

# Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

# EARLY



# BIRD

26 June, 2005

## Department of Defense Releases

### National News Articles

On Grounds Of Old Base, A New Community Is Born

Covering All The Bases

### Local News Articles

Base Civilians' Jobs Also Hinge On BRAC Call (Clovis, NM)

Nevada delegation wins base closing commissioner's promise to tour depot (Clovis, NM)

Despite years of challenge, area proves resilient (Grand Forks, ND)

New publication aims to assist RAFB newcomers (Macon, GA)

Defense spending cuts not new to the St. Louis region (St. Louis, MO)

Commentary: Appeals of military closings require more than immediate cosmetics (St. Louis, MO)

BRAC changes may hurt HAFB (Salt Lake City, UT)

## Additional Notes

N/A

## National News Articles

**On Grounds Of Old Base, A New Community Is Born**  
**Redevelopment seen as model for conversions**  
 Boston Globe  
 June 26, 2005  
 By Jeff Kass, Globe Correspondent

DENVER -- A tidy grouping of homes and businesses on the city's eastern edge boasts some unusual trademarks: Navy blue doors, buildings with five-pointed Air Force stars chiseled in concrete on walls, and a B-52 bomber outside the neighborhood museum.

The community is Lowry, a former US Air Force installation in Denver and an adjoining city that is being heralded as one of the country's most successful military base conversions as the president and Congress prepare to shut down more bases.

Behind the blue doors are now the Officers' Row homes, which are part of a residential and commercial rebirth for the old base that includes new schools, vibrant business district, and thousands of new homes.

More than a decade ago, looking at the ratty hangars, barracks, and roads, it was easy to miss the potential.

BRAC Commission Early Bird

Use of these articles does not reflect official endorsement.  
 Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

1

"You're not giving [over] a pristine piece of ground," said Hilarie Portell, spokeswoman for the Lowry Redevelopment Authority, which is in charge of converting the 1,866-acre site. "You get 1,000 empty buildings, 28 miles of obsolete roads, and utilities the city won't accept."

Some lessons were hard fought. Environmental cleanup battles and the slower-than-expected growth of a state community college branch are two major issues Lowry continues to work through.

Lowry benefited from a confluence of trends. Traffic was snarling the suburbs just as city living was becoming more attractive. Close to downtown, Lowry offered a new alternative to the city's dated housing stock. Denver and the neighboring city of Aurora -- which contains 11 percent of the Lowry land -- defied traditional municipal antagonism and quickly struck a deal on jointly managing the project.

"It's one of those things where, rather than seeing all they could lose to each other, these cities saw all they could gain," said Otis White, president of the Atlanta-based public policy consulting firm Civic Strategies Inc. "I think [the planners] were lucky and smart. Mostly they were lucky."

According to the website of the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum on the Lowry grounds, Lowry Field's first, unpaved runway became operational in 1938. Ten years later, it became Lowry Air Force Base under a military reorganization after World War II. In 1966, the last plane took off as the base became a training facility.

The base closed for good on Sept. 30, 1994, over the loud objections of local government officials, as part of a nationwide round of base closures.

The previous year, anticipating the closure, city officials in Denver and Aurora approved the Lowry Reuse Plan, which outlined the scope of the housing, commercial development, and parkland to be built on the former base. The first buildings and runways were demolished in 1996.

Homes started going up in 1997, and the first residents moved in in 1998.

Just past the main business district are the Grand Lowry Lofts, a massive brick building that housed military personnel and offices when the Air Force base was open.

The lofts, with two stone eagles guarding an arched entry, are among the 3,000 homes and apartments that now house 6,500 residents, a mix including young professionals, retirees, and those in need of low-cost housing. By 2007, 4,500 dwellings are expected to house 10,000 people in a mix of million-dollar homes and affordable houses.

Commercial construction began in 1999, the same year three new schools opened. Lowry now has six private schools, one public elementary school, and a library. The 3.8 million square feet of commercial space now includes 110 employers and 6,000 workers. The community, called Lowry, is credited with adding \$4 billion in economic benefits to the region.

The town's business district has a neat array of shops and restaurants, including a supermarket, a Mexican restaurant, a tanning salon, a bicycle shop, a Starbucks, a toy store, and Lowry Liquors, with its logo of five-pointed stars.

But Lowry, which seems as trim and unified as a Lego set, still has a couple of pieces missing. The redevelopment agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Air Force have cooperated -- and clashed -- over the pace, thoroughness, and cost of environmental cleanup of the former base. Construction of the Great Lawn, Lowry's 50-acre centerpiece park, has been delayed because of concerns about asbestos, which was found elsewhere on the base.

Portell and Markham say the Air Force, which has ultimate legal responsibility for the cleanup, should allow the redevelopment authority to manage the cleanup.

#### BRAC Commission Early Bird

Use of these articles does not reflect official endorsement.  
Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

Spokeswoman Sonja Coderre says the Air Force has plenty of expertise in environmental cleanups from other base closings. But she acknowledges that documentation to pinpoint potential problems may be difficult to find or incomplete.

