



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BRAC Commission

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2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Base Closure and Realignment Commission:

This autumn, McMurry University marks its 45<sup>th</sup> year of partnership with Dyess Air Force Base. The McMurry-Dyess Air Force Base Program is designed to offer residential undergraduate coursework to active duty military personnel through on-base and on-campus offerings. Our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) specifically permits the general education component of the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Program to be offered on-base at Dyess. The McMurry-Dyess Program has a full-time doctoral prepared director with offices at Dyess and McMurry.

During the most recent academic year, the McMurry-Dyess Program had approximately 175 active duty students, with most beginning coursework via the CCAF and in the general education courses that support that degree program. Dyess AFB airmen and their families pursue baccalaureate degrees in nearly every one of the 44 academic disciplines offered at McMurry University.

McMurry has supported the military members with a variety of scholarships and financial assistance considerations. The Dyess Scholarship covers all tuition costs that exceed the military Tuition Assistance (TA) allowance. During the recently completed academic year, McMurry funded and awarded more than \$206,000 in Dyess Scholarships for active duty airmen enrolled in either on-campus or on-base offerings. These students were required to pay only for textbooks. Family members are also supported financially through McMurry University institutional financial aid. A Dependent Scholarship provides a 20% tuition scholarship. In 2004-2005, almost \$73,000 was awarded to Dyess AFB family members. And finally, the Admissions Application Fee is waived for active duty airmen and their family members.

As the Air Force has evolved into a more deployable posture, the McMurry-Dyess AFB Program has worked hard to improve the scheduling and delivery of our educational programs to meet the special needs of military members and their units. A new initiative, Blue Streak, affords airmen an opportunity to complete the academic courses toward CCAF in a condensed format (5 ½ to 8 weeks) with offerings in all areas each semester. Since most of the McMurry faculty have had military members in class, they are eager to help with deployment issues such as early or extended leaves of absence. McMurry University is noted as a "military friendly site" for administration of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examinations and works well with the Dyess Education Center to ensure that airmen take full advantage of the opportunity to gain appropriate academic credit for the richness of their military experiences.

Our campus has a strong military tradition—45 years of collaboration with Dyess AFB is ample proof of that tradition. Nearly two dozen of our staff and faculty are veterans of the various branches of the Armed Forces—they nurture that tradition.

McMurry University continues to cherish its partnership with Dyess and does so with a firm commitment to recognize, honor and support the airmen and families of Dyess Air Force Base. Our tradition is a long and proud one as we do our best to serve those who have chosen to serve our country.

Respectfully,

John H. Russell, Ph.D.  
President