

Aerospace Medical Association



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March 8, 1995

Mr. Alan J. Dixon
Defense Base Closure &
Realignment Commission
1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 1425
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Mr. Dixon:

I am writing to you as Executive Director of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA); an organization of approximately 4,000 aerospace medicine practitioners and scientists engaged in related research.

We strongly urge that you do not recommend the closure of Brooks AFB, Texas. For over five decades, it has been USAF's only installation where all aerospace medicine education, entry and advanced, has been done. Every aerospace surgeon, flight nurse, aerospace physiologist, public health officer, flight surgeon, flight nurse, aerospace physiologist, public health officer, and support technician -- the aerospace medicine team -- has been trained there. In addition to this education role, flight surgeons and their scientist colleagues conduct a large research program on aircrew life support equipment such as oxygen masks, chemical ensembles, anti-G suits, and pressure suits.

Within the USAF Medical Service, it is the aerospace medicine team which most closely supports flying operations in peacetime as well as wartime. No matter how far the Air Force draws down, there will always be a commensurate need for aerospace medicine support. Its underpinning is the dual mission of education and research conducted at Brooks AFB. Brooks has the facilities, the staff, and a 50-year reputation of excellence. Please exert your efforts to keep this vital base open. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Rayman M.D.
Russell B. Rayman, M.D.
Executive Director

RBR: jc

Page # 23