

Army Research Laboratory at Glenn is losing the Vehicle Technology Directorate to the Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. (BRAC Report: Volume 1, Part 2 Tech—22); The Navy Reserve Center in Cleveland is scheduled to close and 25 jobs will be lost. (BRAC Report: Volume 1, Part 2 DoN—29).

As you know, the BRAC Commission has the authority to change the Department's recommendations, if it determines that the Secretary deviated substantially from the force structure plan and/or selection criteria. (Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005: Title XXVIII—General Provisions: Subtitle C—Base Closure and Realignment: Sec. 2832. Specification of final selection criteria for 2005 base closure round.)

I believe the Department of Defense has clearly deviated from the selection criteria.

The Secretary is required to consider the economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations. (Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005: Title XXVIII—General Provisions: Subtitle C—Base Closure and Realignment: Sec. 2832. Specification of final selection criteria for 2005 base closure round.) The Department of Defense erroneously states that a 0.1% job loss within the Cleveland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has minimal economic impact.

However, the Department of Defense failed to take into account the current economic position of the Cleveland area. Cleveland has been labeled as the poorest city in the country today. Its poverty rate of 31.3 percent is the highest in the nation, according to the most recent Census Bureau data from 2003. (Places within United States: Percent of People Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months: 2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GRTTable?_lang=en&-format=US-32&-sse=on) Cleveland's #1 ranking in poverty rate results from the significant job losses in the steel and manufacturing industries over the past several decades. These job losses continue. For example, the current 2006 budget recently passed by Congress would slash up to 700 high paying federal jobs at the NASA Glenn Research Center. The economy around Cleveland is stagnating.

Clearly, a 0.1 percent job loss for Cleveland is far more damaging than such a loss in another city with a better economic base. For example, the three cities scheduled to gain additional jobs from Cleveland's BRAC losses have poverty rates that are half to a third of Cleveland's. The poverty rates (and rankings) are 16.5 percent (35th), 13.6 percent (49th), and 12.6 percent (55th) for Columbus, Denver, and Indianapolis respectively. (Places within United States: Percent of People Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months: 2003 American Community Survey Summary Tables: http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GRTTable?_lang=en&-format=US-32&-sse=on) This BRAC round will secure for the foreseeable future Cleveland's #1 poverty ranking.

This is clear evidence that closures of these facilities in the Cleveland area fall outside the criteria of the BRAC process. I therefore request the BRAC Commission to reverse the job losses in the Cleveland area.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2005 ALL-AMERICA CITY CIVIC AWARDS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Western New Yorkers whose leadership and service has earned them well-deserved recognition by the Buffalo & Erie County All America City Committee.

In 1995 the Greater Buffalo Region was chosen as one of ten communities nationally to receive the All-America City designation, a lifetime distinction.

Greater Buffalo's All America City Committee has as its 2004–2005 mission to: work with community leaders to strengthen Buffalo's national public image, promote the practice of "civic journalism" by the local media, prompt citizen involvement in their communities to build social capital and enhance community Democracy, and to develop resources to measure social capital and promote intersector civic capacity building activities in the region.

The Committee has recently named Jack Connors, president and publisher of Buffalo Business First; Samuel M. Ferraro, Niagara County Commissioner of Economic Development; Philip L. Haberstro, founder of the Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo and the Belfast Summer Relief Program as this year's award winners, whose work embodies the spirit of the 2004–2005 mission.

I am proud to stand here today and recognize the many contributions of these great civic leaders who have played a significant role in making Greater Buffalo the fabulous All-America City it is.

TRIBUTE TO THE CALIFORNIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and welcome home true American heroes. In March of 2004, the soldiers of the 1st Battalion 185th Armor left their homes and families to spread the ideals of freedom and democracy to Iraq. They went, not because they had to, but because they chose to—choosing to restore a society and help a people with which they were unfamiliar.

Throughout the last year, these brave men and women were charged with improving the infrastructure of a new Iraq and building new water systems, roads and bridges. They were a part of history when they helped secure peace during the Iraq elections and have been instrumental in rebuilding relationships between the American and Iraqi people.

The commitment of our men and women in uniform to the ideals of liberty, freedom and peace never wavered. Their steadfast belief in themselves and our Nation remains a beacon of selflessness and sacrifice for all Americans.

For those who still defend our country and those who fight for the principles upon which this nation was founded, the 1st Battalion 185th Armor serves as an inspiration.

Their actions will forever stir our hearts and rouse our belief in the human spirit. It is because of this that we are grateful for their sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that I am able to recognize these American heroes and welcome them back. I hope that others will acknowledge our brave soldiers throughout the world.

CONGRATULATING IVANNA
EUDORA KEAN HIGH SCHOOL ON
REGAINING ACCREDITATION
FROM THE MIDDLE STATE ASSO-
CIATION OF COLLEGES AND
SCHOOLS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the hard working and dedicated team at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands on regaining their accreditation status from the Middle State Association of Colleges and Schools.

This has been a difficult year for the school in many respects, but strong leadership and team work have pulled them through. On Friday, May 13th, the principal of the high school, Sharon McCollum-Rogers, received word that the high school was re-accredited, which is a vindication of the principled but difficult stands they have taken together.

At a time when school districts around the country are faced with budget cuts and higher standards, our schools have to do more with less, the school's accreditation team comprised of administrators, parents, community and business leaders set a goal of accomplishing this task by graduation date 2005 and have pulled off a minor miracle.

Mr. Speaker, this year's graduation is a doubly joyous and celebratory occasion for Eudora Kean High School. In June, the graduating class will not only be able to proudly say that they have received their diplomas, but they can also once again say that they have received them from an accredited high school.

I applaud and commend the Eudora Kean High School students, faculty, parents, administration, and their private sector supporters for their unwavering efforts in developing and executing a successful strategy for regaining accreditation.

I am proud of their success and wish the Eudora Kean High School family and 2005 graduates continued success as they continue to "Strive for Success."

CONGRATULATIONS TO JACLYN
EINSTEIN

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Florida student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Jaclyn