On a site of approximately 141 acres, mostly in Aurora, the Colorado Community College System planned for the equivalent of 10,000 full-time students but now expects 5,333, according to Marilyn Golden, vice president for finance and administration. Currently, the equivalent of 2,000 full-timers are enrolled.

The college system wants to use 80 of the acres for a mix of housing and businesses. Golden says a slow economy, state budget constraints, and shifting student enrollment is forcing the change.

Chuck Woodward, co-author of a guidebook on Lowry, was one of its first residents. He retired to Lowry, where his homeowners association takes care of snow removal and grass cutting. The 68-year-old likes being part of a cutting-edge community.

He is bothered by the delay in building the Great Lawn, but enjoys being within walking distance of the shops, restaurants, and the library, where he volunteers.

The former high school history and psychology teacher moved from Aurora to a four-bedroom, 2,100-square-foot home full of windows and light, a gas fireplace, and a small backyard with a little pond. Since he moved in nearly seven years ago, he believes, the value of his home has jumped from about \$200,000 to about \$465,000.

"These sites can be real economic development opportunities," said Portell.

"They certainly are a hard economic loss in the short-term. They definitely are hard to implement. But we say this: There is life after closure."

## Covering All The Bases

## Like many states facing Pentagon cutbacks, Maine is struggling to avoid the ax

U.S. News & World Report

July 4, 2005

By Bret Schulte

KITTERY, MAINE--It's a state whose name is almost synonymous with summertime R&R. But Maine this summer is seeing more restlessness than relaxation. On June 1 in Kittery, just across the Piscataqua River from Portsmouth, N.H., roughly 8,000 people, most in bright yellow T-shirts declaring "Save Our Shipyard," converged on downtown with defiant cries of "We're No. 1!" The next day, about 75 miles up the coast, several hundred locals clustered together outside the Brunswick Naval Air Station at a chilly 7 a.m. toting signs saying, "Protect Our Homeland." In Augusta, the state capital, Gov. John Baldacci has ordered state agencies to prepare to cope with widespread layoffs, and the Legislature is wringing emergency funds from already dry state coffers.

For Maine, these are indeed anxious days--and it is not alone. On May 13 (even those who aren't superstitious noted it was a Friday), the Defense Department recommended closing 33 major military bases around the country and restructuring 29 others to cut costs and streamline operations. There's little dispute about the need for the cutbacks--unless it's your community that's going to be hit. This round of the base realignment and closure (BRAC) process, the fifth since 1988, could leave Maine reeling. All three of its major military facilities are on the BRAC list: The 205-year-old Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Limestone are recommended for closure. The Brunswick Naval Air Station stands to lose at least half its personnel--and its entire fleet of patrol planes. But the recommendations are just that, which leaves Maine's community leaders, the governor, and its two Republican senators still hoping to dodge the bullet.

Maine's fate will be decided by nine BRAC commissioners appointed by the White House and congressional leaders from both parties. Led by former Secretary of Veterans Affairs

## BRAC Commission Early Bird

Use of these articles does not reflect official endorsement.  
Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

Anthony Principi, the independent body is meant to depoliticize the BRAC process. The commission holds public hearings, conducts site tours, and reviews data related to the BRAC criteria of military value, cost efficiency, and economic impact. But with only about 15 percent of BRAC recommendations overturned by previous commissions, the chances of getting a base off the list are slim. A final list that can be vetoed only in its entirety will be submitted to the president on September 8. Once accepted, the list moves on to Congress and takes effect unless Congress votes it down within 45 legislative days.

Bad timing. Maine has been through this before; in the mid-1990s, it lost Loring Air Force Base, which had some 4,500 military personnel and 1,100 civilians. It got the Limestone accounting center, employing about 350 people, to help soften the blow--and now that facility is targeted along with the shipyard, whose largely civilian workforce totals 4,800. All told, state economists estimate the proposed cutbacks would cost Maine's economy \$465 million annually through the loss of 12,000 direct and indirect jobs. Baldacci likens it to "losing our fishing, forestry, and farming industries in one fell swoop." While Maine has finally replaced the jobs lost in the 2001 recession, the manufacturing base has steadily given way to the lower-paying service sector. What's more, a voter referendum requiring the state to pay a larger portion of local education costs has left Maine cash-strapped at a time when it faces a \$342 million federal Medicaid shortfall over 10 years. After the BRAC news, Augusta legislators were forced to reopen what was a contentious budget to find new ways to curtail spending. In the frantic statehouse, Rep. Carol Grose laments, "This has been a bad year for Maine."

The day of reckoning could be July 6, when the full BRAC Commission comes to Boston for a regional hearing. For New England, hit particularly hard in this round, it's the best chance to make the case that the Pentagon has massively underestimated--or, as many contend, misrepresented--the value of these installations and the cost of shutting them down. Accusations

are swirling that the Pentagon's list amounts to political retribution. So-called blue states, Maine included, would suffer a loss of 24,000 jobs, while traditionally red states would net 12,000, mostly in the South and West. The nuclear submarine repair and refueling work currently performed in Kittery, for instance, would shift to Norfolk, Va. The Brunswick fleet would depart for Jacksonville, Fla.

