

U.S. Army Armor School and Center
Fort Knox, Kentucky

BRAC Commission

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Dear Commissnors,

Hello my name is Jason Royalty and I live in Eastview, Kentucky. It is a very small rural community in Hardin County, which is home to Fort Knox. I am writing you about a very important issue that is before you now, the issue is the Army Armor School and Center which is right now at Fort Knox. Though the Department of Defense wants to move the Armor School and Center to Fort Benning, Georgia. I as a taxpayer feel this is very wrong and really not needed! The Armor School and Center have been at Fort Knox since the 1940's and has always done good at Fort Knox. Also Fort Knox already has all the tank ranges and other facilities that are need for the school and center! So I ask you why should it be moved and waste all that money? This country is at war right now, prices of things are going up and up we need to save money! Some say that the government believes that this will save money in the future, but we need to save money now! The war we are in costs this country about 2 billion dollars a week is what is told, and it just keeps getting worst and worst! How long will we have to pay for this war? There are so many things people need but can't afford to buy them. People can't afford gas, healthcare, food sometimes, housing, and many more things! It is said that it will cost around 1.7 billion dollars to move the Armor School and Center to Fort Benning. What could 1.7 billion dollars do to really help people? Some say that the move is to help National Security, if you want to help National Security then protect our borders, ports, airports, trains and subways, food and water supply, and more! How is moving the Armor School isn't going to help National Security? Is it going to protect our borders, ports, airports, and more? Is moving the Armor School going to help the homeless, the sick that don't have insurance, and more? I think this would be a waste of money, THE TAXPAYERS MONEY! I believe that it would be very wrong for our government to do this. How many people die each year from sickness because they don't have health insurance and can't afford treatment? How many homeless people die each year from sleeping out side in the weather or because they don't have enough to eat? If Fort Knox isn't going to be closed there isn't no good reason to move the Armor School and Center. Which there is also now talk that the Patton Museum would be moved to Fort Benning. How much would this cost to move the Patton Museum? Which the Patton Museum has always been at Fort Knox and is Hardin Countys number one tourist attraction! Just this year a new entrance was built for the Patton Museum, which I believe the state of Kentucky paid for and which costed a couple of million dollars. So if the Patton Museum is moved then that is a couple million dollars wasted. Which if the Museum was moved then Hardin County would lose alot of money in tourist dollars. I am sorry if none of this makes sense its just I feel that this is very wrong and a waste of the taxpayers moneys. It is so hard for people to make it right now, I live from pay check to pay check. Everything is going up but peoples pay isn't going up that much. Its seems like more and more taxes are put on the people and the country debt goes up and up. How many trillion dollars is the country's debt? Also they want to close the hospital (Ireland Army Hospital) and make a clinic, I feel this is wrong to. I work at the hospital in Hardin County(Hardin Memorial Hospital, Elizabethtown, Kentucky) and I don't know if Hardin Memorial could handle the extra patient flow. We are only a 300 bed hospital that takes care of Hardin County which is around 98,000 in population and we also take care of 7 or 8 surrounding counties to. We are a regional hospital. We are also owned by Hardin County. Another recommendation would be to bring a Infantry Brigade combat Team to Fort Knox, this is a recomendation I fully support! I think this would be good for Fort Knox, thought moving the Armor School and Center, closing the hospital, and moving the Patton Museum will be very bad for Fort Knox! Each BRAC Commission seems to hurt Fort Knox more and more I feel if the Armor School and Center is taken away from Fort Knox that the next round it may be close which would almost kill Hardin County and surrounding areas. According to the Department of Defenses numbers if the recommendations are followed that Fort Knox will lose 10,159 soldier but only gain back 5,292 soldiers. with a net loss of 4,867 soldiers for Fort Knox. According to their numbers they would lose around 772 civil jobs but gain around 1,739 civil jobs. I got these numbers off of your site www.brac.gov. Yes we would be gaining more civilian jobs but losing a lot of Soldiers. If merger of the Armor Center and Infantry Center then which would be cheaper to do? Would it be to move the Armor School and Center and Patton Museum to Fort Benning? Or would it be cheaper to move the Infantry School and Center and Infantry Musuem to Fort Knox? Has this question been asked and looked into? I feel that it would be cheaper and better to move the Infantry School and Center to Fort Knox. Fort Knox is a great base and a American Image! How many people have heard of Fort Knox? Then ask the general public how many have heard of Fort Benning? Many have heard of Fort Knox and yes because of the Gold Vault and the Patton Museum, but I feel it needs to remain a strong base. With moving the Armor School and Patton Museum I feel that it would weaken Fort Knox and could help close Fort Knox in the future. Do you want Fort Knox to be weak and in danger

