

DCN 5952

110 Oak Knls  
Fayetteville, GA 30214  
May 25, 2005

BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark St, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

RECEIVED  
05312005

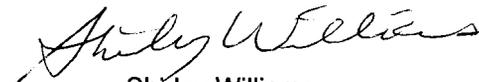
Gentlemen,

I am writing to express my opinion about the proposed closure of Ft McPherson and Ft Gillem. I currently work at HQ FORSCOM, which is recommended to move to Pope Air Force Base under BRAC. Such a move would have a negative impact to our mission, in this critical time of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It would also have a negative impact on my family. My son is having difficulty in school, and any disruption to this routine could cause serious problems. Additionally, I would receive a salary cut by moving to Fayetteville, NC due to losing locality pay benefits. From what I have seen on the internet, the price of housing, automobiles and groceries is not any lower than here.

An alternate proposal would be to leave HQ FORSCOM, THIRD ARMY and the US ARMY RESERVE COMMAND here and fence them in, closing the rest of the base. This would be much more economical than paying to transfer thousands of career civilians and military. Our missions require extensive travel, and the close proximity to Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport would continue to save money on travel costs.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

  
Shirley Williams

RECEIVED

27 May 2005

100 New Oak Ridge Trail

Fayetteville, GA 30214-3735

05312005

RE: Request for Reconsideration Regarding the Potential Closure List, Fort McPherson & Fort Gillem, GA

Gentlemen,

I am writing to express my concern about the inclusion of Fort's McPherson and Gillem on the recent BRAC Closure List. While I can offer no empirical proof to back up my opinion as to why these installations were included, I suspect that it was as a result of inadequate and incomplete information regarding the overall strategic and economic impacts generated by these two locations being presented to the initial board. I request that you make the removal of these installations from the closure list a priority effort.

As you are aware, the tenant organizations on these two installations include a total of 5 Major Army Commands/Agencies, eight subordinate headquarters agencies plus support organizations. While the sum total personnel employed on these installations may be seen as diminutive when compared to other more renowned locations, I would like to insure that you are aware of several significant points, both militarily and economically, that warrant the retention of both locations.

First, I would like to highlight the synergy that has developed over the past 20 years at Fort's McPherson and Gillem that have culminated in the development of the right Command and Control Structure to implement the current Global War on Terrorism.

As you are aware, Headquarters U.S. Army Forces Command, Headquarters U.S. Army Central Command, Headquarters U.S. Army Reserve Command, and Headquarters First U.S. Army all reside on these installations. The roles and missions of these four commands in the Global War on Terrorism are critically significant and interrelated.

First, U.S. Army Forces Central Command, ARCENT, is the Army Service Component Command of U.S. Central Command and the designated Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC). As such, ARCENT is responsible for prosecuting all Army and ground Coalition Combatant operations in Southwest Asia, to include providing theater level support to all services and most coalition partners.

U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) serves as the single service force provider, the warehouse to which ARCENT, and all of the Unified Combatant Commands, comes to for combat ready and trained forces to prosecute its missions. FORSCOM is the single Department of the Army Major Command (MACOM) responsible for the training and readiness of all conventional Army forces based in the United States. This includes all Active Component and Army Reserve forces, and when mobilized, all Army National

Guard forces. To give an example of the order of magnitude of this mission, by law the United States Marine Corps is limited to 150,000 personnel. The Commander of Forces Command is responsible for a force more than three times that size. This force pool, based on a recent decision by the Secretary of Defense, is to be expanded to include oversight of all forward deployed conventional Army forces.

U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) is a Major Subordinate Command of FORSCOM responsible for the management of all U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) forces in the United States and abroad. Nearly one third of the forces, and closer to half of all Combat Support and Combat Service Support forces, sourced to support operations in Southwest Asia are USAR.

It takes close coordination between ARCENT, FORSCOM and USARC to identify and train the right force structure of conventional forces to support U.S. CENTCOM in the prosecution of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

First U.S. Army (FUSA), another Major Subordinate Command of FORSCOM, is currently responsible for the Training and Readiness oversight of all conventional Army Reserve Component forces (USAR and National Guard) based east of the Mississippi River. As a result of internal Army restructuring in support of U.S. Northern Command, FUSA will soon assume this mission across the entire U.S.

This team has trained and worked together in this capacity since prior to the first Gulf War. Any move that would cause the dismemberment of this team into geographically disparate locations will clearly have a detrimental affect on the Army's ability to prosecute GWOT.

While I am emphasizing our commitment of effort to Southwest Asia operations, let me take this opportunity to remind you of our continued commitment in support of all Combatant Commanders. FORSCOM, with significant support from USARC, FUSA, and the Army National Guard, provide combat ready and trained forces to fulfill U.S. commitments throughout the world. Examples include, but are not limited to: The Multi-National Forces and Observers (MFO) mission on the Sinai peninsula; Operations Joint Forge and Enduring Mission in the Balkans; Operation GTMO at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; as well as all joint and combined exercises and humanitarian Deployments For Training. All of these missions require significant coordination prior to deployment in order to insure mission success, which translates to a positive image of the Army, and the U.S. among serviced populations.

A second, and less well known operational mission entrusted to organizations residing on Fort's McPherson and Gillem concerns our support to other Lead Federal Agencies (LFA) in regards to Military Support to Civilian Authorities (MACA) situations. FORSCOM, USARC, and FUSA, in conjunction with the Installation Management Agency (whose South East Regional Office resides on Fort McPherson), and the Air Force National Security Emergency Preparedness Division, provide cohesive and coordinated planning, and on order, forces and other resources in support of LFA's such

as FEMA and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) for disaster relief operations within the Continental United States and Territories.

Thirdly, tenant organizations on Fort's McPherson and Gillem have been identified as alternate Command Headquarters locations in the event that primary headquarters are unable to exercise Command and Control of assigned forces in a Crisis or Catastrophic Event. This has required a significant expenditure of resources to insure that FORSCOM and others are able to execute these emergency missions on a moment's notice, insuring Continuity of Operations of our Armed Forces.

While this letter does not express the full breadth of the missions entrusted to Key Commands residing on Fort's McPherson and Gillem, what I hope that I have demonstrated to you is that by closing these installations the synergistic affects developed over the course of 20 plus years to serve the Army, the Department of Defense, and the United States will be destroyed, severely impacting the Army's ability to answer the call, in a time of war, or domestic crisis, both here and abroad.

I am available to provide any additional information or clarification at your request.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "D".

Paul J. Douglas

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