

Co-Locate Extramural Research Program Managers Military Value Not Priority

DOD Recommendation: Close the Office of Naval Research facility, Arlington, VA; the Air Force Office of Scientific Research facility, Arlington, VA; the Army Research Office facilities, Durham, NC, and Arlington, VA; and the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency facility, Arlington, VA. Relocate all functions to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. Realign Fort Belvoir, VA, by relocating the Army Research Office to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. Realign the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Telegraph Road facility, Alexandria, VA, by relocating the Extramural Research Program Management function (except conventional armaments and chemical biological defense research) to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD.

Justification: This recommendation co-locates the managers of externally funded research in one campus. Currently, these program managers are at seven separate locations. The relocation allows technical synergy by bringing research managers from disparate locations together to one place. The end state will be co-location of the named organizations at a single location in a single facility, or a cluster of facilities. This “Co-Located Center of Excellence” will foster additional coordination among the extramural research activities of OSD and the Military Departments. Further it will enhance the Force Protection posture of the organizations by relocating them from leased space onto a traditional military installation.

Payback: The total estimated one-time cost to the Department of Defense to implement this recommendation is \$153.5M. The net of all costs and savings to the Department during the implementation period is a savings of \$107.1M. Annual recurring savings to the Department after implementation are \$49.4M with a payback expected in 2 years. The net present value of the costs and savings to the Department over 20 years is a savings of \$572.7M.

Economic Impact on Communities: Assuming no economic recovery, this recommendation could result in a maximum potential reduction of 193 jobs (122 direct jobs and 71 indirect jobs) over the 2006-2011 period in the Durham, NC, Metropolitan 30 Statistical Area, which is less than 0.1 percent of economic area employment. The aggregate economic impact of all recommended actions on this economic region of influence was considered and is at Appendix B of Volume I.

Community Infrastructure: A review of community attributes indicates no issues regarding the ability of the infrastructure of the communities to support missions, forces, and personnel. There are no known community infrastructure impediments to implementation of all recommendations affecting the installations in this recommendation.

Environmental Impact: An Air Conformity determination may be required at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. This recommendation has no impact on cultural, archeological, or tribal resources; dredging; land use constraints or sensitive resource areas; marine mammals, resources, or sanctuaries; noise; threatened and endangered species or critical habitat; waste management; water resources; or wetlands. This recommendation will require spending approximately \$0.5M for environmental

compliance activities. This cost was included in the payback calculation. This recommendation does not otherwise impact the costs of environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance activities. The aggregate environmental impact of all recommended BRAC actions affecting the bases in this recommendation has been reviewed. There are no known environmental impediments to implementation of this recommendation.

Substantial Deviation: Military Value Not Priority

The justification recommendation states that this will co-locate the managers of externally funded research in one campus. Currently, these program managers are at seven separate locations. It further states that the relocation allows technical synergy by bringing research managers from disparate locations together to one place. The end state will be co-location of the named organizations at a single location in a single facility, or a cluster of facilities. This “Co-Located Center of Excellence” will foster additional coordination among the extramural research activities of OSD and the Military Departments.

This justification completely ignores the fact that almost all of these activities are currently clustered in a two square block area of Arlington that is also near the National Science Foundation, university offices, and leading research and development companies. These agencies are by their very mission charged with intense interaction with non-DOD research institutions, and as stated in the briefing that Dr. Tether, Director of DARPA, provided to the Infrastructure Executive Council on April 25th, 2005, “mission success depends on an open environment where people with innovative ideas and who have not dealt with DOD can easily access DARPA.” He further stated that “effective operations require a closely located and immediately available large cadre of high-quality, non-Government technical support staff experts and facilities.”