In Maine, the outcry was loud and clear the first week of June, when four BRAC commissioners took fact-finding tours of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the Brunswick Naval Air Station. Cheering crowds rallied to greet the commissioners, while showing contempt for the Defense Department. In Kittery, where signs expressed sentiments like "Downsize the Pentagon," demonstrator Peggy Evans, a third-generation employee of the shipyard, said it was targeted because "we didn't support the president in the last election." Back in Augusta, after joining the commissioners and the entire Maine congressional delegation on both site visits, Baldacci, a Democrat, put it this way: "When you look at the map, it's very clear to me we get penalized for being Red Sox fans instead of the Texas Rangers."

The Pentagon, though, argues the recommendations are based on the BRAC criteria. Many experts agree, saying the shift from North and East to South and West reflects a move away from a Cold War posture. They point to South Dakota, where Republican John Thune unseated Democratic Senate Leader Tom Daschle in November. One of his winning arguments: A Republican was better positioned to save Ellsworth Air Force Base from BRAC. Ellsworth, the state's second-largest employer, appeared on the hit list anyway.

But the Pentagon has fueled suspicions with its slow, piecemeal release of BRAC-related documents justifying the recommendations. Maine's two moderate Republican senators, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, have accused the Pentagon of foot-dragging and stonewalling, though neither asserts that BRAC is political. "I believe this process is driven by the numbers," Snowe says, "to reach an arbitrary

#### BRAC Commission Early Bird

Use of these articles does not reflect official endorsement.  
Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

bottom line of theoretical and hypothetical cost savings." Snowe says the delay in obtaining BRAC paperwork made fighting the recommendations "infinitely more difficult." To put pressure on the Pentagon, Snowe and Collins joined with Thune and senators from other affected states to engage in some gamesmanship by introducing long-shot legislation to suspend the BRAC process. On June 7, Collins, who chairs the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, played her trump card. She joined with the committee's ranking Democrat, Joe Lieberman of Connecticut--the only state slated to lose more jobs from BRAC than Maine--to subpoena the Pentagon to force it to declassify and release all appropriate BRAC-related data.

Maine has hired the PMA Group, a Washington, D.C., consulting firm, at \$16,000 a month to look for holes in the Pentagon's assertions and to press its cause with BRAC Commission staff. Money is also being doled out to community task forces composed of military veterans, civilian employees, and local leaders with detailed knowledge of the facilities and some experience with past BRAC battles. The Save Our Shipyard Association has received \$100,000 from the state of New Hampshire, where 40 percent of its employees live. It received a like amount from the Maine statehouse, which has also sent emergency funds to groups in Brunswick and Limestone. The shipyard group hired its own Washington consultant. Brunswick members made eight trips to Washington to meet with Pentagon officials and comb through the BRAC library searching for the secrets of bases that got off the list. "We're taking their expertise and refuting the Navy data and tearing the case apart brick by brick," says Lance Boucher, a top Baldacci aide who is coordinating the BRAC fight.

Challenges. Maine is arguing that the Pentagon is wrong on several counts: that the economic impact on communities is underestimated; that base improvements, such as Brunswick's new \$21 million hangar designed for the next generation of patrol planes, should weigh more heavily in the air station's favor; and that the Pentagon neglected \$288 million in savings

achieved at the cost-efficient shipyard. Another bone of contention is the projected cost of environmental cleanup at the nuclear-licensed yard, which Maine believes would run as much as \$200 million more than the Pentagon's \$47 million estimate.

To sway the BRAC Commission, however, Maine must win on the chief criterion, military value, a touchy subject in the Northeast, which was a focus of the 9/11 attacks and has been hit hard in past BRAC rounds. Brunswick is the last active-duty air station in the region. From her spot on the Homeland Security Committee, Collins has argued that the Northeast remains vulnerable to terrorism, especially weapons of mass destruction arriving by cargo ship. Brunswick's planes "have played an increasing role in providing maritime surveillance for the North Atlantic shipping lanes," Collins says. "They cannot perform that role effectively if they are stationed in Jacksonville."

After site visits in Maine, Principi pledged, "We are not a rubber stamp" for the Pentagon's BRAC list. That's encouraging for those in the fight to save Maine's bases. "A lot of us felt like what's defined us over the last century is being . . . some of the best Navy support and military infrastructure in the world," says Maine's House majority leader, Glenn Cummings, whose brother, grandfather, and great-grandfather have all worked as Navy shipbuilders. "It goes beyond the issue of just livelihood. It's about how we've defined ourselves."

### Local News Articles

#### **Base Civilians' Jobs Also Hinge On BRAC Call (Clovis, NM)**

Clovis (NM) News Journal

June 26, 2005

By Marlana Hartz, CNJ staff writer

His posture told a story. Leo Dudley sat in a front pew at the 16th and Pile Church of Christ, leaning forward, his hands perched on his chin for nearly 90 minutes Friday morning as two local base supporters and a New Mexico

### BRAC Commission Early Bird

Use of these articles does not reflect official endorsement.  
Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

delegation argued to have Cannon Air Force Base removed from the Base Realignment and Closure list.

