel County. General Dynamics, in announcing a move of additional offices to Anne Arundel County just last month, said, "We find that the workforce is certainly qualified to meet the needs of our company and our customers."

Anne Arundel County is positioned to provide the labor force for future growth. In the immediate area surrounding Fort Meade, we have over 4,000 housing units ready to come online over the next several years, and even more in the

