Dear Chairman Principi,

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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.

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Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Joanna Haley MLT/ASCP
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June C. Watters (Medical Technologist American Society of Clinical Pathology)
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Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Samantha Shannon, MT (ASCP), CLS (NCA)
August 11, 2005

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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Glenn E. Hatcher, BS, MS, RM-AAM
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Christopher M. Daley, MLT (ASCP)
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Megan Zhang, MD
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Sincerely,

Clarice Meligro, Bone Laboratory
Puget Sound Health Care
Seattle VA Medical Center
1600 Columbia Way South
Seattle WA 98108
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Sincerely,

Criss Meligro, Research Histologist
Puget Sound Health Care
Seattle VA Medical Center
1600 Columbia Way South
Seattle WA 98108
August 10, 2005

2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) to remove the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) from the list of military facilities for closure. The AFIP is an irreplaceable resource for disease research and patient care. The AFIP tissue repository is a valuable resource that must remain accessible to researchers and experts in laboratory medicine.

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Lillian Mori
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Joan Schmidt MT(ASCP)
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Larry S. Dunn, MS, MT(ASCP)  
Professor, Program Director  
Medical Laboratory Technology  
Victoria College
The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman

Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)

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Arlington, VA 22202

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Pathologists in the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers are heavily dependant on the consultative services provided by the AFIP through mutual agreements. In addition the AFIP provides quality assurance activities through its SERS program. All VA pathologists benefit from the continuing education services of the quarterly unknown slide program which grants credit hours for the activity at no cost to the individual pathologist. This translates into better care for our veteran patients.

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Sincerely

William A. Grunow, MD, FCAP
112 Yorkwood Lane
Yorktown, Virginia 23692-3046
1551 Koch Road
St. Paul, Missouri 63366
August 11, 2005

To: George W. Bush
President of the USA
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

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

Dear Mr. President, and Chairman Principi,

In 1961, I was privileged to be assigned to The Department of Pathology Of Walter Reed Army Medical Center as the Chief of Anatomical Pathology, under The Chief Pathologist Colonel Nelson Irey. The Department of Pathology was housed in the building otherwise fully occupied by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. The Pathologists and other members of that Institute were at that time, and are now recognized as the top men and women in their field of expertise, not only in the USA, but in the world. The names of those Department Heads will ring down through the next few centuries as the great contributors to the science of Pathology, on a world wide scale. Their presence, a short walk down the hall from the Pathologists of that major US Army Hospital, contributed immensely to the excellent service the Water Reed Hospital Pathology Department supplied to the physicians providing the best medical care in the world to men and women of the Armed Services of the United States Of America, including many of it's Commanders in Chief, the several Presidents of the USA.

Younger associates in the various branches of Pathology, in the AFIP, have often moved on to accept appointments as the head of Pathology Departments of prestigious University Medical Schools, Cancer Hospitals and prestigious private medical centers, in the USA and around the world. This Organization is not just a military base. It is one of the finest contributors of this nation to the health and well being of the citizens of the USA and to the rest of the world. There is no organization which can match the collective medical wisdom and experience of the dedicated health care experts housed in this organization. To even think of disbanding it is unthinkable folly, in my opinion.
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Paul W. Palmer, MD
Pathologist
Fellow of the American Society Of Clinical Pathologists
Lt. Col, US Army, Retired