Dudley has a personal stake in the process.

“I work at Cannon,” Dudley said, briefly shifting his eyes from the large screen that broadcast the hearing from the overflow church venue, where about 30 members of the community listened to pro-Cannon testimony.

He is one of more than 600 civilians employed at the base, according to the Cannon office of public affairs. For many military personnel stationed at the base, Cannon is just one stop in a long line of assignments, carried out at bases across the United States. Not so for employees like Dudley. If the base closes as recommended by the Department of Defense, Dudley would lose his job.

“There are a lot of programs to help people relocate if they need to — depending on what you do,” said Capt. Andre Kok of Cannon’s Public Affairs office. Qualification for certain government assistance programs, Kok said, is based on the type of job the employee performs — of the 600-plus civilian base employees, “some are contracted workers, some are government and civil service folks,” and the type of aid a worker receives is dependent upon their position, Kok said.

Charla Krumheuer’s husband is an electronic technician at Melrose Bombing Range — at Friday’s rally for Cannon, an event planned after Friday’s regional Base Realignment and Closure, her face carried the same look of intensity worn on Dudley’s.

“We might have to move,” Krumheuer said, seated under the shade, the option of relocation Kok spoke of most viable for the couple. “But I basically told him (my husband) not to worry so soon.”

But the odds for Eric and Charla Krumheuer don’t look good. Historically, 85 percent of the bases recommended for closure do indeed shutter. And state leaders are lumping Cannon

and Melrose in the same lot. New Mexico Land Commissioner Patrick Lyons said he would seek the return of about 80,000 acres of state trust land that surrounds the base and the Melrose Bombing Range if Cannon closes. A similar statement was made by Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M.

“While the Air Force,” said Wilson at Friday’s hearing, “assumes that these ranges will continue to be available even if Cannon closes, I don’t think that is a reasonable assumption for the long term. People accept training ranges when they are associated with bases in their communities. Without the base, support for the ranges will erode.”

Statements like Wilson’s have Eric Krumheuer on edge.

“If Cannon does close and the Air Combat Command wanted to keep the range open, it would be very selfish of the city of Clovis to fight that in an all or nothing type deal,” said retired Senior Master Sgt. Krumheuer, who makes about \$60,000 a year operating and maintaining ground radar systems, and says that Melrose Bombing Range generates income that can’t be replaced for the 30 other civilians with whom he works.

“If the range closes, we are leaving. If I stayed here, I would have to take a 60 percent cut in pay,” said Krumheuer, who like many area military retirees once stationed at Cannon, grew to like the Clovis area, and never left. “With the experience I have there is nothing else out there for me to do.”

For now, the Krumheuers are just standing fast, and waiting.

“We both understand that if it (Cannon and Melrose) happens, it happens and it is time to move on with life,” Eric said.

But moving on, for the Krumheuers means leaving a community they have lived in for more than 14 years — a community three of their five children have settled into permanently.

"The saddest thing would be leaving the kids that are here," Eric Krumheuer said.

**Nevada delegation wins base closing commissioner's promise to tour depot (Clovis, NM)**

Associated Press

25 June, 2005

By Felicia Fonseca

CLOVIS, NM - Nevada's political leaders got a welcome surprise on their trip to New Mexico: a commissioner's commitment to visit the Army Ammunition Depot near Hawthorne.

Base Realignment and Closure Commissioner Philip Coyle told Gov. Kenny Guinn along with six others that he'd arrange for a visit to the threatened depot in mid-July.

"We haven't been able to give (information) to them other than through this process," Guinn said after BRAC's regional hearing Friday morning in eastern New Mexico. "I felt there was real receptivity to the kinds of data they were getting and especially to the testimony of some of the individuals here."

Mineral County Executive Director Shelley Hartmann broke down in tears as she testified to what she claimed was flawed data the Pentagon used to put the depot on a closure list.

The 147,230-acre depot is facing its first threat of closure. During the last round of base closures, Hawthorne lost 200 jobs, and Hartmann said the community of 3,500 has not recovered.

More than 530 jobs, mostly civilian would be lost this round, Hartmann said. Pentagon data shows only 326 jobs would be lost - 199 direct and 127 indirect.

"Hawthorne becomes a ghost town, and that's not acceptable," Hartmann said. "We don't mind losing the fight fair and square. But we do mind when the data is skewed."

The Pentagon says the government would avoid duplication and save money by moving the depot's storage and recycling functions to the Tooele Army Depot in Utah. For more than six decades the Hawthorne depot, 130 miles south of Reno, Nev., has manufactured, stored and shipped bombs and munitions.

Also at stake is the realignment of the 152nd Airlift Wing in Reno. The Nevada National Guard stands to lose its 10 C-130 planes to Little Rock, Ark., and 147 jobs. The 10 C-130s are the state's first line of response against terrorism and natural disasters, said Guard Brig. Gen. Cindy Kirkland.

"I can't begin to understand how the Department of Defense gave no consideration whatsoever to homeland defense and security when our national security policy establishes the security of our homeland as priority No. 1," said Homeland Security Director Giles Vanderhoff.

