

THE BATTLE FOR

FORT MONMOUTH

## Bill aims to rein in runaway BRAC cost

### 2 N.J. senators face tough fight

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An unprecedented measure that could threaten to "blow up" the Pentagon's largest-ever military consolidation is expected to be introduced in the U.S. Senate today by New Jersey's two senators.

The bill would mandate a congressional review of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process — the Pentagon's military base restructuring effort aimed at streamlining the military and saving money. Sponsors are Sens. Robert Menendez and Frank R. Lautenberg, both D-N.J.

The bill aims to put a fiscal leash on the BRAC process, which in 2005 called for 871 separate actions affecting 222 bases nationwide and is now costing \$8.4 billion more than estimated.

The bill would trigger a review of any major base closure or realignment if the cost exceeds 25 percent more than the original estimate. It would require the secretary of defense to provide to the president a business plan to reduce the costs of that action, and sets out a procedure

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