

JUL 21 2005 3:32PM
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July 20, 2005

Brigadier General Rhett Hernandez
Director
Officer Personnel Management Directorate
United States Army
Human Resources Command
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332-0400

Dear Brigadier General Hernandez:

Recently I met with representatives from the St. Louis Human Resource Command (HRC) workforce in St. Louis to discuss some of the problems they have encountered in their mission and to gain a better understanding of the difficulties that have hindered efficient operations at that facility.

As you are aware, the Base Relocation and Closure Commission (BRAC) is studying the Army's recommendation to relocate the St. Louis HRC to a new consolidated center in Kentucky. Recently, the General Services Administration advised BRAC that the new facility would be several times costlier than consolidating all HRC offices at the St. Louis site. Also, according to press reports, the Army's interest in relocating the St. Louis HRC to a new consolidated facility in Kentucky may be motivated more by a dissatisfaction with the St. Louis workforce performance than by genuine financial savings.

I believe it is vitally important to ensure that the BRAC Commission's efforts to conserve taxpayer dollars are not undermined by issues that can be more appropriately addressed by improving communications and implementing a deliberate policy solution. For this reason, I am anxious to help address any workplace deficiencies which may be associated with the St. Louis HRC facility and to help support a resolution of any concerns that Army officials might have about the operations and services performed at this facility.

I am hopeful that you will work with the American Federal of Government Employees (AFGE) to directly address issues of workplace performance and service operations at the St. Louis HRC. The union understands the importance of these services to our armed forces, and they have expressed to me their commitment to addressing these issues at the highest levels. To that end, I am requesting that you agree to meet with Mr. Eugene Martin, Assistant to the AFGE President, in my office to discuss this matter in detail. I believe it would be mutually beneficial to all parties if the problems at St. Louis HRC can be identified and resolved without creating new and costly financial burdens.

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Thank you for your consideration of my interest in this matter. I appreciate your assistance. My office will be in touch with you to make further arrangements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wm. Lacy Clay". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

WLC/mlb

cc: Hon. Charles Dooley
Mr. Eugene Martin
Hon. Anthony Principi
Hon. James Talent