

**Talking Paper  
On  
Modifying the BRAC Recommendation  
And  
Retaining the Operational Activities of the Operations and Sustainment  
Systems Group (OSSG)  
At  
Maxwell-Gunter AFB**

- **Purpose of the BRAC recommendation is to create a “Center of Excellence” for Research, Development and Acquisition of Information Technology Systems.**
  - However, OSSG is not a Research and Development Organization. It does Operations and Sustainment of Information Technology Support Systems for the Air Force.
  - OSSG has a real world mission of operating the Air Force Network Operations Center, which provides operations support to the warfighter. This is a 24-hour per day, 7 days a week mission that includes a call center and the monitoring the worldwide network which supports the warfighter.
  
- **To move OSSG to Hanscom AFB merges disparate missions and workforces and puts at risk the corporate knowledge of the current workforce.**
  - Since many of the workers will not move. The synergy of 30 years of shared knowledge and experience of the OSSG workforce would be lost.
  - The age of current IT systems demands functional expertise and accumulated experience to keep them operating since many of the software programs are written in computer languages that are no longer used or taught.
  - The workforce for Operations & Sustainment is different than the R&D workforce and the mission would have to be recreated at Hanscom AFB with little or no reduction in the workforce.
  
- **Risks loosing the physical synergy with the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)**
  - DISA does similar operations for the Department of Defense and maintains the network backbone on which the Air Force systems run.
  - These two organizations jointly operate systems & equipment that is critical to the mission.
  - They have shared their workforces and experience over the years. People move from one organization to the other and they have personal working relationships and knowledge of each other’s systems that has developed over the years. The four top leaders of DISA came from the OSSG.
  - During the crisis of September 11, 2001, OSSG and DISA worked jointly to restore network operations to the Pentagon after it was attacked. This could not have been done virtually. This is common of crisis situations.

- This move costs the government money rather than saves money
  - The lost intellectual capital – CAN'T BE COSTED. Operations and Sustainment capability comes from experience and interaction with users.
  - MIT / Harvard grads will seek cutting edge jobs for Research and Development, but it will cost the government more to hire a workforce at Hanscom AFB to do Operations and Sustainment work.
  - DOD Cost Analysis Was Limited In Scope and Inaccurate
    - Did Not Cost Contractor Workforce. There are 713 contractors that work on the installation and 133 contractors off base doing the same work as the DoD workforce that were not costed.
    - Did Not Cost "MEO" Sized Workforce. The organization was recently downsized to a most efficient organization (MEO) and the BRAC recommendation took savings for positions that are not currently filled or funded.
    - Did Not Cost Dual Ops During Lengthy Transition. The network operation center operates 24/7 and would need to be up and operating before the Maxwell-Gunter operation could be shut down.
    - They also took a saving from the current onboard number of 1224 at OSSG to the stated 839 at Hanscom as saving. However, they intended to outsource the 393 positions in the Central Design Activity and did not account for the cost to contract that activity.
    - There are no personnel reductions, they are merely recreating the OSSG activity in it's entirety at Hanscom AFB
  - **If costed correctly, this move would never produce a cost saving and would in fact cost more than \$400 million over 20 years to implement.**
- A Research and Development "Center of Excellence" can still be created at Hanscom AFB without the operational activities of the OSSG and still sustain (and in fact enhance) the quality of the mission.
  - It will have no domino effect on any other of the BRAC recommendation.
  - It will cost \$400 million less and retains the synergies with the existing DISA facility at Maxwell-Gunter.
  - It will retain the ability to execute the Air Force future plans to consolidate network activities using the Gunter network operations center as one of those intended locations.
  - It will allow DISA to execute future plans to create Information Technology Mission Centers, which is even more important with the consolidation of Air Force facilities.
  - This modification to the BRAC recommendation will still allow the transfer of 353 positions to Hanscom from Gunter that are not operationally oriented and perform the Research and Development mission, while retaining 1035 DoD personnel and 682 Contractors at Maxwell-Gunter that do operational and operational support activities that are still under the administrative control of the headquarters at Hanscom AFB.



## **Positions Remaining at Maxwell-Gunter Involved in Operational Activities**

### **The Network Operations Center**

This includes the Operations Division of OSSG, which runs the Network Operations Center and the Call Center.

Military – 161 (42 Officer, 119 Enlisted)

DOD Civilians – 59

Contractors – 233

Total – 453

### **Operations Support and Sustainment of Current Systems**

This includes all direct Operations Support activities that keep the current systems running on the network.

Military – 461 (82 Officer, 379 Enlisted)

DOD Civilian – 354

Contractor – 449

Total – 1264

### **Totals Remaining at Maxwell-Gunter**

Officer – 124

Enlisted – 498

DOD Civilian – 413

Contractors – 682

Total – 1717

## **Positions Transferred to Hanscom AFB Performing Research, Development and Acquisition**

### **The DFSG Operating Location at Maxwell-Gunter**

Military – 24 (4 Officers, 20 Enlisted)

Civilian – 20

Contractor – 38

Total – 82

### **The Engineering Integration Support Squadron**

Military – 24 (7 Officers, 17 Enlisted)

Civilian – 121

Contractor – 126

### **Totals Transferred to Hanscom AFB**

Officer – 11

Enlisted – 37

Civilian – 141

Contractor – 164

Total – 353