



PRESS RELEASE  
Contact: Gayle Jones  
(201) 451-3444

**Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority (BLRA) Executive Director Nancy Kist shares her expertise**

*Governor names her to council on Armed Forces and Veterans' Affairs*

*Bayonne, NJ, December 28, 2005* — Governor Richard Codey named Nancy Kist, Executive Director of BLRA, to the recently expanded state council on Armed Forces and Veterans' Affairs.

The council has primarily had to deal with the federal government's decisions regarding whether or not to close military bases and recently expanded its duties to include involvement in the quality of life for military personnel and their families.

“Governor Cody asked if I was interested, given my experience both with closed installations and the fact that we still have U.S. Coast Guard presence in the community,” said Kist. “I told him sure I'd serve, if they thought I could provide some insights on supporting existing military facilities. So here I am.”

Kist believes her nomination to the post came as a result of a conversation with Richard Branigan - aide to Governor Codey about the Base Closure Conference held at Monmouth University in November.

The expanded council came as a result of legislation submitted to the state Senate by state Senator Ellen Karcher (D-12<sup>th</sup> Dist.) earlier this year.

“Our military bases are a vital component of our state's economy and will allow

-more-

New Jerseyans to contribute to the national security and viability of the country's Armed Forces," said Senator Karcher. "In the New Jersey municipalities that host military bases, the bases are a key part of the tapestry of community there. By expanding the membership and mission of the Council on Armed Forces, we would allow the council to work with base commanders in facilitating an open, productive relationship between our state and local military installations."

The legislation expanded the council from 10 to 22 members with new members that include the state commissioners of education, environmental protection, community affairs and transportation as well as the treasurer and chair of the New Jersey Commission on higher education. Kist will represent community and business support groups for New Jersey's military installation.

"With the New Jersey military bases in constant threat of closure through the federal BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) process, we need to make New Jersey as hospitable as possible to ensure that our bases avoid the chopping block," said Karcher. "When you consider the thousands of military and civilian jobs that the military installations provide to New Jersey, the alternative would be absolutely devastating to the Garden State."

Nancy Kist served as the city of Bayonne's attorney until 2002. She then took over as the executive director of the Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority and is currently overseeing the redevelopment of the 430-acre former military ocean terminal.

"Bayonne was way in the forefront in dealing with the base closing," said Council President Vincent Lo Re, who also serves as a commissioner on the BLRA. "This allows

-more-

other people to benefit from our experiences. Nancy is the key reason why we have done so well.”

For more information about The Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority, please visit [www.bayonnenj.org/blra](http://www.bayonnenj.org/blra).

-30-