The hearing was the first step in trying to save Hawthorne's depot and the Nevada guard. Next on the list for Nevada is to prepare for the incoming commissioner.

"It wasn't a home run," said Nevada Sen. Mike McGinness. "But at least it was a standup double."

**Despite years of challenge, area proves resilient;**  
**Economic growth continues despite setbacks**  
Grand Forks Herald  
25 June, 2005

As in the classic book, "A Tale of Two Cities," Grand Forks residents probably feel that it is the best of times, and it is the worst of times.

Ever since the devastation caused by the Flood in 1997 and almost at the same time losing a large number of base personnel when the Minuteman missile wing left, this town has not only recovered, but it has seen significant economic growth. These have been good times.

BRAC Commission Early Bird

Use of these articles does not reflect official endorsement.  
Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

7

Now, with the Pentagon's latest Base Realignment and Closure recommendation, many in the community fear they may be entering the worst of times.

Besides the regular data presented here each month, I am going to present data to show you what you already have accomplished under less-than-ideal conditions. To be sure, it would be better if nothing had changed, but you will see that what already has occurred at the base in the last several years, and in other areas of the local economy as well, has been at least as large as the worst-case scenario presented to us by BRAC. While that was occurring, the Grand Forks economy continued its long-run expansion, and it can continue to do it in the future.

#### The statistics

First, some comments on the statistics presented each month. It increased again. The prime rate, that is. Today it is at 6 percent, or one-third greater than a year ago. For individuals and businesses borrowing money, that is significant. How much higher will it go? Given the mindset at the Federal Reserve Bank, I would not be surprised to see the rate at 8 percent by the end of the year.

Will that matter? Well, it is the contention of the Fed that it will increase interest rates to keep inflation under control. Inflation is not good. The problem is that, at least at the start, it does not affect everyone the same. It may keep costs under control for some, but it simply raises costs for others.

#### Some good news

Now, for some good news. Both monthly building permits and city sales tax collections are up. Both are significant indicators of a growing Grand Forks economy. Building permits in Grand Forks are up about 50 percent in value for the year. East Grand Forks declined significantly, but that was because last year there was a large commercial project and substantial home building. Given the relative size of East Grand Forks, I would not be ready to declare a

downturn in their economy at this stage. The figures will bear watching, though.

Grand Forks city sales tax collections are up 8 percent on the 12-month rolling average, and over 3 percent for the calendar year. You will recall that this year's collections have jumped around on a month-to-month basis. It is the year-to-date and 12-month rolling average that are a truer measure of economic activity. The figures also demonstrate the importance of events in the Grand Forks economy. Were it not for the World Juniors and events at the Alerus, sales tax collections for the year probably would have declined.

The remainder of the normal monthly statistics is about what we would expect with this economy. Some could be better, but none give any serious cause for concern. The only comment I would make is on the Canadian and Euro exchange with the U.S. dollar. Economists are having a hard time explaining the relative strength of the dollar. Given our national situation, especially the large budget deficit, the only explanation for the dollars improving position is relativity. In other words, the problems in Canada and the EU are worse than they are in the United States. In the long run, all of these economies must address their problems. If they don't, relativity will be of little comfort.

Finally, I should note that inflation actually declined this month. That is good. The credit for that probably should go to the Federal Reserve.

#### Base situation effect

As for Grand Forks Air Force Base, the Pentagon's initial recommendations may not occur. Knowing the amount of money the military was putting into the base with the rebuilt runway and the new housing, I couldn't imagine the recommendations would call for any change. The problem was the committee making the recommendations didn't know about either of those two factors. Had they been considered, we are told, the recommendations would have been different. Now that they do know, it is possible that at least some of the tankers may remain here.

Second, I would caution anyone in accepting the secondary, or indirect, job loss figure. The 2,200 indirect jobs from 2,800 military and civilian positions seem too high. In fact, in the report issued by the base last fall, they claimed that the entire base only created 1,320 indirect jobs. I have requested a copy of the formula that BRAC used. To date, I have not received it.

Even if we do accept the total 5,000 job loss, I would like you to look at the table showing total population for Grand Forks, the base, East Grand Forks and the Grand Forks MSA (the metropolitan statistical area is Grand Forks and Polk counties). From 1995 to 2002, the base population declined by nearly 4,700 people. From 1995 to 2003, the GFMSA declined by 8,400, or 8.8 percent. That does not include the 4,700 decrease at the base. In the same time period, Grand Forks, GFAFB and East Grand Forks school population declined by 1,987 students, or 16.4 percent.

In a shorter time frame (earlier figures are not available), from 1998 to 2004, Grand Forks city's taxable sales and purchases increased by \$138,991,622, or 20.3 percent.

In that same 1995-to-2004 time period, jobs in the Grand Forks MSA increased by 3,200 positions, from 47,600 to 50,800. This does not include any military or civilian jobs on the base. That is a 6.7 percent increase, and includes any problems from the Flood of 1997 and losing the missile wing. While all this was occurring, total income in the Grand Forks MSA increased by more than \$500,000, or 25 percent. Per capita income increased by \$7,487, or 37 percent.

