



Radiological Society of North America  
Founded in 1915

820 Jorie Boulevard  
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-2251  
630/571-2670  
FAX: 630/571-7837  
www.rsna.org



August 29, 2005

BRAC Commission

SEP 01 2005

Received

BRAC Commission

Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC)  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
The Polk Building  
Arlington, VA 22202

SEP 01 2005

Received

ATTN: Anthony J. Principi, Chairman and Commissioners

SUBJECT: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

Dear Sirs and Madams:

This letter is in reference to the planned closure of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP). I serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Radiological Society of North America. RSNA is an association of more than 37,000 radiologists, radiation oncologists and related scientists committed to promoting excellence in radiology through education and by fostering research with the ultimate goal of improving patient care.

We firmly believe that the AFIP is a treasured national resource. AFIP has sponsored a formal radiologic-pathologic course for military and civilian residents in radiology for more than fifty years. This course is attended by almost 90% of the radiology residents training in the United States and Canada. Attendance at this course fulfills the requirement of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and our Residency Review Committee for education in pathology and radiologic-pathologic correlation during radiology residency. The AFIP therefore has served as an integral part of our training programs.

In addition, a large pathologically-proven imaging archive of more than 38,000 cases has been developed and maintained by the AFIP. Approximately 1200 to 1300 cases are added each year through AFIP consultations and as a result of the courses. Cases since 1997 are in a digital format. This archive is the only pathologically-proven collection of radiologic/imaging material in the world.

The radiology community at large and the Radiological Society of North America feel very strongly that the AFIP should be preserved and that certainly the imaging archives should be maintained along with the tissue repository. We hope that these archives will be continued and expanded in the future. It is essential that the radiology archives, including "Ask AFIP," be fully digitized and made available to the public or licensed to organizations and universities.

Thank you very much for considering our comments.

Very truly yours,

Theresa C. McLoud, MD  
Radiological Society of North America  
Board of Directors Liaison for Education

BRAC Commission

SEP 01 2005

Received

cc: R. Gilbert Jost, MD, RSNA Chairman of the Board  
Dave Fellers, CAE, RSNA Executive Director

Board of Directors  
R. Gilbert Jost, MD  
*Chairman*  
David H. Hussey, MD  
*President*

Robert R. Hattery, MD  
Theresa C. McLoud, MD  
Gary J. Becker, MD  
Hedvig Hricak, MD, PhD

Burton P. Drayer, MD  
George S. Bisset III, MD  
Dave Fellers, CAE  
*Executive Director*

*Ninety-First Annual Meeting  
November 27 - December 2  
Chicago, IL*

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) **AUG 29 2005**  
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 exceptional service to our nation's military community, but also contributes an enormous wealth of knowledge and education to the medical field's understanding of human disease.

The AFIP tissue repository is an invaluable national treasure that must remain intact, adequately maintained, and accessible to researchers and experts in the field of pathology. The AFIP's collection of specimen's is greater and more diverse than any institution in the world and aids medical professionals in the understanding of human disease processes that eventually leads to new insights into the development of vaccines and treatments for 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 medical professionals in pathology, radiology, forensics, infectious disease, as well as other sub-specialties like nephrology, ophthalmology, and urology. Over 7,000 health professionals received education or additional training in 2004 through a variety of AFIP-sponsored venues, including seminars, internet courses, and hands-on-training.

The AFIP's leadership in the area of education and training of medical professionals is exceptional. In fact, the pathologists at the AFIP, in my opinion, set the "gold standard" by which pathologists are trained today. I currently use every pathology-related fascicle or book from the AFIP's enormous collection for my education and training as an upcoming pathologist. I can honestly state that the individuals who compose these documents are the best in their field. Furthermore, the tissue repository and numerous consultations these experts perform annually provide the foundation by which their expert knowledge is maintained, advanced, and furthermore disseminated to the rest of the medical community.

With these thoughts, I plead that the AFIP be removed from the list of military facilities slated for closure.

Thank you for you consideration,

Bobby Boyanton, MD, MT(ASCP)

 8/24/2005



BRAC Commission

**Kansas State University®**

**AUG 29 2005**

Received

**Veterinary Diagnostic  
Laboratory**

Department of Diagnostic  
Medicine/Pathobiology  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
208L Mosier Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506 -5703  
785-532-5650  
Fax: 785-532-4481

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

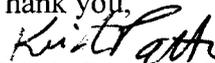
To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Veterinary Pathologist and it was brought to my attention that the Army Medical Command has recommended to BRAC a discretionary move for the Veterinary Pathology section of AFIP. I urge the BRAC to uphold this discretionary move. The Veterinary pathology section of AFIP is vital to the residency training programs for anatomic pathologist. All of the residency programs as well as the state diagnostic laboratories partake in the Wednesday slide conference correlated and distributed to these institutions. The conference is a vital portion of all of the training programs as it provides abundant examples of diseases that are regionalized. Many residents would never have the opportunity to see lesions from disease in other parts of the United States and throughout the world. Additionally, in collaboration with the CL Davis foundation the training opportunities provided in laboratory animal pathology (POLA course), as well as the gross and histological courses are invaluable. These courses are of utmost importance in training will rounded proficient veterinary pathologists. Lastly, the consulting function of the AFIP is of great value. Occasional diseases are novel or difficult to diagnose. The resource of AFIP allows practicing pathologists a resource of knowledgeable colleagues to collaborate with. In many cases, collections of novel cases from throughout the country by the AFIP have lead to discovery of new and emerging diseases.

