



## The Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce

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Your Business Is  
Our Only Business

### Via Facsimile

May 5, 2008

Officer in Charge – BRAC  
National Naval Medical Center  
8901 Wisconsin Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20889  
Fax: (301) 295-5020

Re: Comments on Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Officer in Charge:

On behalf of The Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce (the “Chamber”), we submit our comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (“FEIS”) regarding the relocation of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (“Walter Reed”) to the National Naval Medical Center (“NNMC”) in Bethesda, Maryland. The Chamber appreciates the Navy’s general responsiveness to community concerns in drafting a comprehensive FEIS, which will guide the implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure (“BRAC”) action at NNMC. In particular, the Chamber appreciates the Navy’s consideration of the concerns expressed in our letter dated January 28, 2008.

In the FEIS, the Navy demonstrates greater awareness and understanding of BRAC’s impact on the surrounding area. As a result, the FEIS adopts helpful positions and proposes certain viable mitigations, which will assist the communities’ efforts to ensure that BRAC is effectively implemented beyond the NNMC campus. Notably, the Navy’s change in position on the applicability of Defense Access Road (“DAR”) funding recognizes the uniqueness of this urban BRAC in an already congested area. Many of the proposed transportation improvements, particularly the construction of a Metro Elevator on the east side of Rockville Pike, offer the possibility of increased mobility in the immediate area of the campus.

Notwithstanding these encouraging developments, the FEIS lacks critical details on many proposed mitigations and seems to disregard other potential mitigations without much discussion. The proposed intersection improvements in the FEIS fail to show how neighboring properties may be impacted and otherwise fail to address the long-term improvements that are needed. The Transportation Management Plan for the NNMC campus is left for a future date. There is no meaningful discussion of the slip ramp (regarding direct vehicular connection from I-495 to the NNMC campus) option or the enhancement of transportation efficiencies of both the NNMC campus and National Institutes of Health.

Officer in Charge – BRAC

May 5, 2008

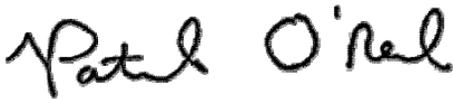
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The FEIS reminds us that we must continue to work together, along with other affected parties, with the Navy to ensure that the BRAC implementation at NNMC will be a success. We have stated previously that the Chamber welcomes the Walter Reed relocation to NNMC. Our wounded service people and their families deserve the world-class facility, which NNMC promises to provide. The Chamber is honored to have the facility as a neighbor and is confident that together we will successfully confront the barriers that challenge the BRAC implementation.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Maloney, Chairman  
(Maloney & Metz)



Patrick L. O'Neil, Vice President for Economic Development and Government Relations  
(Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chtd.)

CC:

The Honorable Isaiah Leggett  
The Honorable Michael Knapp  
The Honorable Roger Berliner  
The Honorable Royce Hanson  
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
The Honorable Benjamin Cardin  
The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen  
The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
The Honorable Anthony G. Brown  
The Honorable Brian Frosh  
The Honorable William A. Bronrott  
The Honorable C. William Frick  
The Honorable Susan C. Lee  
Mr. John Carman