

## Executive Director Nancy Kist Receives National Award for Community Leadership

Nancy Kist, Executive Director of the Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority (BLRA) was awarded the 2005 Community Leadership Award – Closed Base Community by NAID, an Association of Defense Communities (NAID/ADC). This award recognizes outstanding individuals from a closed base community whose leadership and commitment has been essential to the community's efforts in building partnerships with the military. This award was presented at a special ceremony during the NAID/ADC 2005 Annual Conference in Denver, CO.



First serving as general counsel and, since 2002, as executive director of the Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority, Nancy Kist has helped propel the former Military Ocean Terminal (MOT) at Bayonne into a vibrant mixed-use project that is expected to provide the community with a variety of employment, housing, recreation and entertainment options. Under Kist's direction, the BLRA reached an agreement with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines to build a cruise port, signed a development agreement for the Harbor Station district at the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor – the name selected for the reuse project – and accelerated the Army's transfer of the former military property.

The opening of the Cape Liberty Cruise Port one year ago – the first tangible step in the transformation of the 430-acre site – resulted in 64 cruise ship calls in its first season and created 300 jobs. Kist also helped negotiate BLRA's no-cost economic development conveyance, the environmental services cooperative agreement allowing the authority to manage the property's environmental cleanup, and the early transfer of 70 percent of the base. Under her guidance, the complete transfer of the former MOT property occurred in December 2002 and the environmental remediation is on target to be finished by the end of this year.

In addition, Kist has helped BLRA attract Hollywood producers to shoot a series of major motion pictures in former warehouses, including the soon-to-be-released *War of the Worlds*. The BLRA has also secured millions of dollars in federal grants to build much-needed infrastructure. In 2004, she oversaw the creation of a public-private cooperative venture agreement with a private developer that led to the recent signing of a deal to begin construction of up to 1,700 housing units as well as retail, civic and open space components at the Peninsula. Kist's continuous dedication towards improvement goes unmatched, and as a community leader, she is the person all communities facing base closure should seek to emulate.

In accepting the award, Kist said, "I am extremely honored to receive this award. It would not have been possible without the vision of our Commissioners, the dedication of our talented staff and the hard work of our team of professionals. Building on the strong foundation established by my predecessor, Nicholas Chiaravalloti, the Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority will continue to redevelop this 430-acre site in a way that will benefit the entire Bayonne community."

NAID, An Association of Defense Communities (NAID/ADC) is the nation's leading membership organization supporting communities with active, closed and closing defense installations. Based in Washington, D.C., our 1,000 members across the nation unite the diverse interests of communities, the private sector and the military on issues of mission enhancement/realignment, community-base partnerships, privatization and closure/redevelopment. Providing support, knowledge, and experience - NAID/ADC is the voice of America's defense communities.