In the past 10 years, this area already has handled a job loss about as large as the worst-case scenario, and has grown economically.

Finally, the other point we have not even discussed is that we are told those will not be net job losses. It appears that there will be significant activity from unmanned aerial vehicles being assigned to the base. Given the nature of that new high-tech piece of machinery, it appears that whatever number of military

personnel that will be assigned here, there will also be a significant number of high tech, highly paid civilian contractors who will be working here also. We won't know the numbers until it happens, but it is possible if the replacement numbers, for example, totaled 50 percent of those leaving, their higher salaries could mean a reduction in payroll of only one-third, or some such combination of figures.

What I have presented here is a mix of fact and speculation. Some may question the value of the speculation, but I think it is important that residents of this area understand they are up to the challenge. 1997 was a great training ground for difficult challenges, and this community has come out of that at the top of the class.

### **New publication aims to assist RAFB newcomers (Macon, GA)**

The Macon Telegraph  
25 June, 2005  
Gene Rector

The 21st Century Partnership and Macon Magazine are collaborating on a publication they hope will help individuals and families transferring to Robins Air Force Base either because of the base realignment and closure process or through normal personnel actions.

Megan Smith told the partnership last week that the publication would contain a wealth of information on housing, medical facilities and other quality of life options throughout Middle Georgia. Smith, a member of the partnership's family transition team, said the publication should be available for delivery by the end of July.

The partnership includes regional political, government and business leaders focused on supporting Robins, particularly during the BRAC process. Defense Department recommendations to this point show Robins gaining 749 largely contractor jobs as a result of the BRAC 2005 process.

"We've talked to the people at Robins, and they are very excited about having the publication available," Smith said,

Smith indicated that supplies of the publication would be offered to the base and to agencies in surrounding counties.

Ron Carbon, partnership director, said there also were plans to turn the publication into a Web-based resource.

"It has the right kind of information," he said. "It will be a great tool for anyone moving to Middle Georgia. It's also self supporting since it will be paid for by advertisers."

To contact Gene Rector, call 923-3109, extension 239, or e-mail [grector@macontel.com](mailto:grector@macontel.com)

### **Defense spending cuts not new to the St. Louis region (St. Louis, MO)**

St. Louis Daily Record/St. Louis Countian  
25 June, 2005

Mike Trask

If there is one issue that can bring Republicans and Democrats together, it's the prospect of losing federal funding for projects and operations that provide employment for their constituents.

That is why state and federal elected officials from both parties gathered Monday at Saint Louis University's Busch Center to make their cases before the national Base Realignment and Closure Commission not to follow Pentagon recommendations that would result in Missouri losing almost 3,000 military and civilian jobs - most of them in the St. Louis area. After conducting hearings throughout the country on the recommendations, the BRAC panel is scheduled to send its own list of recommendations on consolidating military operations to President George W. Bush by early September.

One of the recommendations calls for moving the Army Reserve's Human Resources Command out of Overland and to Fort Knox,

Ky. That move alone would cost the area about 2,000 jobs. (See page 2 for story on the BRAC hearing.)

Such a move certainly would cause economic hardship to those affected. "For the people who would lose their jobs, it's a catastrophic thing," said Greg Prestemon, president of the Economic Development Center of St. Charles County.

But the area's economy should be able to withstand the hit, he added. "I don't want to minimize the impact it would have on real families, but from an aggregate standpoint, I don't think it would be a major disruption to the economy in the region."

While the St. Louis region has not before experienced cuts to area military operations, the area not that long ago saw the defense industry here suffer major downsizing. "The St. Louis area's economy adjusted quite well I think to what was almost a catastrophic loss of jobs in the defense industry in the late 1980s and early 1990s," Prestemon said.

St. Charles once was known primarily as McDonnell-Douglas's bedroom because so many of its employees lived in that county. "In St. Charles County, there are now far fewer people who work for what is now Boeing," Prestemon said. He estimated that Boeing now employs between one-third and one-half of the county residents the company once employed. But he said it could be that many of those people who lost jobs at Boeing found employment at some of that company's suppliers.

Eventually, Prestemon said, the region's economy will provide employment for many of those who lose their jobs if the Pentagon's recommendations are approved. "I think there's a resiliency to the region's economy. Over time, jobs will be found for the people whose jobs were cut."

In fact, the impetus to create the EDC and its business incubator program began building during that time when McDonnell-Douglas Corp. was laying off thousands of workers at its facilities here. (McDonnell-Douglas is now a

unit of Chicago-based Boeing Co.) While the job losses were devastating at the time, there also were benefits.

"I would say that it forced the leaders in the region to concentrate more on economic development than they would have otherwise," Prestemon said. "We have a more diverse employment base, and we're probably stronger now" because of that diversity. "You ideally want your employment to go across all sorts of industries."

Because of this, "we haven't had the booms and busts" that other areas of the country have experienced. The region's economy may be boring, but it also is stable. "The benefits come when the economy turns down because we don't see the kinds of dips that other places see. But we don't see the peaks either," he said.

