

Robert R. Durko
10732 Lipan Trail
Fort Worth, Texas 76108
817 2449059

BRAC Commission

AUG 30 2005

Received

August 18, 2005

DCN 8177

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi

I am writing to urge the BRAC to remove the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) from the list of military facilities slated for closure. The AFIP is an irreplaceable resource for disease research and patient care. This exceptional institution not only provides outstanding service to our nation's military community, but also contributes significant knowledge and education to the broader medical field's understanding of human disease.

The AFIP tissue repository is a valuable national treasure that must remain accessible to researchers and experts in laboratory medicine. The AFIP's collection of specimens has helped medical professionals understand, develop vaccines and treatments for, and sometimes cure, often-fatal diseases. Access to both archived material as well as newly acquired specimens must be preserved.

Each year the AFIP issues hundreds of thousands of hours in continuing medical education to a diverse group of medical professionals that specialize in pathology, forensics, radiology, emerging infectious disease, renal disease, ophthalmology, and urology. In fact, over 7,400 medical and other health professionals alone were educated and trained in 2004 through a variety of AFIP-sponsored venues including live courses, seminars and internet courses.

The AFIP's leadership in the area of education and training advances the knowledge base and ensure the competence of thousands of medical professionals. It would be a major loss to both military and civilian medicine, especially at this time, if AFIP's consultative services were discontinued.

Should the AFIP be forced to close, our nation would lose a valuable resource that plays a key role in the advancement of medicine and contributes knowledge to improve the health of our nation's citizens. First, I respectfully request, that the BRAC eliminate its recommendation to dismantle the AFIP. Second, I urge the BRAC to ensure that the integrity of the tissue repository is preserved.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Durko
Registered Histologic Technician
American Society of Clinical Pathologists



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
EASTERN COLORADO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

BRAC Commission

AUG 24 2005

Received

Medical Center &
Nursing Home
1055 Clermont St
Denver, CO
80220
303-399-8020

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

In Reply Refer To:

Nursing Home
2600 Oakshire Lane
Pueblo, CO
81001
719-295-7279

Dear Chairman Principi,

OUTPATIENT
CLINICS

622 Del Sol Dr.
Alamosa, CO
81101
719-587-6800

I am writing to urge the BRAC to remove the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) from the list of military facilities slated for closure. The AFIP is an irreplaceable resource for disease research and patient care. This exceptional institution not only provides outstanding service to our nation's military community, but also contributes significant knowledge and education to the broader medical field's understanding of human disease.

13001 E. 17th Pl
P.O. Box 6327
Aurora, CO
80045
303-724-0190

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25 N. Spruce St
Colorado Springs, CO
80905
719-327-5660

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1100 Carson Ave
Suite 104
La Junta, CO
81050
719-383-5195

The AFIP's leadership in the area of education and training advances the knowledge base and ensures the competence of thousands of medical professionals. It would be a major loss to both military and civilian medicine, especially at this time, if AFIP's consultative services were discontinued.

155 Van Gordon
Suite 395
Lakewood, CO
80228
303-914-2680

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201 Kendall Dr.
Lamar, CO
81052
719-336-5972

4112 Outlook Blvd
Pueblo, CO
81008
719-553-1000

SUPPORT
OFFICES

531 Lewis Street
La Junta, CO
81050
719-384-4632

Thank you for your kind consideration.

507 Bent
P.O. Box 390
Las Animas, CO
81054
719-456-6086

Sincerely,

Samia Nawaz MD
Pathology Department
Eastern Colorado Health Care System
1055 Clermont St, Denver. Co 80262

1300 Fortino Blvd
Pueblo, CO
81008
719-553-1000

8-22-05

REGIONAL PULMONARY ASSOCIATES, P.A.

Specializing in Pulmonary,
Sleep, Critical Care,
and Internal Medicine

Donald Auerbach, M.D., F.C.C.P.
Ho-Kan Cheng, M.D., D, ABSM, F.C.C.P.
Ira D. Horowitz, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.C.C.P.
Irwin Spirn, M.D., Ph.D., F.C.C.P.

Executive Mews Building O-77
1930 East Marlton Pike (Route 70)
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-4204
(856) 424-4525
Fax: (856) 424-9545

August 16, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 Sough Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 24 2005

Received

Dear Chairman Principi:

As a practicing physician who uses the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology for opinions on difficult cases, I feel that I should comment on the proposed closure of this great institution.

