

**STATEMENT OF
MAYOR BENJAMIN T. FORESTER
TOWNSHIP OF COLTS NECK
JANUARY 24, 2009**

- The Township of Colts Neck stands behind the comments made on behalf of the Township Committee by former Mayor Thomas E. Hennessy, Jr. at the hearing held at Monmouth Regional High School last year.
- The Township of Colts Neck further stands behind the comments forwarded to the Navy on behalf of the Township Committee by Special Counsel, Brian Molloy, Esq., of Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer.
- The Township Committee feels strongly that the Navy should immediately abandon their plans to privatize the 300 Laurelwood homes. It has become very clear that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is hopelessly flawed in virtually every impact area reviewed.
- Significant points have been raised by all concerned ranging from the obvious National security risks to faulty school impacts and projections, minimized environmental impacts, lack of study on the cost of providing public services by surrounding towns, and the fact that the “no action” alternative was all but ignored.
- At the very least, the Navy should not proceed to a final Environmental Impact Statement, but prepare a revised draft environmental impact statement and conduct another public hearing on the revised draft document at some future date.
- The draft EIS is clearly a one-sided document that seems to be headed to a pre-determined conclusion – Be prepared New Jersey, these homes are headed your way! This conclusion will not be acceptable to Colts Neck.
- Once again, the Township of Colts Neck urges the Navy to abandon their plans--pursue the no action alternative, protect our security, buy out the developer if you must, bulldoze the homes and end the madness!

Thank you very much.