

BRAC Commission

6-01-2005

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Received

Why Pope Airbase?

Just after Desert Storm in 1991, Ft. Bragg (home of the Field Artillery) and it's Airborne Generals staff planted a seed on Pope Air force base called Airborne & Special Ops. A small group of airman were selected totaling about 30 individuals. The seed then took it's course and today there could possibly be over 300 members in this elite group. This seed I consider to be a terminal cancer has been growing out of control ever since. The Generals at Ft. Bragg knew it then and this is why we are here today forced to decide the future of Pope Air force Base. I as a member of the non-airborne community can see but only three (3) choices that this board has to offer to the President of the United States.

Choice #1,

Keep Pope Air force Base as is and let the Pope Staff run pope. Let these commanders take care of their own destiny.

Choice #2, Give all control of the Base to the Army. Get all Air force Personnel out of Pope and disseminate them in other airbases. This will give the Army full control of both bases which was the intentions of the Ft. Bragg Generals. This way they can continue their Airborne Ops for another sixty years at a cost of a Billion dollars annually. This will also enable them to connect the Rockefeller property called Overhills (which they own) located north on highway 87 north of the town of Springlake.

Choice #3, Why not close Simmons airfield located on Murchison road in Fayetteville and move all operations to Pope Air force Base. By doing this you will also save the U.S. Billions of dollars. Or, How about Camp McCall? will anyone check this place out?

If the intent of this committee is to save our tax payers money and our Government lots of revenues then let me give some suggestions that I hope you will consider in your decision making process.

1. Get rid of the Army's Racing car used for Advertising.
2. Audit the Army Immediately and all agency's attached to the Army.
3. Get rid of those 20 Generals coming out of Forscom Command.
4. Get rid of the Second Lieutenant rank and Major rank.
5. Get rid of the Master Sergeant Rank and the Sargent Major rank.
6. Get rid of the MWR fund or take real control of where that money goes too.
7. Get rid of Bases overseas first before you do so in the U.S.
8. Get rid of excess Museums. See what they have accomplished for the soldiers.
9. Audit all Army Museums right away especially the one off Post illegally built in Downtown Fayetteville.(Supposedly built in the name of taking care of our fallen soldiers.)
10. Get rid of Airborne Operations.
11. Stop waste fraud and abuse conducted by your higher commanders. (i.e.) Soldiers forced to go to museums on their off times, buses sent full of soldiers to attend ceremonies that they don't want or need to attend.
12. Get rid of gate guards manned by civilians and security police.
13. Get rid of wasteful expending at the old Womack Hospital. currently Ft. Bragg is spending ten million dollars for each floor and lord knows how much was spent to replace the heating and air-conditioning unit.
14. Get rid of contracts on Ft. Bragg that cost too much just to give the soldiers free services. These people are the sloppiest people in town and since they get paid by a contract they continue to do bad jobs. If they have to do it all over again and again and again, then what's the point.

15. Get rid of the leaders who make soldiers stay at hotels on post at a much higher cost than what they'd have to pay outside base. All this because they come with orders that they have to stay on base.

These are some of the things that are wrong with the Army today. Because of these things we have soldiers who have had enough and are giving up. Many careers have ended because no one wanted to see how important these soldiers are. The only one's to blame for the retention problem we have in our Army today is the General leadership that is currently on command. These leaders need to be looking at this very seriously. Fingers have to be pointed and action needs to be taken. The deployment of the same units, deploying more then 3 times a year is wrong and upsetting. Activation of national guards and reserves is also wrong when we have active duty soldiers on many posts throughout the United States who have never deployed. You can't bring a 3 Star General out of Afghanistan who was told to retire and then turn around and promote him to a four star. Then he was given the biggest command in Atlanta. Take a closer look at some of the things I have mentioned and I promise you will find more than enough funds to run all of the armed forces. Above all you will stop placing soldiers on welfare rosters and wives receiving (WIC) to get by.


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