

REGIONAL HEARING ISSUE SUMMARY
Washington, D.C. Regional Hearing
July 7, 2005

The District of Columbia

Walter Reed Army Medical Center, D.C.

- Witness: Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
 - Flawed metrics were used to determine MILVAL and upfront costs were understated or completely ignored (environmental clean-up costs).
 - Consolidating at one location comprises force protection. Also, the recommendations would have implications on the homeland security of the nation's capital.
 - GOA states that there was no reliable analysis on military readiness in medical terms.
 - Does the recommendation take into account the ability of the existing and potential receiving locations to accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge, and future total force to support operations and training?
 - Bethesda does not provide the level of tertiary care found at Walter Reed. The recommendation for a new hospital at Ft. Belvoir is a solution that could provide level one inpatient and outpatient care to the beneficiaries living in Northern Virginia

- Witness: Mayor Anthony Williams
 - Will D.C have the ability to handle casualties in the event of a large-scale attack (much like the one in London)? WRAMC has the personnel, equipment and facilities to handle a catastrophe in D.C.
 - No MILVAL for: preeminent programs in polytrauma patients, such as amputee care, prosthetics, and rehabilitation; the medical research performed at Walter Reed, including world-class programs in a number of areas; and finally, Walter Reed's capabilities for providing care to the President of the United States, the members of the cabinet, to senior military officials, members of Congress, and foreign heads of state.
 - DOD did not consider enhanced use leasing and other privatization programs which will seriously limit the reuse opportunities for the facility.
 - The economic impact on D.C. may be far greater than the recommendation suggests.

- Witness: Adrian Fenty, Councilman Ward 4, D.C.
 - Alters geographic landscape: Traffic congestion
 - Alters social landscape: Withdrawal of a major military base from an urban neighborhood removes many of the positive role models our youth. Also the presence of military personnel plays role in deterring crime.

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- Alters economic landscape: small business along Georgia Avenue are experiencing a renaissance (lapsed after 9/11).
- An informal poll taken by local advisory board states 80% of the residents oppose the recommendations

Commissioner Coyle: Walter Reed seems to be a premier modernized joint operational medical platform and breaking it up and scattering the pieces actually takes away the jointness

- Witness: Dr. John Pierce (Former Chief Medical Officer, WRAMC)
 - Argues metrics used are biased towards people who deliver a lot of health care (only receive 12 points all health care delivery). (How DeWitt Army Community Hospital have more military value than Walter Reed? DeWitt has 43 inpatient beds. It has one graduate medical education training program. Walter Reed has 200 inpatient beds of high level tertiary care. It has about 50 graduate medical education programs. It has a number of research programs and it's where the combat casualties are being sent.) (References Table 5 Chapter 10 JC-S).
 - How does Dewitt have more MILVAL than WRAMC when: twice the outpatient visits, has eight times the inpatient care at a much higher tertiary care level, has four times the dental care.
 - Received no MILVAL for: Joint graduate medical research centers, largest military teaching hospital, cancer research programs, deployment healthcare centers.
 - Metrics are capped: Inpatient capped at 10,000 relative weighted products (receive score of 1). WRAMC has 16,500 (received score of 1). Outpatient: capped at 450,000 (receive score of 1) WRAMC has 1.148 million (received score of 1).
 - Asks what % not how many of programs are integrated (If you have one teaching program and it is integrated with another service, it's 100 percent. WRAMC has 50 training programs and 30 of them are integrated, it's only 60 percent).
- Witness: Dr. Daniel Seckinger, Past President, College of American Pathologist. Chairman of the board, American Registry of Pathology
 - AFIP is unique because of the broad range of expertise, spanning 22 subspecialty departments in conjunction with the world's largest tissue repository, providing significant research and education opportunities.

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- If AFIP is dismantled and retained in piecemeal fashion and warehouse tissue repository would deprive the medical community here and abroad of a virtually irreplaceable resource for disease research and patient care.
- The proposal makes no provision for maintenance, access to specimens, involvement of expert pathologists and others needed to sustain this dynamic resource for future and for our education. Expertise in pathology is essential to effectively using the wealth of information to be gained from the study of these materials.
- 360,000 hours of continuing medical education for clinical specialty disciplines was provided last year.
- Plays vital role in homeland security (specifically bioterrorism).

The State of Pennsylvania

Comments

- Witness: Governor Rendell

Ashley Buzzell/Joint Cross-Service Team

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- Was not consulted nor was the Adjutant General concerning the deactivation of the 111th. Does not consent or agree with the recommendation.
- Willow Grove is on of the three joint installations already in operation.

- Witness: Senator Spector
 - The nature of the operations performed at Willow Grove and at Alleghany should be reason enough not to proceed with the recommendations especially since the country is at war and because of the terror attacks in London.

- Witness: Senator Santorum
 - Strongly disagree with the recommendations concerning the 911th because of the land constraint justification. Land can hold a total of 20 C-130's.
 - Removal of the Reserve unit out of Pittsburg would greatly impact the recruiting efforts in the area. Also, reservists and veterans will incur a long commute to bases.
 - DoD deviated from the criteria because no consideration was given for the current jointness of the installation, and the inaccurate calculations concerning land availability, facilities and air space. Also the role the base could play from a Homeland Security perspective was overlooked.

Willow Grove

- Witness: Representative Schwartz
 - Please consider the existing jointness and future joint opportunities at Willow Grove. Also recruiting and training replacements will be costly.

- Witness: Ed Edenbach
 - The installation as a whole was not given proper assessment for its joint capabilities (MILVAL). The location of the installation allows for joint military missions, operations, and training.

- Witness: Major General Bill Lynch
 - The analysis reveals that Willow Grove was not evaluated for jointness and the "undervalue" of the reserve components.
 - The Navy and the Air Force did not separate the reserve components from the active duty components.

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- Savings are overstated because the Navy does not include the personnel costs at the receiving installations.
- Units stationed at the base (not affected by the recommendations) were not included in the analysis. Furthermore, the DoD did not evaluate alternatives if the space was vacated by one or another of the services.
- Major General Jessica Wright
 - The 111th Fighter Wing and the 28th Infantry Division have had a joint training relationship for five years. Deactivating the 111th would “degrade” joint training opportunities.
- Witness: Representative Fitzpatrick
 - The base is situated between New York and Washington D.C. and therefore is an important Homeland Security asset for the nation as well as Pennsylvania.
 - The base is also an alternate FEMA disaster site
- Witness: Representative Weldon
 - The services failed to look at the “big picture”. opportunities
 - Will lose recruiting capability, joint training and operation capabilities.

*911th Air, Wing, Kelly Support Center, 99th Regional Command
Alleghany, PA*
- Witness: Representative Murphy:
 - Joint training will discontinue between the services if this recommendation is upheld.
- Witness: Mike Langley, Co-Chair, Pittsburg BRAC Task Force
 - The base has large surge capacity which was not reflected in the scoring.
 - There are 53 expandable acres (addresses the land constraint issues).
 - There are flaws with the Airlift MCI as some of the questions do not apply to the C-130s i.e. Fuel Capacity during surge, ability to surge without effecting commercial traffic (separate runways), and proximity to joint training.

Letterkenny and Tobyhanna Army Depots
- Witnesses: Representative Shuster, Representative Sherwood and Cameron Moore

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- There is the need to close installations with lower MILVAL and similar missions then consolidate at installations with comparable missions.
- Letterkenny and Tobyhanna AP's are prepared to accept more missions.