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August 26, 2005

**BRAC Commission**

Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC)  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

**SEP 02 2005**

Received

Dear Chairman Principi:

On behalf of the American Nurses Association, I am writing to urge that final BRAC recommendations related to Walter Reed Army Medical Center do include recommendations to ensure that this historic center for research and health care be preserved in such a way to keep its history alive for future generations.

The American Nurses Association is the only full-service national association representing registered nurses. Through our 54 constituent members, we represent nurses in all practice settings. Our members include many registered nurses who have had direct connections to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and remember it as a premier training and research facility for the Army's medical personnel.

We understand the rationale for recommending the relocation of this facility and its recognized mission, functions and name within the region to form a world-class joint Medical Center to serve all our military personnel and veterans. However, we are concerned that the legacy of the historic Walter Reed 113 acre campus and everything it represents will not be adequately transferred or preserved. For example, the future of the National Museum of Health and Medicine which is also located on the Walter Reed campus remains unclear.

Therefore as you continue to deliberate regarding the future of the current site, we urge you to work to ensure that the legacy and history of Walter Reed Army Medical Center is maintained.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara A. Blakeney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Barbara A. Blakeney, MS, RN  
President