20 July, 2005

BRAC Commission
DCN: 6959
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To the Commission

I am writing to urge you to keep two installations: Ft Monroe, Va. & Ft Sill, Ok open and intact. Those two posts are not only integral to the Army's current mission, they are key elements in the history of the US Army and the United States itself.

I had the great privilege to serve as a docent at the Casemate Museum at Ft Monroe for two years. During that time, I took countless visitors on tour telling them the history of the post & thus a history of a key time in American history and some of the main players in that period of history (ie Abraham Lincoln, Robert E Lee, Jefferson Davis, Edgar Allan Poe). Many of the visitors were foreign nationals travelling to America for the first time. All wanted to learn the history of our country and of its people & thus Ft Monroe is a common destination for foreign nationals as well as American citizens who are travelling in Virginia. I found the same curiosity about Ft Sill when I was stationed at Ft Sill especially since Geronimo and many other famous American Indians are buried there.

It seems to be a unique and depressing trait of our country to destroy physical history in the name of progress. Buildings and sites that are indiginous to the rich and varied history of America should be preserved and utilized as those two venerable posts are so that visitors can get a strong sense of our nations history (to which the history of the US Army is so very closely tied) and see how that history has flowed through and is

2) in progress as they visit today!

I appreciate the challenge you face in making selections for the base closures. Each closure will have an impact on the local economy, the families living on the installation, people working at the installation, and retirees who may be using the installation. FT Monroe, VA and FT Sill, OK have such unique status in the history of America, however. Please leave them intact for future generations of Americans and world citizens to see and learn about our rich history.

Thank you for your attention

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