I urge the BRAC to remove the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology from the list of military facilities scheduled to be closed. The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology is irreplaceable as a source of medical excellence. It certainly contributes significantly to the medical field's understanding of human disease.

The AFIP tissue repository is a valuable national treasure that must remain accessible to researchers and experts in laboratory medicine. The AFIP's collection of specimens has helped medical professionals understand, develop vaccines and treatments for, and sometimes cure, often-fatal diseases. Access to both archived materials as well as newly acquired specimens must be preserved. Each year, the AFIP issues hundreds of thousands of hours in continuing medical education to a diverse group of medical professionals that specialize in pathology, forensics, radiology, infectious disease, renal disease, ophthalmology and urology.

The leadership exhibited by the AFIP in the area of education and training advances the knowledge base and ensures the competence of thousands of medical professionals. It would be a major loss if the AFIP's consultant services were to be discontinued.

I respectfully request that the BRAC prevent the dismantling of the AFIP.

Sincerely,



Donald Auerbach, MD

CC: The Honorable James Saxton
United States Congress

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Alignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark St, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Rarely do I feel strongly enough to address the leaders in protest, but I am appalled at the inclusion of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in the current considerations of BRAC. I speak from some considerable familiarity with the activity and value of its functions, dating from the staff conferences of Col. Ashe (early 40's), later involvement with its service and research functions, and constant dependance on the expertise offered to the medical profession over my more than 40 years of pathology practice.

The possible loss of the support and consultative services to the military and veterans institutions will seriously diminish the quality of practice in those facilities. The service to nonmilitary users, now appropriately supported by a fee system, is widely used and appreciated.

The repository functions, seemingly routine, are unequaled in the world, and have continued to provide a basis for current military and nonmilitary research.

As an impartial manager I accept the premise that no institution is beyond consideration. However without careful plans to sustain the vital activities, and to preserve and utilize the unique and irreplaceable collections, loss of AFIP as a central pathology resource would be catastrophic.

I urge the removal of AFIP from the BRACH list for realignment and closure.



Carl F. Tessmer M.D.
3735 North Drive
Belton TX 76513

BRAC Commission

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 222022

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am writing to urge the BRAC to remove the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) from the list of military facilities slated for closure. The AFIP is an irreplaceable resource for disease and patient care. This exceptional institution not only provides outstanding service to our nation's military community, but also contributes significant knowledge and education to the broader medical field's understanding of human disease.

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The AFIP's leadership in the area of education and training advances the knowledge base and ensures the competence of thousands of medical professionals. It would be a major loss to both military and civilian medicine, especially at this time; if AFIP's consultative services were discontinued.

Should the AFIP be forced to close, our nation would lose a valuable resource that plays a key role in the advancement of medicine and contributes knowledge to improve the health of our nation's citizens. First, I respectfully request, that the BRAC eliminate its recommendation to dismantle the AFIP. Second, I urge the BRAC to insure that the integrity of the tissue repository is preserved.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Kernetto, MT(ASCP) 01200914

THE CLEVELAND CLINIC
FOUNDATION 

Gary W. Procop, M.D.

Section Head, Clinical Microbiology
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine / L40

Office: 216/444-5879

Fax: 216/445-6984

E-mail: procop@ccf.org

August 16, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 17 2005

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RE: Potential Closure of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP)

Dear Chairman Principi,

I went to a training session at the AFIP as a young physician. All I wanted was to be "one of the best", which is how I viewed and continue to view these pathologists. Although I have never been employed by the AFIP, I have worked with several of these pathologists through the years. They have and continue to set the standard of excellence to which a young physician can aspire. It was beyond my comprehension when I discovered that this national resource may be lost.

The AFIP for many years has provided a pivotal service to both the military and the private sector. The archives of tissues and pathologic specimens are beyond compare, and at this point should be considered one of the nation's endangered resources. These tissues have been and may be used in the future for studies that advance medicine for all mankind. In addition, the pathologists at the AFIP are a valued resource throughout the world. They are a source of teaching, consultation, and research productivity. I encourage you as a national leader to thoughtfully examine this institution. I believe you will conclude that this institution must be preserved, once you have considered not only its past contributions, but the surety of its future contributions.

