

June 1, 2005



TO: BRAC Commission
Senator Jim Inhofe
Senator Tom Coburn
Congressman Tom Cole

Lawton Mayor John Purcell
Lawton Ft Sill Chamber of Commerce

Disclaimer: The following letter is submitted as a private citizen who is affected by the proposed closing of Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Lawton. I am not a spokesperson for DFAS nor do I represent my opinion to be an official DFAS position.

Subject: Proposed closing of the DFAS Lawton-Ft Sill, OK Field Site

Initial Recommendation: BRAC Commission reassess the closing of DFAS Lawton.

Justification:

LOCATION: DFAS Lawton is in a unique position as it is one of the few field sites to be located on an active Army military installation. This DFAS facility is located on Ft Sill, Oklahoma, a Strategic Power Projection Platform, which is in a "Gain" status for mission and personnel under the current BRAC recommendations.

SECURITY: Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, recommends moving civilian workers to secure military installations. Ft Sill fully complies with the DOD Antiterrorist and Force Protection Standards (AT/FP). It is further enhanced with security fencing surrounding the cantonment area of the installation and employs security guards at all entrances. The installation is presently in the process of acquiring additional "buffer zone" corridors. The DFAS Lawton building fully complies with all agency security requirements, i.e. to include security cameras on the outside of the building to monitor the parking lots and all outside areas, as well as concrete barriers set 85 feet from door access to protect against truck bombs. The inside cameras monitor all entrances and the building is equipped with a swipe-card door security system. All windows have been coated with Mylar to prevent shattering. The mail room has restricted access and the HVAC system is designed to shut down the air handlers should Anthrax be detected.

COSTS: DFAS Lawton/Ft Sill Base Operations (BASOPS) budget is currently less than \$500K per year and is historically one of the lowest field site budgets. The "cost of living" in the Lawton, Oklahoma vicinity is one of the lowest nationwide. There are an abundance of affordable homes and apartments in this area. Additionally, Lawton recently received the 2005 NAID/ADC Defense Community of the Year Award.

PRESENT MISSION: DFAS Lawton/Fort Sill currently provides **Travel Pay** and **Accounting** services to eight installations, i.e. Ft Irwin, CA, Ft Carson, CO, Ft Riley, KS, Ft Leonardwood, MO, Ft Bliss, TX, Ft Hood, TX, Ft Sill, OK and Ft Lee, VA. Of these, Ft Carson, Ft Riley, Ft Sill, Ft Lee and Ft Bliss have been identified to substantially gain mission and an **additional total for these five installations, of 29,674 personnel**, under current BRAC recommendations. We provide **Vendor Pay** services to the same eight installations as well as Ft Huachuca, AZ, Ft Deitrich, MD,

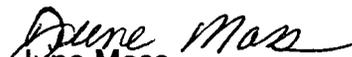
Seaside, CA and Europe. We are also a regional site for the **Defense Travel Systems (DTS)** providing services to all installations West of Mississippi.

EXPANSION: DFAS Lawton-Ft Sill has the available capacity to expand the current mission to include the "gains" of installations already serviced. DFAS Lawton is in a recently fully renovated building with state of the art HVAC systems, a Learning Resource Center with computer equipped training rooms as well as lecture type training rooms, which are also available for use by Ft Sill. There is also a Video Teleconference Center (VTC) located on site. There is 22,000 sq ft of available vacant space which is occupant ready, to include being equipped with LAN lines and phone lines access. The building is also fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). No Military Construction (MILCON) funding would be required to accommodate an additional 350 people. There is ample lighted parking to support an increase if personnel were transferred to this location. There is sufficient on-site warehouse capacity to continue to house all records for all eight installations serviced as well as any potential expansion. **No records** are sent to the Federal Records Center, thus providing a huge cost savings. Imaging equipment and procedures are currently in place and daily imaging of all Vendor Pay, Travel Pay and some Accounting records is accomplished, facilitating electronic access. It is projected that the increase in the operating budget (BASOPS) for an additional workload would be less than \$200K. This figure would result in a huge cost savings when compared to the cost of closing this site.

Payback: DFAS Lawton enjoys high customer service satisfaction. Adding additional workload would be a benefit and allow us to continue to provide world class financial services to our customers. Cost savings by consolidating workload to this location outweigh the costs of closing this site and relocating personnel.

Final Recommendation: Remove DFAS Lawton from the proposed closure list.

Respectfully submitted,


June Moss

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