

Site 600
BRAC Commission
Pentagon Authority
Arlington, Virginia 22202

8 August 2005
Re: Fort Closing:
Georgia Fort Mac.

Gentlemen:

AUG 11 2005

Received

We have heard other military bases,
which have been named for Clouings,
expounded for their values to our country
and the areas in which they are located,
but we have heard of no one coming forward
to address the possible loss of our historic
fort which has graced Georgia since
1885; Fort McPherson.

My Grandmother was in our area
when she was in her 20's - along with
Fort Mac. I have photographs of men in
our family made in the woods behind
our home, in full dress military uniforms,
before the fence was set.

My two brothers were enlisted in
World War II as young boys; but, as our
whole family, deeply patriotic - my Father
even tried to enlist at this time; he

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was in his 50's and in need of medical procedures. The recruiting officer told him to come back after the work was done. He missed the war, but wore army clothes and had an olive green Chevy in which he followed the boys on bivouac until they were shipped overseas, but before this happened, Mother and I ate a lot of dust from tanks, half-tracks, Jeeps and troop-trucks full of young boys. Daddy ate in the mess and was called "Pops." He flew flags on his Chevy, and a service flag (which I still have) with 3 stars signifying my 2 brothers and 1 sister, who was in the W.A.C.'S.

We could not have been more army if we tried.

In 1951 we moved to East Point and became personally involved with Fort Mac: My sister-in-law worked in Patton Hall and retired with the service; also her sister retired from

working with the service.

I took the Civil Service Exam
and passed in 1951 in Patton Hall,
at Fort Mac, which is our back fence.
We are only 12 feet from the fence, and
have been here for 54 years.

You can see that our blood line
parallels Fort Macs. I even tried to
enlist in the Army at 18, but couldn't
be accepted due to supporting my parents &
other family members. I was told that
they wanted me, would take me, but I had
too many dependents.

My husband served 2 years active
duty, and 10 years Reserves. Every cousin
has served honorably. We've never had a
dishonorable discharge as far back as I
can trace.

That fort is more than some
ground with buildings and a fence.
It's a very strong, deeply entrenched part
of our lives, and we are deeply grieved

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by the prospect of Fort McPherson not
being here with us.

Our Mayor has worked closely with
officers of the fort, and we enjoy a warm
relationship and friendship with military
who care about East Point, Georgia.

Isn't there something that could
be done to preserve this grand old
historical fort? It is a shame to
discard such a place which has been
so useful for one hundred and forty
years!

Won't you all who are in a position
to fight for Fort McPherson please take
a long look at the decision and the
possibility of our fort remaining in
active use?

Please review carefully and leave the
fort in Atlanta Georgia!

Most Sincerely & Hopefully,

Mrs Robert E. Collins (Joyce)

1429 Womack Avenue (on the line of)
East Point GA 30344 Atlanta

P.S. I cannot bear to think that all the tones of bugle calls will no longer waft on the air and into our back door. I love especially hearing taps on the night air. During the day, my sounds include the firing range, and men on the golf course at our back door.

Please don't take away our fort.

Thanks for your time.

It is very painful to hear our fort referred to only as "prime real estate." That fort is hallowed ground; Our hearts are broken to think of it being closed. Please reconsider, please.