

**DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CALL

DATE: August 9, 2005

TIME: 2:00PM

Telephone discussion with: Mr. Dave Coker, Executive Director, Fisher Foundation

SUBJECT: What will happen to the Fisher Houses at the locations affected by the BRAC medical recommendations?

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Dave Coker; 301-294-8560

Commission Staff: Lesia Mandzia, Senior Analyst

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

I asked Mr. Coker what would happen to the Fisher Houses at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall Medical Center if the BRAC recommendations were accepted.

Mr. Coker said that this had happened once before—when Fitzsimons was closed. The way it worked then was that other federal agencies had the option to utilize/obtain the property. In the case of Fitzsimons, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) obtained the Fisher House.

Walter Reed has 3 Fisher House: two at the main campus and one at the Forest Glenn Annex. In the case of house at the main campus, they would ask the Navy to take over the houses since the new Walter Reed would be at a Navy installation and the Navy would be in control. Since it would stay within the DoD, he thought an inter-departmental transfer of the property could be done. Also, transportation from the Fisher House to the Bethesda campus would have to be a part of having the Fisher Houses. He believes that the Army is looking into having the house at Forest Glenn managed by Bethesda. The foundation may also build another house at the Bethesda campus. He added that the houses are given as a gift—and that the land belongs to the installation not the Fisher foundations and the houses operating expenses are handled by the service.

Andrews AFB also has a Fisher House that operates in a support role to families that have members at either Bethesda or Walter Reed. Mr. Coker hoped that the house at Andrews would still be utilized in that fashion.

Wilford Hall has three Fisher Houses. They believe that even with the change of Wilford Hall to an outpatient clinic and ambulatory surgery center that 1 and a ½ of the houses will always be filled. Because the drive to Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) is 10 miles, they've asked that Wilford Hall check with the VA that is close by to see if the VA can utilize the rest of the Fisher Houses' capacity. Also, two more Fisher Houses will be built at BAMC.

Ultimately, for the Fisher Houses at the Walter Reed main campus it depends on what the Commission decides with regard to the realignment of Walter Reed. However, the demand for the housing will remain.