

BRAC Commission

AUG 22 2005

Received

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21 August 2005

Hon Anthony J Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S Clark Street, Ste 600
ARLINGTON VA 22202

Dear Sir,

I understand your Commission is tasked to consider the future role of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), Washington DC.

As a former British Army (Royal Army Medical Corps) Exchange Officer at the AFIP from 1974-1976 I have some appreciation of the vast and unique contribution that the Institute makes to the professional lives of medical and military personnel. This role extends not only across the United States of America but also internationally throughout civilian pathology. The AFIP is a reference centre of pathology teaching, research and service excellence with an important role in world health. My own professional experience in Europe, the UK, Asia and now Australasia followed training which was fortunately enhanced by time at the AFIP. Other military and civilian health professionals I have met throughout the world have benefited from the same source.

Any changes following logistic review of the AFIP for purposes of military resource allocation must not damage the special role the AFIP plays in world health and pathology expertise. This role had developed from its particular historic base which is beyond simple state or national boundaries and is greater than any civilian or military function alone.

I hope that more weighty opinions than my own will be forthcoming from the professional bodies in the USA, the Royal College of Pathologists (UK) and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.

I am grateful for the opportunity to address you and your Commission.

Yours faithfully,



C M Chabrel

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