Please, as a final plea, do not let this national treasure disappear.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Procop, MD
Section Head, Clinical Microbiology
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 222022

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Thank you for your kind consideration,

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Kernette MT (ASCP) 01200914

**BRAC RECOMMENDATION
CLOSE AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

PURPOSE: The BRAC Commission should recommend closing the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT)

BRAC Commission

DISCUSSION:

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- ❖ AFIT is not an inherently governmental function
- ❖ Civilian schools can do the same if not better job in educating Air Force members
- ❖ Research is to be done within DoD Laboratories, System Program Offices, Battle Labs, or by Federally Funded Research and Development Contractors; not at AFIT
- ❖ Only approximately 3% to 4% of students need to be full-time students for Masters and/or PhD programs
- ❖ 96% of the students can accomplish same intent as AFIT by working in Labs, System Program Offices or other organizations that accomplish research
- ❖ 96% of the students can use tuition assistance (100%) to get their Masters degrees during off-duty time
- ❖ Most of the research accomplished at AFIT is the responsibility of the Labs, System Program Offices, etc. Students are only duplicating effort or in some cases, doing other organization's work
- ❖ Most students are in career fields that are not inherently governmental positions (ex. Acquisition managers, engineers) and never deploy—thus allowing them time to work and go to school in their off-duty time
- ❖ Send the remaining 3% to 4% of students to universities for set programs with certain research projects in mind—to further their education
- ❖ This saves approximately \$50 - \$60 million a year in tax-payer dollars (infrastructure, military pay, relocation expenses, etc.)
- ❖ Other services can send their personnel to civilian institutions and the rest can work in degrees while performing their mission
- ❖ Discontinue subsidizing civilian students with tax-payer dollars in the local Dayton area
- ❖ Discontinue sending Air Force Intermediate Developmental Education students (approx 217 students) to AFIT for second and third masters degrees. (See attached paper)

RECOMMENDATION: Close AFIT and make the Air Force development and implement a real educational plan that benefits both the Air Force force development concept as well as DoD and the tax payer.

Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT)
Intermediate Developmental Education (IDE)

PURPOSE: To highlight the pitfalls of the AFIT IDE program. The AFIT IDE program exists to develop Air Force Majors into better leaders for the future. The AFIT IDE program is falling short of developing future leaders.

DISCUSSION:

- ◇ It costs an estimated \$100,000 - \$110,000 to send each Major to AFIT IDE (DLA, Pay, Allowances, Books, PCS expenses, AFIT overhead)
- ◇ Many of the 217 Majors are working towards duplicate degrees that they've already earned in their Air Force careers (most using Tuition Assistance)
 - Majority of Majors in the Management program already have management degrees thus not broadening or developing
 - Many majors are taking over Comm, Logistics and Engineering degrees or variations already earned
 - Many majors are working towards AFIT degrees that mirror their career field education already earned at Air Force technical schools, thus not broadening
 - This is an flagrant waste of tax-payer dollars
 - AFIT leadership and counselors know of this problem and have done nothing to remedy the situation
- ◇ AFIT educators have not sufficiently and willingly adapted the technical courses to adequately teach the Majors technological leadership fundamentals
 - Majors are in "deep" technical courses with Lieutenants and Captains, thus not broadening their leadership perspective
 - AFIT instructors are unwilling to evolve courses to meet AFIT IDE objectives of broadening Air Force Majors
 - The disconnect between AFIT IDE objectives and AFIT's curriculum has caused grievous concerns and strife between students and faculty
 - AFIT IDE (year-long program) is not to have a thesis paper; however, AFIT circumvents this policy by directing a "mini-thesis" or graduate research paper.
- ◇ AFIT is touting the IDE program as a strength of their BRAC defense. This is a fallacy. An objective group must audit this program as it's not going to be fixed from the inside.

RECOMMENDATION: Either AF/IG, AETC/IG or Congress step in and audit the AFIT IDE program against objectives. It costs an estimated \$20+ million a year to send the 200+ Majors to AFIT IDE without a proportional return on investment. The Air Force and AFIT are not meeting program objectives and the program is being mismanaged. It's a waste tax payer dollars!

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Monongalia General Hospital

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



William J. Hennessey
Director of Government Relations

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Tell a friend:

Not everyone receives ASCP's Action Alerts, so please forward this message to your peers and co-workers!