

**DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION  
2521 CLARK STREET  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202  
(703) 699-2950**

**MEMORANDUM OF MEETING**

DATE: August 3, 2005

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

MEETING WITH: Congressman Gene Taylor's Staff

SUBJECT: Proposed realignment of Keesler Air Force Base, MS, by disestablishing the inpatient mission and converting the medical center to an outpatient clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

*PARTICIPANTS:*

Mr. Stephen Peranich, Chief of Staff; 202-225-5772;  
STEPHEN.PERANICH@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV  
MR. Brian Martin, Policy Director; 202-225-5772;  
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*Commission Staff:*

Lesia Mandzia, Senior Analyst

MEETING SUMMARY:

Mr. Peranich and Mr. Martin reviewed the attached binder of information regarding the DoD BRAC recommendation (Med-12) that converts Keesler Medical Center from an inpatient facility to an outpatient clinic and ambulatory surgery center.

They reviewed the following information:

- Keesler Medical Center in addition to providing inpatient and outpatient medical services is also a training ground for Graduate Medical Education (GME). When Keesler's military value was calculated, DoD did not take GME into account.
- When TRICARE inpatient costs were calculated for the area DoD used \$4,000 as opposed to \$6,000 for the average cost.

- The calculation for the number of available beds in the area is inaccurate. Additionally, there is the issue of licensed beds v. staffed beds. DoD did not contact the area hospitals to get a more accurate count of beds.
- The specialty care that is offered at Keesler is not available at the local hospitals. Beneficiaries would have to travel great distances to receive that specialty care if the hospital is downsized and no longer offers GME programs. Alternatively, GME can't realistically happen at an outpatient clinic and ambulatory surgery center.
- They provided letters from the local community hospitals that state they don't have the capacity to take on Keesler's work load or provide GME. However, there is no teaching hospital near Keesler.

They requested that we closely review the information provided as we conduct our analysis and to contact them if we have any questions.