Prestemon said the local real estate market is the same way. "We don't see the huge increases [in home prices], but the bottom never drops out."

Boeing still is important to the region's economy. The defense contractor employs thousands at its St. Louis County facilities, where fighter planes are assembled. In addition, approximately 1,100 employees work at its St. Charles' Weapons Enterprise Capability Center, where Joint Direct Attack Munition, or JDAM, tail kits are assembled. Since 1998, the facility has produced more than 112,000 JDAM tail kits. The JDAM is a satellite-controlled, near-precision bomb that has been used extensively in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission will hold a series of meetings through September to discuss ways to defend Missouri's military missions affected by Pentagon recommendations to the BRAC Commission, the state's Department of Economic Development announced Wednesday.

The first meeting is scheduled to take place from 11:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., June 29, at the Missouri Air National Guard's building at 10800 Lambert International Blvd. in Bridgeton. The public can provide written comments to the commission by

writing: Sharon Gulick, Missouri Military Commission, Missouri Department of Economic Development, P.O. Box 118, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

The nine-member military preparedness commission was created last month when Gov. Matt Blunt signed legislation to shore up Missouri's defense of its military missions and consider ways to improve those missions in the future.

### **Commentary: Appeals of military closings require more than immediate cosmetics (St. Louis, MO)**

St. Louis Daily Record/St. Louis Countian (St. Louis, MO)  
25 June, 2005  
Mike Nixon

A fresh coat of paint can signal the presence of proper maintenance, cover evidence of structural problems or present a made-over image suggesting that conditions should be considerably better than they actually are at the time.

A young lieutenant, whose name has been lost to the passage of years, understood the importance of appearance. Running the commissary at Cannon Air Force Base outside Clovis, N.M., he prepared his on-base grocery store for its part in an anticipated review by the Pentagon Base Realignment and Closure Commission that was to recommend list of cuts to be made sometime between 1990 and 1995.

Cannon was in competition for survival with Reese Air Force Base, just more than 100 miles to the southeast in Lubbock, Texas.

The Cannon commissary had undergone extensive remodeling earlier that same year, but on the day at hand, there was a swarm of activity as new paint was being applied to already brightly colored walls, and a new drop ceiling with updated lighting was being installed where basically the same job had taken place within the previous 12 months.

BRAC Commission Early Bird

Use of these articles does not reflect official endorsement.  
Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

11

When asked about the rapid makeover of an already functional and still-fresh interior, the lieutenant explained that in order for him to protect his budget in coming fiscal years, he had to spend what he had remaining in his portion of base allocations for the current period or risk losing that amount and being left short in case of an unexpected emergency. He also noted that if Cannon looked busier and more productive than Reese, its chances of being safe would increase.

In July 1995, the BRAC Commission recommended that Reese Air Force Base, a pilot training facility, be closed, while Cannon Air Force Base, home of the 27th Fighter Wing, was spared.

By September 1997, Reese was empty, military personnel and their families were transferred to other installations, and civilian jobs were lost.

As for Cannon, the makeover - of not just the commissary but other base centers, if it was a factor - offered only short-term survival as 10 years later a new BRAC Commission has Cannon listed to close with 2,824 military and civilian jobs on the line.

This past Monday, elected officials from Missouri, Illinois and most of the surrounding states appealed new BRAC recommendations that would adversely impact the St. Louis region.

Meeting inside the Busch Center at Saint Louis University, governors, senators and congressmen made their case before BRAC officials in an effort to save approximately 3,680 jobs in St. Louis alone.

Discussion was highlighted by a proposed transfer of the Missouri Air National Guard 131st F-15 Fighter Wing at Lambert Airport and a suggested closing of the Army Human Resources Command in Overland.

Six other proposed closings in Missouri were also noted. At the same time, Fort Leonard Wood faced a proposed realignment, and

Whiteman Air Force Base stood to benefit in an overall realignment.

During the hearing, Rep. William Lacy Clay, D-St. Louis, told the commission panel that BRAC plans were filled with "flawed assumptions and false savings," particularly when it came to the recommended closing of the Army Human Resource Center and replacing it with a new facility in Fort Knox, Ky.

Clay noted that St. Louis had not yet recovered from having 4,700 jobs lost in 1995 when the Army Transportation Command was ordered closed.

"A very strong argument can be made not only to maintain HRC-St. Louis but to consolidate other Army personnel operations right here. When compared to Fort Knox, the existing facility in St. Louis excels in every key category," Clay said following the hearing.

Normally mild-mannered Sen. Jim Talent of Missouri offered emphatic comments during a news conference following the morning of testimony and said that if the Pentagon does close the St. Louis Human Resource Center and then the following year requests funds to build a similar facility at Fort Knox, it would be done, he said, "over my dead body."

Members of the Missouri delegation stressed that BRAC decisions influence not only military personnel and facilities but would have a serious impact on both large and small businesses in their state.

