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BRAC Commission

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2503

JUL 15 2005

Received

July 1, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi,

Thank you again for holding the regional BRAC hearing in St. Louis and for rescheduling it in order to afford impacted personnel adequate time to review the critical justification data. Clearly, this additional time proved useful in that the 131st Fighter Wing, and particularly the Human Resources Command (HRC), provided compelling testimony and new information that peaked the visiting Commissioner's interest and prompted a follow-up site visit at HRC Alexandria. It is for this reason, we are following up in order to ensure you have ALL relevant information pertaining to the very compelling reasons to consolidate HRC at the current center in St. Louis.

Two of the primary justifications DoD stated for realigning HRC St. Louis to Fort Knox were a desire to divest itself of leased facilities and to consolidate the functions of the three disparate HRC sites in order to gain greater efficiencies. We would concur with this approach and applaud DoD's efforts. However, it appears DoD did not consider nor did they attempt to contact GSA about a potential inter-governmental transfer option that would eliminate any lease costs by transferring ownership of the St. Louis facility to DoD from GSA. This not only neutralizes DoD's claimed advantage of Fort Knox saving over \$550M in lease costs, but will also avoid what GSA estimates will be another \$300M plus in new construction costs for a 950,000 square foot facility. As HRC leadership and BRAC themselves have indicated, NO facility at Fort Knox of this size exists and none can currently house all HRC staff in one location. DoD's recommendations do not account for the cost of a new facility and the taxpayer could avoid spending millions on the unnecessary duplication of facilities. This option would also utilize a less than 15 year old facility built exclusively for the specific functions associated with a DoD personnel and records center.

The federal records center in St. Louis is a modern facility with a modern fiber-optic IT infrastructure, a trained and experienced workforce that would not need to be relocated, and more than enough existing space to accommodate the Army's desire for "surge capability." The St. Louis HRC facility, known as the Prevedel Building, includes 377,000 rentable square feet (rsf) of space and an additional 1 million rsf available on the Federal Records Center complex for HRC usage. The Federal Records Center consists of approximately 79 acres, with enough adjacent land available from St. Louis county to increase this to 114 acres. There is abundant parking available, and the location is highly secure featuring significant set-backs from the street, as well as perimeter and internal access controls. Further, we are told Army wants to "start fresh"

as a business program and service provider which is maximized by a move to a new location. A business program endeavor of this magnitude needs to consider the available labor force, infrastructure and performance costs of any new location. Locating this facility in an urban center like St. Louis maximizes service and improves efficiencies.

In addition, it is our understanding officials have been told by DoD and HRC that there is a real desire to offset the loss of the Armor Center by realigning other functions at Fort Knox. We are troubled by these statements, as BRAC's mission is not about figuring out how to save an existing installation, but rather, how to best posture our facilities to best serve our warfighters, provide the most military value for our nation's defense and increase cost savings for the American taxpayer, in this case, approximately \$1 billion in savings. While DoD "claims" a \$1.9 billion savings, there has not been a single instance where that savings has been given an accounting.

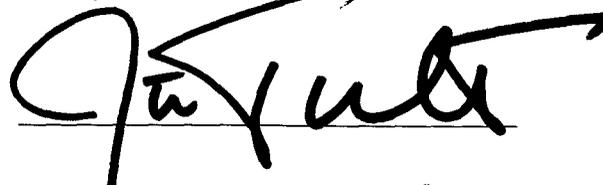
It is for all of these reasons that we support the BRAC process and hope that you will reassess the decision to realign Human Resources Command to Fort Knox and consider St. Louis as the new home for a consolidated HRC. We believe to do less places in question the goals, stated requirements and integrity of the BRAC process.

Sincerely,









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