The veterinary section of the AFIP is invaluable in the defense of this country through the training of veterinary pathologists and the research functions it performs.

I highly recommend that this section remains intact as no other agency will fulfill all of the missions that it is currently performing.

Thank you,

  
Kristin Patton, DVM, PhD, DACVP  
Assistant Professor  
Kansas State University



# Monongalia General Hospital

August 25, 2005

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

BRAC Commission

Aug 29 2005

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.

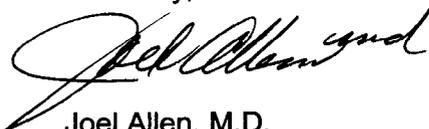
Each year the AFIP issues hundreds of thousands of hours in continuing medical education to a diverse group of medical professionals that specialize in pathology, forensics, radiology, emerging infectious disease, renal disease, ophthalmology, and urology. In fact, over 7,400 medical and other health 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,



Joel Allen, M.D.  
Vice President/Medical Affairs

BATE Commission

**AUG 29 2005**

Received

Wednesday 24 of August, 2005

Dear Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner:

I am a Spanish pathologist that had the opportunity of rotating in the Department of pulmonary and mediastinal pathology, in the AFIP, twice, in 1997 and 1998, where I could learn a lot of interesting matters from the wise pathologists that I met there. Also, I am one of the numerous Spanish pathologists that are fond of the marvellous books edited by the AFIP. So I must say that I am not the only one in Spain that is really sad of hearing about the closure of this important Institute of Pathology.

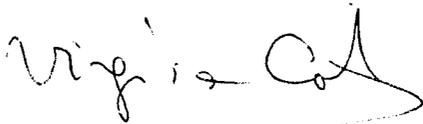
.Perhaps it has to be relocated in another building, if there is any problem with the present one or it could be transformed into a Civilian service, instead of Military. I do not know how to arrange the problem (I am only a pathologist, since 20 years ago): but what I see clearly is that the possibility of loosing the case material and the expert personnel of the AFIP would be a great mistake.

So, please, try to help to preserve as much as it is possible . of this institution that is admired since many years ago all around the world

My first AFIP book was an "Ophthalmic Pathology" that belonged to my father ( he was an ophthalmologist), and when a finished my speciality he buy a newer edition for me, Spencer's )

Please, excuse by deficient English.

Many thanks for reading it and I send you my best regards



---

Dr. Virginia Cortés Vizcaíno  
Servicio de Anatomía Patológica  
Hospital Universitario" La Paz"  
Paseo de la Castellana nº 261  
28029-Madrid  
Spain

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

BRAC Commission

AUG 29 2005

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. Today, the AFIP presents a relatively unique face of our military to the rest of the world. As an internationally acclaimed resource of medical expertise, it is an overwhelmingly successful ambassador to the world of our military and national commitment to improving the health and lives of people all over the World. 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.

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. Through its many avenues of training it shows the world that the United States cares about the health needs of the World. Every interaction yields one more person or institution who sees the good we are trying to do and will support us in small and large matters. Loss of the AFIP will have global repercussions and our image across the world today will, I think, look even worse when people see the USA has closed an outstanding portion of our military that is totally dedicated to Life and Health.

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.

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.

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,



500 Gypsy Lane  
P.O. Box 240  
Youngstown, Ohio 44501-0240

Gary K. SeGall PhD MD

(330) 884-3790 FAX  
(330) 884-3767 PHONE

---

**WAKE FOREST**

SCHOOL of MEDICINE  
THE BOWMAN GRAY CAMPUS

BRAC Commission

Department of Pathology

SECTION ON COMPARATIVE MEDICINE

*Comparative Medicine Clinical Research Center*

August 25, 2005

**AUG 29 2005**

Received

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commission Members:

I was astounded to read in "CAP Today", the newsletter of the College of American Pathologists, that the Department of Defense is contemplating the closure of Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), including the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP). I can imagine few things that would have a more detrimental effect on the long-term ability of our nation to respond to bioterrorism.

Speaking for the specialty that lies within my own expertise, the Veterinary Pathology division of the AFIP. This unit is a critical national resource for the prevention of bioterrorism through the identification of unusual infectious diseases. It is an extraordinary, academically-respected and unique nexus through which knowledge about exotic animal disease and bioterrorism agents is both transmitted and received across the country, and it serves a critical training function that is not served by any other private or public entity in the US. This division needs your highest level of support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Cline, DVM, PhD  
Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Pathologists  
Associate Professor of Pathology  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine  
Winston-Salem, NC 27157-1040  
336 716 1564  
[jmcline@wfubmc.edu](mailto:jmcline@wfubmc.edu)

cc: Senators Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr

*Wake Forest University Health Sciences*