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July 20, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission in San Antonio. Your personal presence was especially appreciated, but we deeply regretted that you had to depart before our Central Texas/ Fort Hood presentation. In light of that, I would like to provide you with a copy of our slides along with other backup materials that you, the other commissioners or the BRAC staff might find useful.

My greatest personal concern with the Office of the Secretary of Defense's (OSD) recommendations involves costs associated with the proposed moves. While Fort Hood was not listed as an installation impacted by realignment, it is in fact losing over 9,000 authorizations between now and 2009. This move of authorizations to both Fort Bliss and Fort Carson has a one-time cost (by OSD estimates) of \$452.3 million, and according to the Government Accountability Office and OSD never pays back even though the BRAC criteria indicates that the payback period should not exceed twenty years. Additionally, OSD acknowledges that the 20-year net present value cost for the relocation of one brigade combat team (BCT) and UEx Headquarters from Fort Hood to Fort Carson will cost \$980.4 million. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am very concerned about these proposed additional expenditures accrued in the name of Army transformation.

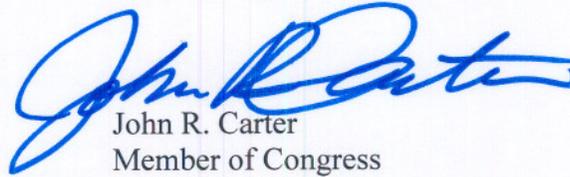
Currently, Fort Hood is adequately housing and training six BCTs, and would be under utilized if reduced to only five BCTs as the OSD recommends. The Army's own base support cost data confirms that Fort Hood is the Army's most efficient heavy maneuver post, yet the Department of Defense (DoD) recommendations would reduce those efficiencies to a level approximating 85 percent. Fort Carson has never supported more than two heavy brigades. The costs of building the necessary infrastructure to accommodate two additional BCTs at Fort Carson seems grossly inefficient in this period of great demand on our national resources in the global War on Terrorism.

I urge you to carefully review our presentation, which highlights the shortcomings of the DoD process and analysis. I believe you will see that the facts do not support the DoD rationale, and

it will be clear to you that Fort Hood can train and support six heavy BCTs better than any other installation in the Army.

I strongly recommend that you and the BRAC Commission reverse the DoD's recommendations and leave six heavy BCTs at Fort Hood.

Respectfully,



John R. Carter
Member of Congress

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