

***DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
2521 CLARK STREET, SUITE 600
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MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

DATE: June 9, 2005

TIME: 11:15 AM

MEETING WITH: Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)-Texas

SUBJECT: Dyess AFB realignment and recommendations regarding other Texas bases

PARTICIPANTS:

Name/Title/Phone Number: Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Commission Staff:

**Commissioner Lloyd W. Newton
Christine Hill, Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
* Tanya Cruz, Air Force Analyst**

MEETING SUMMARY:

According to Senator Hutchison, she has left a message with Commissioner Principi regarding having a commissioner visit Dyess Air Force Base. Specifically, she would like Commissioner Newton to make that visit. She noted that they accept the recommendation as it stands and agree that all B-1s be in one place for the purpose of producing economies of scale. Should the recommendation change, however, and Ellsworth Air Force Base remains open, the C-130s at Dyess would be moved to Little Rock (note: this is what I have in my notes from the meeting, however, the current recommendation already has the C-130s moving to Little Rock). As Dyess has excess capacity and room to keep the C-130s, losing the aircraft would underrepresent the base's military value.

In addition to discussing her concerns regarding Dyess AFB, the Senator also made comments about the following Texas bases:

- Fort Hood – BRAC has taken Ft. Hood down to 40,000 (not certain what this number represents). When compared to Ft. Carson, Ft. Hood has more training space. Also, 37,000 acres have been retained from Fish and Wildlife that was not taken into account.

- Red River Army Depot – Red River is the only depot that does Bradleys and is the only base that offers patriotic missile recertification. This base has received a number of awards. From a military value standpoint, the Red River recommendation does not make sense. (Note: Senator Hutchison commented that Joe Robles, a former BRAC Commissioner from San Antonio, will testify on behalf of Red River Army Depot).
- Naval Station Ingleside – From a Homeland Security perspective, the recommendation to close this base (Sen. Hutchison noted that there are 600-1,000) illegal entries through the Texas border each year.
- Sheppard AFB – Sen. Hutchison said she is not concerned with the medical portion of the recommendation. She is, however, concerned about the realignment of the joint strike fighter maintenance facility to Florida. She said that such an operation and the maintenance expertise should remain in Texas where there are places it can be housed (e.g. Dyess).
- Ellington – Their case for keeping F-16s there is to maintain the jointness of the base.
- Brooks City-Base – Given that this base is considered a model base and is still performing well, it does not make sense that DoD would recommend it be closed. In addition, the base has a synergistic relationship with the University of Texas and San Antonio.

* Denotes individual responsible for completing the memorandum