"The workers at Missouri's defense companies, from large corporations like Boeing to our small businesses like Clean Earth Technologies, make a strong contribution to our national defense," said Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond in a personal statement following both the hearings and news conference. "Right now, it is especially critical that we provide the strongest support for the men and women who serve in the U.S. military and the innovative companies that call Missouri home and help make this possible."

Bond agreed with a comment previously made by Rep. Todd Akin that Missouri's defense industry is critical to the overall state economy, as small companies and subcontractors that supply equipment from bullets to boots are themselves responsible for producing a work force that earns \$1.8 billion in payroll for high-skill jobs while they fill more than 6.5 billion defense contracts. On an overall level, small business carried 37 percent of all subcontract defense work.

Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt pointed out that proposed BRAC cuts do not offer sufficient defense for the Midwest.

"We want to make sure that the BRAC process fulfills its intended mission while creating a force structure that is compatible with defending the homeland with current and future threats," he said after the session.

While Illinois also faces two closings that would impact 47 jobs, it was one state that proved to be a big winner with additions and realignments that had basically left that state unscathed.

In a news conference, Gov. Rod Blagojevich credited combined efforts on multiple levels as showing in advance how important the defense industry is to that state. Kansas, like Illinois, faces only a minimal loss and several gains under the BRAC program.

Economic observers have criticized Missouri decision-makers in the past for basically ignoring long-standing businesses of the region, while at the same time putting large amounts of time, money and effort into attracting new industry to the state.

Some might suggest that sweeping BRAC cuts are the result of military facilities and defense industry companies not displaying enough evidence of how critical they are for the states where they live and work.

Others might suggest that those businesses and agencies that would be most impacted by defense spending cuts are seeing the result of being taken for granted.

Actions taken by an Air Force lieutenant 15 years ago and 870 miles away from St. Louis can be viewed as an example of wasteful government spending or seen as a measure to capitalize on a fresh, clean and efficient image to go along with numbers showing how it benefited that community on a daily basis. Judgments regarding either approach or their levels of effectiveness are highly subjective.

It is difficult to guess what a little fresh paint and a few proactive steps might do in demonstrating to what level any given industry is important to a local economy. Conventional wisdom would suggest that making that message clear before an appeals panel is needed would be more cost-effective in regards to long-term investment.

Quick makeovers only conceal reality for a limited amount of time.

### **BRAC changes may hurt HAFB (Salt Lake City, UT)**

Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)  
25 June, 2005  
Leigh Dethman

Not so fast -- Hill Air Force Base isn't safe quite yet from the wrath of the Base Realignment and Closure commission.

Although the initial BRAC list left Hill supporters with little to complain about, changes could be afoot.

In May, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld recommended the BRAC commission close Cannon Air Force Base and ship at least six of its F-16s to Hill. On Friday, thousands of Cannon supporters crowded a regional hearing before the BRAC commission in an effort to save their base.

Although Hill was not mentioned during the hearing, Hill supporters are still worried about what could happen if Cannon manages to get off the BRAC list.

### **BRAC Commission Early Bird**

**Use of these articles does not reflect official endorsement.  
Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.**

"If by some chance the commission decides to take Cannon off the list, I'm concerned that we don't get the replacement aircraft," said Rick Mayfield, executive director of the Utah Defense Alliance, in a phone interview Friday from New Mexico.

Mayfield said the New Mexico delegation did an "excellent job in presenting the military value" of Cannon. Cannon and Hill are similar bases: Both house elite F-16 wings, both enjoy relatively little encroachment problem, and both have a massive training range nearby.

The Pentagon ranked Cannon relatively low among fighter wings. The New Mexico base ranked 50th out of 154 Air Force facilities in the ability to host fighter missions.

Other bases ranked considerably higher, including Hill at 14th, and another New Mexico installation, Holloman Air Force Base, at 10th. Another base slated for closure, South Dakota's Ellsworth Air Force Base, ranked 39th.

The New Mexico delegation, however, is disputing the rankings.

"We are not alleging our Defense Department is anything but the best . . . but they, too, can make mistakes," Sen. Pete Domenici, R-New Mexico, told the BRAC commission Friday.

Under the Pentagon's realignment plan, Hill will lose missions related to 13 current military positions and 447 civilian positions. But it will pick up 291 military positions and 24 civilian positions from other bases being closed.

That leaves a net loss of 145 jobs at Hill, which has nearly 24,000 civilian and military employees.

Keeping Cannon open and changing the BRAC list could create a sticky situation for the BRAC commission and Hill.

"(The BRAC list) was cleverly put together in that if you touch one base here, you touch three others at the same time," BRAC commissioner and former Utah Rep. Jim Hansen said after a

June visit to Hill. "It will be a real challenge for us to work things out."

Mayfield said he is worried about a "ripple effect" that could impact future workloads.

The Utah Defense Alliance is currently working on finding other ways Hill could receive aircraft if Hill remains open. Mayfield said Utah Defense Alliance officials are in the process of drafting a position paper that details those recommendations. Contributing: Associated Press E-mail: ldethman@desnews.com

### *Opinions/ Editorials*

### *Additional Notes*

#### BRAC Commission Early Bird

Use of these articles does not reflect official endorsement.  
Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.