

August 2, 2005

BRAC Commissioners
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

BRAC Commission

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Received

I am writing to ask each of you for your support in removing Red River Army Depot (RRAD) from the 2005 BRAC closure list. I worked at RRAD for 37 years and retired as Chief of Production Engineering Division, Maintenance Directorate.

RRAD has a proud history and a long tradition of doing whatever it takes to support the Warfighter. Established in 1941 as an Ammunition Storage Facility, RRAD quickly expanded to include an Ordnance Troop Training Center, a Depot Maintenance mission, and a General Supply storage and distribution mission. Over the years the missions have changed but what has remained constant is the dedicated workforce willing to take on any challenge and provide leadership in supporting the Warfighter's needs anywhere in the world.

For many years RRAD was the largest depot in terms of workload and personnel, but BRAC 95 had a significant impact on the depot. The workforce never gave up and after being designated the Center of Industrial & Technical Excellence for Tactical Wheeled Vehicles in 2002, the depot is once again operating near capacity and at peak performance.

I would ask that you look closely at the planned capacity at the receiving installations. Even by adding expensive facilities and additional shifts there will not be enough capacity to handle current and projected workload. Both RRAD and Anniston's 2006 workload has about tripled since 2003. The BRAC proposal would put almost all of the Army's ground combat and support equipment in one location and would significantly increase the risk to readiness in light of the current GWOT.

The Rubber Products facility at RRAD is one-of-a-kind. Three commercial vendors tried but failed to duplicate RRAD's success even using the Red River developed rubber compound formula. The process involves both an art and a science and there is significant uncertainty in being able to replicate the process at Anniston.

In addition, Red River's Defense Distribution Depot is top ranked and already has the facilities needed to serve as the Strategic Distribution Platform for the Central Region. The BRAC plan would cost \$43 million and would provide only 65% of what is already available at Red River.

And, there is not enough ammunition storage capacity available to accommodate Red River and Lone Star's current stored ammunition.

In summary, there is too much risk for too little gain. Please vote to keep Red River open to support our Warfighters as they battle to keep this nation secure.

Thank you,



Dwight Byrd