

**Burlington County Chamber of Commerce  
Economic Development Committee  
Minutes of March 23, 2004 Meeting**

Members present: G. Beyranevand, V. Brown, D. Cosner, J. Cureton, J. Dill, G. LaVenia,  
I. Lippincott, R. Maxson, T. Mulligan, L. Nagy, E. Penberthy, H. Reeves,  
J. Shinn, M. Shourds, A. Webb, M. Willmann, A.Zuckerman,  
K. Howell-Ikeda

Also present: K. Adler, P. Stevenson, L. Beierschmitt

Mr. Cureton opened the meeting and introduced our guest speaker Colonel Mike Warner. Colonel Warner discussed the background of the Joint Task Force and the base realignment in 1988. Colonel Warner stated the military currently has 25% more installations than our force structure is required to have. Some of the realignment will take place overseas.

McGuire, Ft. Dix, and Lakehurst installations all are continuous within each other and therefore joint facilities.

Three important factors in the decision process for the next set of closings are: military value, how the installation fits into a joint environment, and acceptance / involvement in the community (quality of life for the members of service).

Col. Warner discussed the role of each of the three local facilities.

McGuire is critical because of its strategic location. It is closer to Europe and Middle East than any other installation. The tankers which provide aerial refueling are based here and the C17, a new aircraft will arrive later this year.

Ft. Dix has become a major installation since 911 for deployment and redeployment. It has become the center for reserve and support mobilization.

Lakehurst is a Naval Air and surface fleet as well as aircraft carrier installation.

Congressman Saxton has formed a joint task force, which Colonel Warner is chairing, to provide a voice to the county regarding the bases and their importance to the community. They are also raising money to pay for assessments such as air studies, air traffic, and proof that access routes don't conflict with air routes to Philadelphia and Newark.

The Task Force's main effort is to keep the three installations off of the list.

Ms. Howell-Ikeda asked what we can do to assist. Colonel Warner stated fundraisers and support from the business community. He will work with Ms. Howell-Ikeda on getting the chamber involved.

Next meeting is April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Adler