

BRAC Commission

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**Dear Commissioners:**

**Fact: Do you know that Fort Sill, Oklahoma does not have the land space or ranges for the new and developing air defense weapon systems that is due out 2009-2015?**

**Fact: Fort Sill commander sent a representative to Fort Bliss to gather all the data needed to accommodate the air defense school. Do you know what their plans are? They are trying to buy more land because they do not have the land or ranges needed to conduct air defense training in it's entirety at Fort Sill.**

**Fact: If Fort Sill can't purchase the land needed do you know they are planning to have two separate training bases. The air defenders will do the classroom portion of the training at Fort Sill and the hands on training/live fire exercises will be conducted at Fort Bliss. That means the soldier will not touch the actual equipment until he or she gets back to Fort Bliss, Texas. That means you will have to maintain two training base. Does that make any sense?**

**Fact: The JLENS system project office at Huntsville, Alabama did a range study to determine where the JLENS aerostat can be tested and trained at. Guess where the study and test have to be conducted? Fort Bliss, Texas or Eglin AFB, Florida. Do you know Fort Sill, Oklahoma did not meet the minimum land requirements to fly the JLENS aerostat? This is only one system. The following systems will need the same or more land space and airspace: JLENS, THAAD, MEADS, C-RAM.**

**Fact: Fort Sill will have to send all the soldiers who are associated with the weapon systems stated above back to Fort Bliss. How much will this cost the taxpayers? Where is the effectiveness and efficiency in the training process if you have two training sites and no hands on training during the first phase of training?**

**Fact: Do you know Fort Sill, Oklahoma was on the last BRAC closure list and why? Fort Sill can't fire it's own long-range rockets in that area. Guess where they come to fire and test their rockets? Fort Bliss/White Sands Missile Range.**

**Fact: Do you know it will take two years to conduct an environmental impact study to see what type of affect each radar will have on the environment in that area? Those studies have already been conducted in the Fort Bliss area.**

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**Fact: The consolidation of the air defense school with the field artillery school is probably a good idea, but moving Fort Bliss to Fort Sill is not. The last BRAC commissioned used logic, facts and common sense.**

**Opinion: After looking at all of the facts this decision was not made with logic, facts or common sense it was based on POLITICS!**

**Thanks,**

  
**James M. LaFrance**