

BRAC Commission

August 10, 2005

AUG 12 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Received

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am writing to urge the BRAC to remove the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) from the list of military facilities slated for closure. The AFIP is an irreplaceable resource for disease research and patient care. This exceptional institution not only provides outstanding service to our nation's military community, but also contributes significant knowledge and education to the broader medical field's understanding of human disease.

The AFIP tissue repository is a valuable national treasure that must remain accessible to researchers and experts in laboratory medicine. The AFIP's collection of specimens has helped medical professionals understand, develop vaccines and treatments for, and sometimes cure, often-fatal diseases. Access to both archived material as well as newly acquired specimens must be preserved.

Each year the AFIP issues hundreds of thousands of hours in continuing medical education to a diverse group of medical professionals that specialize in pathology, forensics, radiology, emerging infectious disease, renal disease, ophthalmology, and urology. In fact, over 7,400 medical and other health professionals alone were educated and trained in 2004 through a variety of AFIP-sponsored venues including live courses, seminars and Internet courses.

The AFIP's leadership in the area of education and training advances the knowledge base and ensures the competence of thousands of medical professionals. It would be a major loss to both military and civilian medicine, especially at this time, if AFIP's consultative services were discontinued.

Should the AFIP be forced to close, our nation would lose a valuable resource that plays a key role in the advancement of medicine and contributes knowledge to improve the health of our nation's citizens. First, I respectfully request, that the BRAC eliminate its recommendation to dismantle the AFIP. Second, I urge the BRAC to ensure that the integrity of the tissue repository is preserved.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathryn A. Straw

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BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

August 8, 2005

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

Dear Commissioner Turner:

I am writing you to express my concern that the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology has been included in the Base Realignment and Closure list. This action would eliminate the consultation and education missions of the AFIP and their unique value to the military, our nation, and the world. The benefits of preserving AFIP are numerous. Their expertise and knowledge offer so much to so many. Their training of pathologists and radiologists bring us closer to our goal of world-wide health and with that more security and peace in our world.

The mission of AFIP extends to individuals. In October 2002, my husband Julius Ray Phillips was diagnosed with sarcoma of the soft tissue, a rather rare cancer, and one for which little cure is known. Through Dr. John K. Duckworth, the present Director of Pathology Residency Program and the University of Tennessee, we were able to send material to AFIP for confirmation of the diagnosis and advice to his doctors. This help gave us confidence and peace in the actions taken to fight his cancer.

I am just one individual who has been helped by the AFIP and do want to be counted as one who objects to this worthy institution being closed.

Thank you for doing all you can do to keep AFIP an active arm of the United States Military.

Sincerely,

Marcia G. Phillips

Marcia G. Phillips
A Concerned Citizen