

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 06 2005

Received

Dear Chairman Principi,

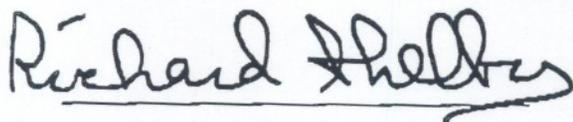
Thank you for your service to our country as demonstrated by your willingness to take on the vitally important BRAC task. We are writing today regarding the Department of Defense's (DoD) recommendation concerning the stationing of the Infantry Brigade Combat Team at Fort Knox.

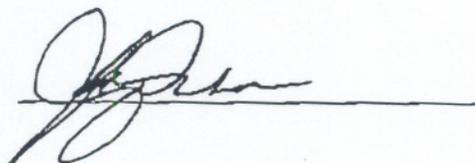
In July 2004, the Army announced that the 5th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division – an infantry brigade combat team – would be activated at Fort Benning, Georgia, in fiscal year 2006. As Fort Benning is currently home to the U.S. Army Infantry Center, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and the 75th Ranger Regiment, it has the facilities, range space, and training areas to accommodate this new mission. This decision makes sense. However, as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, DoD subsequently recommended that the 5th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division be activated at Fort Knox.

We believe that an Infantry Brigade Combat Team should still be activated Fort Benning. Fort Benning's vast ranges, airfields, acreage, and community assets, as well as the expected synergy the addition of the Maneuver Center will add, are perfect for this type of mission. Today Fort Benning is home to the Infantry School and one heavy infantry brigade combat team. To make room for a second infantry brigade is feasible and would be effortless. Plans for this additional mission already exist.

We would greatly appreciate you keeping the aforementioned in mind as you continue your review of the DoD's BRAC recommendations. Again, thank you for your service on the Commission.

Sincerely,


Richard Shelby



Saxley Chambers

Phil Singey

Samuel Bishop Jr.

Mike Rogers (AL-03)

Lynell [Signature]



Richard Shelby

United States Senator * Alabama

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Chairman - Committee on Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs
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Chairman - Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
Special Committee on Aging

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Date: August 5 Page 1 of 3

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Message: _____

