

RALPH M. HALL  
4TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

2405 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4304  
(202) 225-6673  
(202) 225-3332 FAX  
e-mail: rmhall@mail.house.gov

DCN: 1205  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4304

ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
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**ORIGINAL**

May 25, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Via Fax

Dear Mr. Chairman:

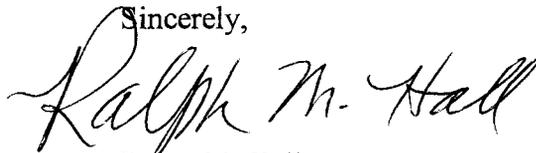
I have just been informed that the BRAC hearing scheduled for June 22 in Dallas has been canceled and that only one hearing will be held in Texas on July 11 in San Antonio. While I am not advised of the reasons for the cancellation, I am acutely aware of the necessity of holding the hearing as scheduled in Dallas.

As you know, according to the Department of Defense Base Closure and Realignment Report, the proposed closing of Red River Army Depot and Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant would terminate more than 2,500 civilian jobs, potentially eliminate more than 4,000 jobs in the Texarkana, TX, area, and adversely affect hundreds of employees who commute from neighboring communities in Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Red River and Lone Star jobs comprise 6.2 percent of the economic area employment and are fourth on the BRAC list nationally in terms of job loss.

I hope you will agree that such a catastrophic decision should not be made without providing an opportunity for local citizens and officials to make their case for continuation of Red River and Lone Star. It would create an unnecessary burden and hardship on all those interested in attending the hearing to travel to San Antonio on a work day. A hearing in Dallas, however, would ensure a fair and equitable hearing and would provide an opportunity for the Commission to hear first-hand from all those whose lives will be impacted.

I hope you will give this request your full consideration. With best regards, I am

Sincerely,



Ralph M. Hall  
Member of Congress

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5/26/05

104 NORTH SAN JACINTO STREET  
ROCKWALL, TX 75087-2508  
(972) 771-9118  
(972) 722-0907 FAX

COLLIN COUNTY COURT FACILITY  
1800 NORTH GRAVES STREET, SUITE 101  
MCKINNEY, TX 75069-3322  
(972) 542-4932  
(972) 542-6129 FAX

101 EAST PECAN STREET  
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(903) 892-1112  
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(903) 794-5577 FAX