

DCN: 2236

Since I can't seem to send anything through your website (Contact US) and everything I try to send is an "Illegal Character" I am MAILING this.

My name is Monica Bell. I work at Red River Army Depot and have just been informed that the Regional BRAC Hearings in Texas has been combined and that the one in Dallas on the 22nd of June has been cancelled. Therefore we, the employees of Red River Army Depot and all of our supporters will have to drive seven hours at least to get to San Antonio on the 11th of July 2005. This is a hardship for our installation's supporters. Our depot is the largest in Texas that is closing and the hearing should have been left in Dallas. Again we are faced with obstacles, but we will overcome them, no matter how hard the powers that be try to set us up to fail. Red River Army Depot, Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, and Defense Logistics Agency (Red River) will all be well represented at the hearing in San Antonio, just look for the yellow shirts. You can't miss us!

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TO: Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

25 May, 2005

My name is Monica Bell. I work at Red River Army Depot and have worked here for 21 years. I would like to continue working here and retire from here. This is my home and I don't want to leave it, but that is my personal reason for not wanting our base closed. I realize that supposedly the Army and DOD, were looking at data related to our "Military Value" compared to other installations. I think their military judgment built on quantitative analytical foundation is questionable to say the least. As I understand the concept of this, value is based solely on future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of the total force of the DOD, including the impact on joint war fighting, training, and readiness. Red River is now exceeding that requirement, always has, and always will. We are providing valuable support to the soldier by producing safe armored vehicles for their transportation needs, and deploying depot volunteer civilian workers to keep those vehicles maintained and operational in the war zone. We have exceeded production to meet the needs of the war fighter. The soldier is who we support the most and they know that, and depend on us not to let them down. Our mission capabilities and operational readiness are unsurpassed by ANY other installation. I think the Army is looking at faulty data in their evaluation of Red River. In the past as well as currently, RRAD has successfully executed its workload and finished the years 1998, 1999, and 2000 above the financial plan. As far as the availability and condition of land, facilities, and associated airspace, the depot has over 18,000 acres and 523,000 square feet (with more than enough space to expand), and the depot reservation of over 36,000 acres makes in one of the Army's largest maintenance and supply installations (including DLA). RRAD encompasses 18,446 acres of land that contains semi-improved acreage in pine and hardwood forests. Improved areas include 1,400 buildings consisting of ammunition igloos, standard magazines, warehouses, administrative offices, a supply-training center, a light track overhaul facility, and central distribution center (DLA), and demolition facilities. As part of the U.S. Army Industrial Operations Command, RRAD has also been a major depot-level support facility for maintenance, repair, and overhaul of major weapon systems and components. Our former ordnance training center trained thousands of soldiers before closing in 1955. We are quite capable of resuming that role.

Our depot has ISO9002 Registration for both its mission areas. The association with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) sets RRAD apart from many other military installations and provides an edge in competition. As of mid-2001 RRAD was the only depot in the Army that had its entire mission area ISO registered. Throughout the years, the depot's missions have been expanded, and now RRAD is engaged in activities ranging from producing timber to conducting research and development for a number of items used in rebuilding combat vehicles. RRAD is deeply involved in civilian training programs and is the site of Army Material Command's Intern Training Center. Red River Army Depot's rubber product facility is the only one in the Army. It has the capability of producing track and road wheels for tracked vehicles. The depot has over forty years of proven experience in the rubberization of track and road wheels. The Rubber Products

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Operation is unique to RRAD, being the only one in the Army and would be extremely costly to rebuild/relocate. RRAD also has other advantages over others including newer infrastructure and facilities; a close proximity to Fort Hood, the largest military base in the country; a central location, which provides timely and efficient logistics support to major Army customers throughout the Continental US, and the world. RRAD has the ability and has proven so in the past, that it can accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge and FUTURE total requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training. RRAD's operating cost and manpower are beyond competitive with other installations. The depot is located with access to three major highways, Interstate 30, U.S. Highway 67, and U.S. Highway 82. The installation is within 200 miles of Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, Shreveport Louisiana, Little Rock Arkansas, and Oklahoma City Oklahoma, making it optimally located for mission accomplishment (including homeland defense), supports power projection, rapid deployable capabilities, and expedient force needs for reach-back capability and sustains the capability to mobilize and surge and ensures strategic redundancy.

The negative economic impact on the surrounding communities of RRAD/DLA and Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant will be devastating to this area. A minimum estimate of over four hundred million dollars a year that would negatively impact the local economy is merely a starting point for the domino affect that closing the RRAD Complex will have on other local businesses. RRAD had the ability of the infrastructure of both existing and potential receiving communities to support forces, missions, and personnel.

The environmental impact of costs related to closing RRAD and the Ammunition Facility and the restoration, waste management, etc., will be astronomical and will take many years to restore. The closure of Red River Army Depot will necessitate clearance of munitions and remediation of any munitions constituents. The remediation costs for these ranges will be significant and the time required for completing remediation will take many years. Contaminated areas will require restoration and monitoring. Additional costs will be incurred when an Air Conformity Analysis is conducted at Anniston Army Depot (where the majority of OUR work is slated to go) to make sure that depot does not require additional mitigation measures and pollution protection from the addition of increased depot maintenance activities. Anniston is located over a sole-source aquifer and will require additional protection. The cost to close Red River Army Depot would far exceed the cost to keep it open and productive.

Last but not least RRAD has supported our troops since 1941, through at least five major military conflicts/wars and has done so in a manner unsurpassed by any other installation. I am a third generation employee, and my son is a fourth generation depot employee. This depot is a family tradition for me and my family and we are proud of its contribution to our country. Please think long and hard before writing off Red River Army Depot as "not a military value". It is a military value as we have proven time and time again, and it also an essential asset to protecting our soldier's lives and you cannot put a price tag on that.

Thank You,  
Monica G. Bell

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