



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20889-5600

IN REPLY REFER TO

5090  
Ser 5400/ 1082

**MAY 05 2008**

Montgomery County Executive  
Ike Leggett  
Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(240) 777-2500  
TTY (240) 777-2544

Dear Mr. Leggett:

Thank you for your letter of May 1, 2008. I am grateful that you have taken the time to ensure the thoughts and concerns of the County and its citizens have been clearly articulated throughout the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. We have endeavored to incorporate your concerns into every phase of our BRAC project and I believe that as a result of your input and the direct input of the Montgomery County BRAC Implementation Committee (MCBIC), we have been able to make significant improvements to our near and long term plans for the National Naval Medical Center Campus. We are indeed fortunate to have an engaging community supporting our mission during these challenging times.

It is clear that we both share concerns relative to the traffic congestion near the NNMCC campus today and in the future. The congestion has potential to negatively impact access to the Campus for our patients and visitors as well as my ability to recruit and maintain a world class staff. It also has the potential to incur additional costs to an already budget constrained realignment project. I hope that we can continue to be allies in the effort to find solutions to this difficult problem.

I anticipate that the request for Defense Access Road (DAR) certification will be submitted in the coming weeks. My staff and staff members of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), the TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), and the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) have engaged DoD leadership as well as Congressional delegations on this issue. We have relayed the County's concerns expressed during the EIS process and emphasized the unique aspects of our realignment which might merit certification when it would otherwise be denied. I am anxious to see the certification process move forward quickly as it will be necessary to gain certification prior to the Department's budget being submitted later this year to OMB and the President in order to ensure the project is adequately resourced. I will share with you any response we receive relative to our certification request.

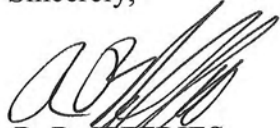
I would appreciate you sharing with me the County's vision for the future of the MCBIC. We have participated in this Committee as our vital link to the Community

throughout the initial stages of our realignment project. On numerous occasions, my Deputy Commander and BRAC Program Manager have expressed their support for this Committee and as I have said, I believe the Committee has served both our interests extremely well. We greatly value the relationship we enjoy with the community and want to make sure that we continue to communicate in a positive and professional manner. As we plan for the future when the MCBIC might be disbanded, we are looking at various organizational models that will allow us to maintain a level of engagement with our host community that will be as beneficial as the MCBIC. As we solidify thoughts on how to maintain this connectivity in the post-BRAC environment, it would be useful to know when we need to begin organizational meetings to host a committee that would be uniquely associated with the Medical Center.

With the signing of the Record of Decision, which we expect in the very near future, we will have successfully completed one of the first and certainly extremely important phases of the BRAC action. We have reached this milestone only because of you and the other great patriots of this county that have supported us throughout NNMC's history. As we start the construction phase in the coming months, I have no doubt that issues will arise that will require close coordination to resolve but we will endeavor to resolve issues quickly. Please be assured that I am firmly committed to remaining an institution of which the citizens of Montgomery County can be extremely proud.

Again, I am most appreciative for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of service. A similar letter has been sent to Michael J. Knapp, President, Montgomery County Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. R. Jeffries', written over a horizontal line.

R. R. JEFFRIES  
Rear Admiral, Medical Corps  
U.S. Navy  
Commander