

Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee  
Honorable Jimmy Panetta CA-20  
April 24, 2017

I proudly represent a region along the central coast of California that has a booming defense presence. Although for most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the area was known for Fort Ord and its fighting 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry, now our training takes place at Fort Hunter Liggett and Camp Roberts where service members can learn how to drive a tank, fly a plane, and shoot a gun.

Monterey is home to world renown military institutions like the Naval Postgraduate School and the Defense Language Institute, and the military training is learning to speak a foreign language, understanding the tools of cyber warfare, flying a drone, and becoming leaders in the 21st Century of warfare. Additionally, there are 11 other defense equities located in Monterey that employ over 15,000 and generate more than \$1.3 billion for the local economy.

If the Committee approves new BRAC authority in the FY18 NDAA, I urge my colleagues to include report language, as they have in the past at the request of my predecessor, Rep. Sam Farr, to ensure that any new BRAC round captures intellectual capacity of installations like NPS and DLI. This request is consistent with Ranking Member Adam Smith's bill, HR753.

I would like to highlight Section 6 of the bill that defines military value criteria as:

- the ability to support educational requirements
- that enhance the success of members of the Armed Forces in their military career fields, and
- the impact on operational readiness of the total force of the Department, including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness.

As you know, the previous COBRA models give weight to bases that have traditional military assets like runways or hangars. But there has not been established criteria to quantify intellectual capacity, which is just as integral to our nation's security and readiness.

NPS is the prime example of that type of education to prepare our future leaders -- from providing advanced degrees in Security Studies to providing training in cyber warfare, drones and satellites. The Center for Civil Military Relations (CCMR), a school within a school at NPS, focuses on relationships with other nations, including enhancing democratic civil-military relations, supporting defense reform, teaching institution building, peacebuilding operations, and how to combat terrorism.

I have no doubt that an investment in NPS and similar types of institutions is a prime investment not only in our military but also in our civil-military relations around the world.

Having served with a Special Forces unit in Afghanistan as a Navy Intelligence Officer, I know how important advanced education and foreign language training is to doing your duties and carrying out your mission.

Students at DLI are not only taught to be proficient in 17 DoD designated foreign languages, but also they learn about the cultural and regional nuances of a duty assignment. I recently visited DLI and received a command briefing. The highlight was sitting in on a Farsi language class and seeing these six young students from across our nation -- NC, Ohio, CA -- not only speak Farsi, but speak it comfortably. To see what they have learned in such a short period of time gave me hope about the future of our military leaders and military mission.

Based on education and training that takes place at installations like NPS and DLI, I am confident -- and you should be confident -- that the investments in education that you approve for our military members enables them to effectively serve and deploy anywhere in the world, making us more prepared and, ultimately, more safe.

Thank you.