Technical synergy is important but this recommendation removes this synergy by isolating defense research agencies from not only the National Science Foundation but an entire area that has been built over the past 50 years to be a high-tech concentration

The justification for this recommendation further states that it will enhance the Force Protection posture of the organizations by relocating them from leased space onto a traditional military installation. Force protection is important. That is the reason that the Office of Naval Research, elements of Army Scientific Research, Air Force Research, and others recently moved into a building that was specifically designed to provide force protection. However, force protection was not the reason for this recommendation, vacating leased office space was the reason. Among the minutes of the Technical Joint Cross-Service Group of January 19, 2005, as it relates to the recommendation to move these activities to either Bethesda or Anacostia, is the statement that “*the military value analysis is irrelevant as this scenario strives to get out of leased space per the OSD imperative.*” Furthermore, the minutes from the Technical Joint Cross-Service Group of February 22, 2005, clearly state that DARPA and ONR had higher quantitative military values than Anacostia, which has a higher military value than Bethesda, but the decision was made to move them to the lowest military value of the three. Among the justifications given: “*Vacate leased space in the National Capital Region.*” The existing locations had a higher military value, the highest priority according to the law, than both Anacostia and Bethesda but they still chose to move as a

result of this OSD imperative.

In looking at this recommendation, and all of the recommendations from the Technical Joint Cross Service Group, it is important to note the deliberations of their meetings and the thoughts of some of their members. According to the minutes of their November 18, 2004, meeting, Don DeYoung, the Navy CIT alternate had this to say: *“The Technical Joint Cross Service Group (TJCSG) has registered 29 closure/realignment scenarios on the Department’s Scenario Tracking Tool. But 20 months after the TJCSG’s first deliberations in March 2003, and with the Cost of Base Closure and Realignment (COBRA) data calls set to launch in a matter of days – not one scenario is the output of the Linear Optimization Model (LOM), not one is driven by data on excess capacity, and not one reflects data-derived military value. In short, not one is the result of quantitative analysis. All are instead the product of military judgment. Military judgement is a critical part of our process, but it is subjective by nature and strongly dependent on the mix of individuals within the TJCSG. The process was designed to be data driven for those very reasons, but it has drifted into one that will be, at best, data-validated, and at worst, data-rationalized. Without proactive measures, the scenarios will be difficult to defend before the BRAC Commission.”* Furthermore, according to the October 14, 2004 memo that Michael Wynne, the Acting Undersecretary of Defense responsible for managing the internal BRAC process in DOD, issued to the Secretaries of the military departments and the chairmen of the Joint Cross-Service Groups the Department would use a specific set of principles when applying military judgement in their deliberative process. These principles include references to the Department’s ability to recruit and train, provide quality of life, organize, equip, and other elements that are important to the Armed Forces ability to execute its missions. Nowhere in these principles, or the July 2, 2004 memorandum from Secretary Wynne to the chairmen of the Joint Cross-Service Groups which spell them out in greater detail, will you find any mention of leased office space or any reference to force protection standards.

Some have argued that vacating leased space and co-locating in a single building is transformational but the Department’s own BRAC Red Team noted its March 22, 2005 briefing notes: *“since transformation is not one of the final selection criteria, transformational justifications have no legal basis and should be removed..”*

Decisions were made and scenarios were developed, all without consideration of cost, excess capacity, or military value. Military judgment is cited but the Departments own documented guidance does not include vacating leased office space as a valid military judgement. Throughout the BRAC process the Pentagon leadership decided that they would vacate leased office space despite any quantitative analysis on cost, excess capacity (MilCon is required), or military value (it was considered “irrelevant”). This is demonstrated by the minutes of the January 5, 2005, meeting of the H&SA Cross Service Group which state: *“The OSD Member met with Mr. DuBois and gave him an NCR update. Mr. DuBois stated the leadership expectations include four items: (1) significant reduction of leased space in the NCR; (2) reduce DOD presence in the NCR in terms of activities and employees; (3) MDA, DISA, and the NGA are especially strong candidates to move out of the NCR; and (4) HSA JCSG should propose bold candidate recommendations and let the ISG and IEC temper those recommendations if necessary.”*

Giving OSD imperatives and expectations greater priority than military value is a substantial

deviation from the BRAC criteria.

