

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment
Commission 2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600 Arlington, VA 22206 29 2005

Subject: TRICARE capacity supporting BRAC med. Facilities
under recommendation

**ORIGINALLY ATTEMPTED SEND VIA BRAC.GOV COMMENT
PAGE; WOULD NOT WORK!**

We are located in between Ft Leonard Wood and N Little Rock AFB,
and served by neither under TRICARE Standard or these MTFs.

Chairman Principi hit the nail on the head when he asked about
TRICARE capacity to fill in pending approval of the recommendation.

This was in the context of discussions over Keesler AFB and Fort
Knox. I was a little shocked, however, to hear this discussion limited
only to how active duty and their dependents could be supported.

The approx. 500,000 to 700,000 military retirees, (of the 1.1 million
under 65), their dependents and widows CANNOT even hope to access
one of these MTFs, use TRICARE Prime as an option, or substituting a
VAMC due to great distances. In short, many of us are not welcome at
these MTFs.

As a military retiree who constantly searches for providers who will
even see me and my wife, let alone take a TRICARE assignment (<7%
locally), I think you've forgotten the majority of military retirees who
have not reached age 65 and are, by catchment area or distance, put
upon TRICARE Standard their default medical care!

To further pour salt on the wound, the VA recently informed me I'm
now a CAT 8A, despite my increasing infirmities and disabilities.

Please look into TRICARE Standard victims, and don't take DOD's
word for anything. OUR retired military family is \$4,300 out of pocket
this year so far (includes some dental). This is not the no cost
promise made to us for 20 or more years of service on active duty!

We also have no access to the active duty doctors sent to practice
their skills "in the community" while on active duty at a MTF!

We've been dropped completely from the thinking of DOD, VA and
BRAC, I guess.



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