

Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 69-2950

Memorandum of Meeting

Date: 21 June, 2005

Time: 0940

Meeting With: see below

Subject: Closure of Red River Army Depot

Participants:

Name/Title/Phone Number:

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas

Senator Blanche Lincoln, Arkansas

Senator Mark Pryor, Arkansas

Senator John Cornyn, Texas

Congressman Mike Ross (Arkansas, 4th District)

Congressman Dan Boren (Oklahoma, 2nd District)

Congressman Ralph M. Hall (Texas, 4th District)

Barry Rhoads/The Rhoads Group/202-637-0040

Phillip Duvall/Texarkana/not given

Ken Rolter/Senator Cornyn's office/202-224-0587

Jason Buckner/Representative Boren's office/202-225-2701

Jarrold Yates/Representative Ross's office/ 202-225-3772

Chris Paulits/Senator Hutchison's office/202-224-9767

Pete Olson/Senator Cornyn's office/202-224-2934

Cori Smith/Representative Ross's office/202-225-3772

Terri Glaze/Senator Pryor's office/202-224-8079

Todd Wooten/Senator Lincoln's office/202-224-7499

Janet Poppleton/Representative Hall's office/202-225-6673

Commissioner:

Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman

Commission Staff:

Charles Battaglia, Executive Director

David Hague, General Counsel

Frank Cirillo, Director of Review and Analysis

*Dean Rhody, Senior Army Analyst

Jennifer Meyer, Senate Liaison

Meeting Summary:

1. Congressman Hall opened with the following points (*asides and questions in italics*):
 - The OSD recommendation substantially deviated from the criteria.
 - There is no excess capacity. The issue is capacity, capacity, capacity.
 - The Army was forced to take the reduction at Red River. (*Chairman Principi asked Congressman Hall to expand on that statement. Congressman Hall responded that the delegation was prepared to show that Army was forced to close Red River.*)
 - The support of Red River to the Army is exceptional.
 - Red River was considered for closure in the 1995 BRAC and the commission removed Red River from the closure list.

2. Congressman Hall introduced the speakers and turned the comments over to Senator Hutchison. Senator Hutchison:
 - She thanked the commission for the opportunity to meet.
 - She stated that the depot had done everything the Army had asked.
 - She referenced the 1995 BRAC decision to keep Red River open and stated that GEN Robles will be at the 11 July hearing to talk about why the 1995 decision was good.
 - She expanded on the 1995 recommendation as being driven by the mistaken belief that two sites were better than three and that GEN Robles had, at that time, testified reference surge capacity. She went on to state that the 1995 commission had wisely rejected the recommendation because now the depot was running at two times the 1995 level of effort (2.1 Million Man Hours vs. 4MMH).
 - She provided for record the 2005 BRAC Army Review Board minutes showing the trail of decisions and expressed her belief that the OSD had a target to meet that drove the Red River closure.
 - She restated her point that Red River had done more than requested in meeting Army requirements and that the union there was “more loyal to the Army than to the union.”
 - She stated her belief in military value and military strategy as the dominant factor in decision-making but highlighted community effort.
 - She expressed her hope that Chairman Principi would attend the 11 July Regional Hearing (*in San Antonio*). In support of that request she cited two points: that more than three commissioners needed to be aware of the effects of BRAC on Texas and that those effects include the 8,000 drawdown at Ft Hood in addition to the Red River closure. She also alluded to the fact that Commissioner Gehman cannot be involved as a point for attendance. (*Mr. Principi responded that the calendar dominated the commission and that the commissioners who were visiting Texas had exceptional backgrounds for the task. However, in closing discussions, Mr. Principi did agree to attend the hearings.*)

3. Senator Hutchison turned the lead over to Senator Lincoln:
 - Senator Lincoln echoed the belief that the depots were working at capacity and expanded on the shared concern she had with military families about meeting the needs of the service member. She also emphasized their joint concern that by concentrating military capacity into a smaller number of depots the depot system is more vulnerable to attack.
 - Finally, she reiterated the point that Red River was running at twice its 2003 level of effort.

4. Senator Cornyn spoke next.
 - He validated military value as the main consideration in the decision and stated that the Army has repeatedly said that Red River was important to accomplishing the mission.
 - He protested that DOD BRAC recommendations were based on a 60-hour standard rather than a 40-hour standard for work and characterized that as a substantial deviation.
 - He referenced a purported change in the workload at Red River in 2005 as an indication of OSD effort to achieve Red River closure.
5. Senator Pryor made the following points:
 - He recognized the workload facing the BRAC Commission but stated that when a flaw is found, it is necessary to focus on the flaw – and that there was a flaw at both Red River and Lone Star.
 - He repeated the earlier points that the workforce was committed to the war fight.
6. Congressman Ross followed.
 - He acknowledged the BRAC site visit occurring at Red River and stated that the congressional delegation could not be there because of critical votes.
 - He stressed the Red River effort on mission with an emphasis on Bradley Fighting Vehicles. He stated that Red River was the only facility that strips and replaces track pads.
 - He referenced press reports on the HMMWV shortage and talked about the major backlog of Bradleys awaiting repair at Red River. He also mentioned the effort at Red River in fabricating armor for HMMWVs.
 - He stated that Red River was the “largest employer in a four-state region.” He talked about personal contacts he had with affected people.
 - He closed with emphasis on the military value of Red River, stating that it was the only joint depot in the United States with maintenance, ammo, and repair missions.
7. Congressman Boren pointed out that the closure of Red River also affects Oklahoma.
8. Barry Rhoads, community representative, provided information for record. He reviewed the information as having the following primary points:
 - The Secretary of the Army has stated that there is no excess capacity in the depot system.
 - The Army was forced to close Red River. They did so after being promised 2.6 million direct labor hours and supporting funding elsewhere.
 - BRAC military construction estimates are usually short of requirements.
 - DOD ignored an Army request not to use FY03 as a baseline for analysis. He went on to point out that use of FY03 as a baseline ignores the effects of the war on workload.
9. Phillip Duval, community representative, followed with:
 - The situation with the ammunition mission at Red River is the same as the depot mission. Over two million square feet of ammunition storage cannot be accommodated within the existing system if Red River closes.

- He pointed out that Red River is the number one rated supply organization and that the ammunition mission was dragged along by the closure decision on Red River.
- He also disputed the use of the 60-hour/work week capacity and noted that the Navy refused to use the 60-hour standard.

10. Senator Hutchison closed with the following comments:

- She thanked the chair for the time allotted.
- She pointed out the proximity of Red River to the two biggest bases in the United States: Fort Hood and Fort Bliss. She also cited its proximity to mobilization ports.
- She re-emphasized the concern with FY03 data use. She noted the effects of war escalation on the baseline workload and that “the Army and Marines are carrying the load for this war.”
- Finally, she highlighted the community support as illustrated by the depot slogan, “Work as if your life depended on it. Theirs does.”

11. The meeting ended at 1010.