



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

August 12, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 17 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

Thank you for your service as Chairman of the BRAC Commission and for the service of your fellow commissioners. We are grateful for your attendance at the regional hearing in San Antonio and the visit to the Red River Army Defense Complex.

As I stated in my presentation at the San Antonio hearing, I consider the Red River Army Depot, the Red River Munitions Center, and the Red River Defense Distribution Center to be vital components of our national defense. I share a strong concern with other state, military and government leaders that the closure of Red River will unnecessarily damage our national defense posture. During the regional hearing, expert testimony highlighted significant flaws in the Department of Defense (DoD) analysis and in many technical facts upon which their recommendations were based. For example, cost savings were overstated, while costs of implementation were understated. In addition, outdated workload data were used and DoD capacity guidelines were not followed.

It is important to note that during the Army Senior Review Group Meeting #32, held on March 1, 2005, Army discussions on Red River indicated that "FY03 data used in Industrial JCSG analysis does not reflect current workload or future requirements." Further, the Department of the Army's own Depot Maintenance analysis indicates "no significant excess capacity" among the five Army depots and "the number of direct labor hours is going up."

Consistent with my concern regarding the potential unacceptable degradation of our national warfighting capabilities if Red River is closed, the GAO Report on BRAC 2005, issued July 1, 2005, expressed that agency's request for consideration by the BRAC Commission regarding insufficient capacity and capability at the gaining locations to accept the workload to be transferred from Red River. Data has been presented by the Texarkana community that clearly establishes how the transfer of our combat vehicle repair workload to Anniston Army Depot in Alabama, the transfer of certain munitions to McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in Oklahoma and the replication of Red River's capability to remove and replace rubber pads for vehicle tracks and road wheels will place our military forces at considerable risk by disrupting the

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crucial repair and production capabilities demanded by current wartime needs in addition to future needs.

It is clear that DoD's extensive use of 2003 data, predating the current war in Iraq, as well as subsequent worldwide national security events, have accounted for many of its recommendations. The DoD's recommendations were based on a FY03 labor requirement of just over two million direct labor hours. The recently completed workload projections for FY06 are more than six million direct labor hours, with similar requirements for the out years. To dismantle Red River's proven production capabilities will jeopardize our sons and daughters' safety in a difficult and complex war. This plan bears careful scrutiny.

Based upon the above situation analysis, I believe that the conclusion to close Red River represents a significant deviation from the BRAC criteria. I know that you and your staff will carefully review all these pertinent facts before making your decision.

Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor

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cc: BRAC Commissioners
The Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Louie Gohmert, U.S. Congressman
The Honorable Ralph Hall, U.S. Congressman
The Honorable Kevin Eltife, Texas State Senator
The Honorable Stephen J. Frost, Texas State Representative
The Honorable James Bramlett, Mayor, City of Texarkana
The Honorable Johnny L. Branson, City of New Boston
The Honorable James M. Carlow, Bowie County Judge
Colonel Michael B. Cervone, Commanding Officer, Red River Army Depot
Ms. Belina Lee, Public Affairs Officer, Red River Army Depot
Mr. Boyd Sartin, Business Development and Transition Officer, U.S. Army TACOM
Mr. Ron D. Henson, Commissioner, Texas Military Preparedness Commission
Mr. Duane Lavery, Executive Director, Red River Development Authority
Mr. Jerry Sparks, Economic Development Manager, Texarkana Chamber of Commerce