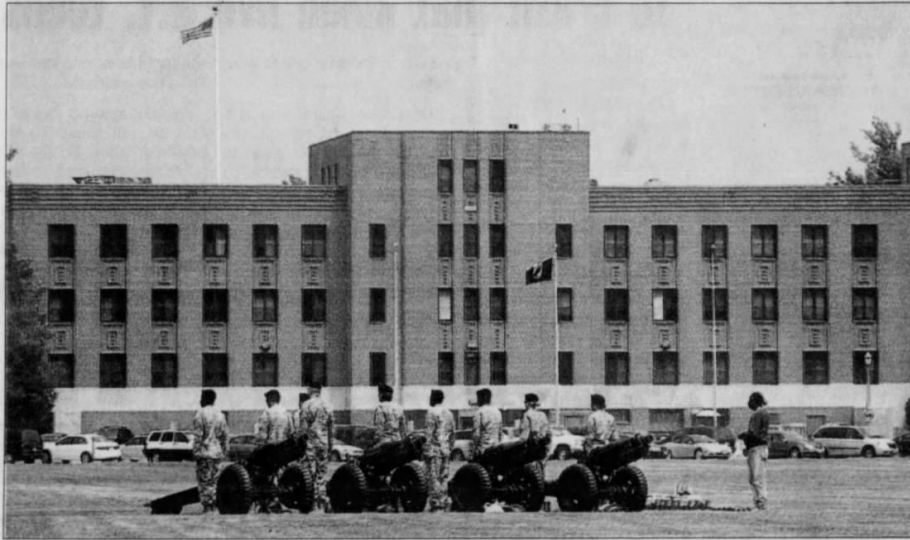


THE BATTLE FOR FORT MONMOUTH

DOD knew ahead of time closing cost was way low



Military personnel rehearse for the Change of Command ceremony on Greely Field at Fort Monmouth. In the background is the U.S. Army Fort Monmouth Garrison Headquarters. (STAFF PHOTO: BRADLEY J. PENNER)

INSIDE

QUESTIONS: Congress' investigative arm has found problems with two 2005 BRAC decisions. **PAGE A9**



MONDAY

RATIONALE: Military value may not have been the only criterion behind early plans to move the Fort Monmouth Military Academy Preparatory School to West Point.

Defense official told BRAC panel: 'No evidence' figures were wrong

By **BILL BOWMAN**
and **KEITH BROWN**
STAFF WRITERS
(First of two parts)

Department of Defense officials knew by July 2005 that the data they used to calculate the cost of closing Fort Monmouth were wrong and would lead them to underestimate the project's price tag by hundreds of millions of dollars.

A 32-page memo written on July 8, 2005, by Fort Monmouth officials and obtained by the Asbury Park Press shows that the officials warned DOD that the incorrect data had been submitted in several areas and would lead to wrong conclusions.

But the DOD refused to re-



Drivers are greeted by this sign as they drive into the visitors' entrance at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. (STAFF PHOTO: THOMAS P. COSTELLO)

calculate the cost with the correct data, the record shows.

In fact, the day before the federal panel charged with making the decision voted to close the 90-year-old fort, the then-Under Secretary of Defense assured the panel's chairman in writing that

there was "no evidence" to support claims the closing costs were wrong.

And despite repeated written requests by the Asbury Park Press over the past week, two DOD spokespeople refused to say who made the

See **Fort**, Page **A8**



VISIT OUR WEB SITE,

www.app.com and look under Special Reports for a link to: Battle for Fort Monmouth and video from Aberdeen, Md., links to GAO reports, documents from the Department of Defense and Fort Monmouth, letters from elected officials calling for action; Base Closure and Realignment commission documents, past stories and more.