



CONGRESSMAN
**FRANK
PALLONE**



Fighting for the Fort

Pallone Fights for Fort Monmouth

In May, the Pentagon released its proposed list of military facilities to be closed or downsized under the process known as Base Realignment and Closure or BRAC. In what I believe was a deeply flawed decision, Fort Monmouth was included on that list

Never before in American history has the U.S. government sought to close bases or reduce its capability during wartime. Closing Fort Monmouth will compromise our ability to win the war, and will jeopardize the safety and effectiveness of our soldiers in the process

Save Our Fort

While many communities are now scrambling to keep their bases open, efforts to preserve and promote the work done at Fort Monmouth have been in place for decades.

The Save Our Fort Committee was established as a coalition of groups and individuals committed to promoting and preserving Fort Monmouth. As the committee's cochairman, I have worked with our community partners to protect the Fort from closure during the previous base closure rounds.

The committee has been instrumental holding community forums to keep the Fort community informed and involved in the BRAC process.

Fort Monmouth's Critical Mission

Fort Monmouth is the Army's premier research and development center for communications, electronics and network-centric warfare. The work done at Fort Monmouth helps make our soldiers safer and more effective.

Fort Monmouth has developed and implemented technologies that our soldiers use to jam signals intended to detonate roadside bombs, trigger automatic defense meas-

ures when missiles are fired at helicopters, and locate the sources of enemy mortar fire within seconds of its launch. Day in and day out, Fort Monmouth is delivering meaningful military value to our soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere.

A Community Partner

One of our regions largest employers, Fort Monmouth is a proven community partner. The Fort generates over 22,000 jobs throughout the state and pumps an estimated \$2.5 billion into the local economy. Fort employees make their homes in area towns, send their children to local schools and support local business.

Fort Monmouth also benefits from the highly skilled, deeply experienced workforce here in Central New Jersey. More than one-third of the Fort Monmouth workforce is professional and technical personnel, such as engineers, scientists, and computer specialists. If the work done at the Fort is shipped elsewhere, it's estimated that 80 percent of its advanced workforce will choose not to uproot their families. By failing to transfer a substantial number of its workforce to a new facility, the crucial research and development now being conducted by these workers would be lost.

Pallone Secures Funds for the Fort

Fort Monmouth has spent years improving the base and expanding its military mission. Over the last decade, I have helped to secure federal funds to help improve the Fort's infrastructure and programs.

The projects I helped secure funding for included: an additional \$1 million this year for the modernization of the telecommunications infrastructure at the Fort, bringing the total to \$6 million over the last three years, and \$182,000 for the planning and design of a new facility at Fort Monmouth to research and test new battery resources, a function to be used by all branches of the military. ■



Pallone, right, talks with area residents following a town hall forum on how the community can become involved in the fight to save Fort Monmouth. The meeting was held the day the Pentagon announced the base closure list.

BRAC Commissioners Visit Fort Monmouth

Community Works to Save the Fort

Pallone and the members of his Save Our Fort Committee have amassed tremendous statewide support for Fort Monmouth and have been prepared to defend the Fort during each step of the BRAC process.

The Pentagon's closure recommendations are now under evaluation by a nine-member BRAC commission that will then make final recommendations to the President.

BRAC Commissioners Visit Fort

The support of five of the nine BRAC commissioners is required to keep Fort Monmouth off the final base closure list. Over the last few months, Pallone has helped to arrange for three of the commissioners to visit the Fort to see firsthand the critical work done at Fort Monmouth. He personally briefed each Commissioner during or after their tour of the Fort.

During one of those visits, Pallone joined hundreds of area residents to welcome the BRAC commissioners and to express the widespread community support for the Fort.

Pallone Defends Fort at Regional Hearing

Pallone testified on behalf of Fort Monmouth at a regional BRAC hearing in Baltimore and laid out a detailed argument on why the Fort should remain open.

Pallone has also been a fixture at congressional hearings on the BRAC in Washington, attending a BRAC hearing in May where several army officials and members of the BRAC commissioner openly questioned the rationale behind closing Fort Monmouth. They understand that the loss of the highly skilled workers from Fort Monmouth could cause a major disruption in the critical technology the Fort develops for our troops in Iraq.

Pallone recently met with Commissioners to further advance the case for Fort Monmouth and continues to provide information to the BRAC Commission that will help them make the correct decision.

What Happens Next?

The BRAC Commission is expected to release a final base closure list by September 15. The fight is not over.

Members of the Fort Monmouth community are urged to continue to be engaged in this fight. Please contact Congressman Pallone's office with any comments that may help win the fight to save Fort Monmouth.



Pallone, left, testifies on behalf of Fort Monmouth at a regional BRAC Commission hearing in Baltimore.

Rep. Pallone's District Offices – Reaching Out to You

If you have a problem of a federal nature or want to obtain information on legislative issues, contact these offices, open weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Middlesex/Somerset/Union

67/69 Church St., Kilmer Square
New Brunswick 08901
732-249-8892

Monmouth

504 Broadway
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