to be closed in the future? Also I feel cost of construction would be cheaper in Kentucky than in Georgia. If merger is needed then bring the Infantry School and Center and Infantry Museum to Fort Knox and let Fort Benning have the Army Accessions Command and Cadet Command and the Human Resources Command. Also bring the 84th Army Reserve Readiness Training Center from Fort McCoy and the 100th Army Reserve Division Headquarters to Fort Knox. Also bring the Infantry Brigade combat Team to Fort Knox and maybe in the future another one to. There is a news paper article I am will be sending with the letter that I got out of The News Enterprise which is in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. The writer of the letter supports moving the Infantry School and Center and Infantry Museum to Fort Knox. You are trusted to do what is right for the people, not what the Department of Defense wants. You work for the American people not the Department of Defense. Its the peoples money that will have to pay for this don't waste it. Remember that we are at war that costs around 2 billion dollars a week and there isn't any end in site. It is said that we have already spent over 200 billion dollars on the war. Is it smart to move something that is perfectly alright where it is now and waste the taxpayers money? Especially when the cost of living is going up and up, but salaries aren't going up that much. How much more wasteful spending is our government going to burden the taxpayers with? I am writing you and putting my trust and hope in you that you will think of the taxpayers! And that you will help keep a American Imagine strong, which that imagine is Fort Knox Kentucky! Fort Knox is the Home of the Armor and Calvary! Also Home of the Patton Museum! Please don't take that away from us and don't put our local base in danger of future closure please I beg you! I know that two of the commissnors have visited Fort Knox but I encourage all of you to come to Fort Knox and see what a great base it is! Also see the great Armor School and Center at Fort Knox! Also visit the Patton Museum one of the militarys greatest museums! Fort Knox is one of Kentuckys greatest things and a part of that is the Armor School and Center and the Patton Museum. Please help us either keep the Armor School and Center here along with the Patton Museum or let the merger be here by bring the Infantry School and Center with the Infantry Museum to Fort Knox and let Fort Benning have the Accession Command and Human Resource Command. Please don't let us down, our elected officials seem to have let us down, I hope you don't. Come and visit Fort Knox and see what a great base it is! Thanks for your service and your time. Bye for now.

Jason Dale Royalty

Eastview, Kentucky

A plan to keep armor where it belongs

In a previous letter, I made the point that the base realignment proposal to merge the armor and infantry agencies at Fort Benning should be changed to Fort Knox, mainly because of the tremendous savings.

Thus far, I know of nothing that is being done to make this happen, and time is of the essence. Perhaps I was not explicit enough about what is at stake and what needs to be done.

Concerning costs, the Georgia booster said that bringing the city of Fort Knox to his area would "mean some \$1.7 billion in new construction over an eight-year period." That is a stupendous amount. It must have come from his military and congressional contacts, so it is bound to have some validity.

This cost of relocating the Infantry Center and School to Fort Knox would be far less because of their simpler requirements for training and maintenance. A good guesstimate for such work would probably be about \$500 million. A savings of a whopping \$1.2 billion, if true. Even if off by a few hundred million, that still is mind-boggling.

At the same time, having Fort Knox as the merger site would ensure its tank facilities do not go to waste, add several hundred million dollars to construction on post, keep the Patton Museum in place and supplement it with the Infantry Museum, keep Ireland in a hospital status, and bolster the population of the post and the surrounding areas by 10,000-20,000 or more.

All of this should certainly be enough to get the movers and

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shakers moving and shaking for their constituents. Their inaction to date most likely stems from believing misleading comments about its necessity. Remarks such as "military efficiency and effectiveness," "adapting to the new national security environment," etc., have been offered as justification. Actually, these things have no bearing on the location of the merger site.

In fact, it would be criminal to largely abandon the tank ranges and various structures at Fort Knox and then spend huge sums duplicating them at Fort Benning. Let the Peach State have the Accessions and Human Resources Commands and give the taxpayers a break. Fort Knox has an overwhelming cost advantage for hosting this merger. Now it is a question of laying this out and presenting it to the BRAC commission. I have prepared a draft letter to them to show what type of information is needed for this counter-proposal. It has been sent to *The News-Enterprise* so they can request this data through public information office channels.

The next step is for local leaders (government, civic and business) to review this correspondence and endorse it if in agreement. The letter should probably be sent no later than Aug. 8, because of the BRAC Commission's deadline for completing its work.

With so much on the line, not challenging this BRAC proposal would be a disservice to many Kentuckians and all taxpayers in general.

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Radcliff

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