

BRAC Commission

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TUFTS UNIVERSITY
School of Medicine

Department of Public Health
and Family Medicine
Nutrition/Infection Unit

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Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret.)
Commissioner
Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

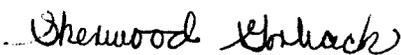
Dear General Turner

I am writing to encourage you and the members of the BRAC Commission to forestall disestablishing the AFIP or, as an alternative, to transfer the AFIP from the military to the civilian sector. There is a relevant precedent for such a move: in 1957, the National Library of Medicine splintered from the AFIP and moved to the civilian sector. As a civilian National Institute of Pathology, the AFIP would be even better positioned to serve the entire nation, solving the DoD's dilemma and maintaining the Institute's place at the forefront of pathology, radiology, and laboratory medicine.

As an infectious diseases specialist, I can assure that AFIP plays a major role as an expert resource in diagnosing difficult and complex diseases. It is also a leading education and training center for our profession. Its vast collections are vitally important in dealing with the complex infections that are seen with increasing frequency by our citizens as they travel around the world and our service men and women and diplomats who are stationed in various remote posts and subject to exotic diseases.

Thank you for your consideration of maintaining in some significant way the functions of the AFIP for the health and welfare of our nation.

Sincerely,


Sherwood L. Gorbach, MD
Professor of Public Health and Medicine

Editor, CLINICAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES