

BRAC Commission

**Department of Pathology**

1620 McElderry Street  
Reed Hall West, Room 301  
Baltimore MD 21205-1904  
410-502-3047 / 410-955-3511  
Fax 410-614-0671  
jyardley@jhmi.edu

**AUG 16 2005**

**Received**

John H. Yardley, M.D.  
Professor of Pathology  
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

**The Honorable Anthony J. Principi**  
**Chairman**  
**Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)**  
**2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600**  
**Arlington VA 22202**

**Dear Chairman Principi:**

As a faculty member, working pathologist, and educator at an independent, non-military educational, research, and patient care facility I am writing to urge the BRAC to remove the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) from its list of military facilities slated for closure. I know from personal, direct experience that the AFIP is a highly valuable and irreplaceable resource for patient care, disease research, and education, and that the AFIP contributes significantly to patient care and to understanding of human disease by the medical field from a broader, non-military standpoint.

High on the list of the AFIP's many contributions is its diseased tissue repository which is a national treasure that should remain accessible to researchers and experts in laboratory medicine.

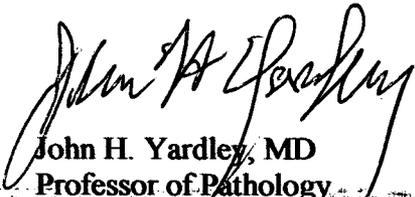
Furthermore, each year AFIP provides hundreds of thousands of hours in continuing medical education to a diverse group of medical professionals in pathology, forensics, radiology, infectious diseases, renal disease, ophthalmology, and urology. In fact over 7,400 medical and other health professionals alone were trained in 2004 through a variety of AFIP-sponsored venues including live courses, seminars, and internet courses.

In conclusion, should the AFIP be forced to close, our nation would lose a valuable resource that plays a key role in the advancement of medicine and contributes knowledge to improve the health of our nation's citizens. First, I urge the BRAC to ensure that the integrity of the tissue repository be preserved. Second I respectfully request that the BRAC eliminate its recommendation to dismantle the AFIP.



Finally, if the BRAC decides that its recommendations about continued existence of the AFIP in its present form are immutable, then I hope the BRAC will also consider recommending alternative organizational pathways within the federal government, eg, operational transfer of the AFIP to the NIH, so that it and its major contributions to medicine, as discussed above, can continue. .

Sincerely,



John H. Yardley, MD  
Professor of Pathology

CC: Terry Aman  
Elizabeth Montgomery, MD

C:\DEPT\AFIP&BRAC\_LTR.DOC