

May 28, 2005

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

Subject: Base Realignment and Closure 2005

I am writing as a private citizen with my concerns over the relocation/consolidation of the Army Human Resources Command to Fort Knox. The BRAC's basic premise is:

Consolidate/Co-locate Active and Reserve Personnel & Recruiting Centers for Army and Air Force –

Recommendation: Realign Army Human Resources Command leased facilities in Alexandria, VA, Indianapolis, IN, and St. Louis, MO. Relocate and consolidates all functions at Fort Knox, KY.

The Accessions and Cadet Commands are relocated to Fort Knox because of recommendations to locate the Army's Human Resources Command at Fort Knox. The HRC recommendation includes the collocation of the Accessions and Cadet Commands with the Recruiting Command, already at Fort Knox and creates a Center of Excellence for military personnel and recruiting functions by improving personnel life-cycle management.

This is in my opinion a "smoke and mirrors" vision of the personnel life cycle management model.

I concur in consolidating the Army Human Resources Command, Alexandria, VA, Indianapolis, IN, and St. Louis, MO but definitely not with the Accessions, Cadet and Recruiting Commands.

The Army Human Resources Command (HRC) (referred to as the Human Resources Command – Alexandria, the Enlisted Records Center - Indianapolis and the Human Resources Command – St. Louis) should be consolidated but as a field operating agency of the Army G-1 in the Pentagon. The Army G-1 makes and directs the policy(s) used in managing the personnel life cycle model. Close coordination and interface with the HRC command is a necessity in taking care of our soldiers. I can see this command at Fort Belvoir or Quantico if the leased building issue is a major concern. I can not (as anyone who has a basic knowledge of the Army) see the overall connection between establishing the HRC function with Accessions, Cadet and Recruiting Command operational functions. The development of the requirements for Accessions, Cadet and Recruiting Commands come from a closely coordinated endeavor between the Army G-1 and HRC.

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This life cycle management execution not only covers the execution year but also forecasts the future personnel requirements.

Close proximity is necessary to effect this requirement development to feed the force from the requirement, training and distribution life cycles. While Accessions, Cadet and Recruiting Commands functions are important to the life cycle of the Army they are only twenty percent of the mission for the Army G-1 and HRC.

The logic presented in BRAC that it is necessary for TRADOC HQs to remain within commuting distance of the Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) HQs in Norfolk, VA, because JFCOM oversees all joint training across the military is absolutely laughable to anyone who has a training management background. Joint training requirements do not equal one percent of the total training requirement.

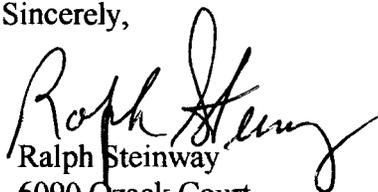
It is perfectly logical to say that the combined HRC must maintain close proximity to the Army G-1 to carry out its real time support of the combatant commands, especially in our current and prolonged operational mode.

It makes far more sense to station TRADOC, Accessions, Recruiting, Army Training Support Center, Distributed Learning Systems, Futures Center, etc., at Fort Knox and develop a training center of excellence to execute Army training requirements.

I would like to add that BRAC may be too much too soon given the current operational tempo and that mistakes now can be measured in lives later.

In closing, thank you for attention in this matter.

Sincerely,


Ralph Steinway
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