

DCN 7157
Executive Correspondence

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

August 4, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
BRAC 2005 Independent Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Chairman:

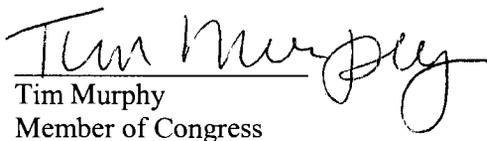
As you know, the 2005 BRAC recommendations from the U.S. Department of the Army would close the Charles E. Kelly Support Center and relocate units to the Pittsburgh U.S. Army Reserve Center (99th Regional Readiness Command). However, this recommendation does not specify which units would be relocated, which may include the on site commissary that exists to serve the over 253,103 veterans as well as thousands of active duty personnel and dependents in Southwestern, Pennsylvania.

If the commissary at the Charles E. Kelly facility is closed this will mean that these veterans will have to travel over 400 miles roundtrip either to the Army War College at the Carlisle Barracks in Carlisle, PA or Wright Patterson AFR in Dayton, OH to access these valuable commissary services. This speaks to your concern over the devastating effect of BRAC on company moral and recruitment which directly affects military value.

As stated in 1995, "the Defense Commissary Agency has expressed an interest in constructing a new 40,000 SF commissary on a 6.4 acre site in FY 98 and relocating their current operation from the [Charles E.] Kelly Support Facility in Oakdale, PA to the 911 AW."¹ The landscape and the road system reserved for this purpose on government owned land across from the 99th Regional Readiness Command in Moon Township, PA is still designed to receive this facility.

Accordingly, to meet BRAC's primary requirement for military value and maintain the recruiting average for Pittsburgh, PA which currently stands at 114% over the last 10 years, we would urge you to ensure that the commissary is not included with any affiliated closure of the Charles E. Kelly support facility.

Sincerely,


Tim Murphy
Member of Congress


Melissa Hart
Member of Congress

¹Spencer, Thomas. Col. USAFR, Commander. Memorandum for HQ AFRES/CE. Subject: Pittsburgh IAP ARS Land Transfer. October 5, 1995.