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DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

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2005 BRAC Commission Schedule

Base Realignment and Closure Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

5 JULY 2005

Contact: Robert McCreary
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Media Advisory for 2005 BRAC Regional Hearing in San Antonio, Texas

HEARING DATE: MONDAY, JULY 11

TIME: Doors Open to Public at 7:30AM

**Hearing Coverage- Ballroom C, San Antonio Convention Center
8:30AM/ PRE-SET 6:00AM No later than 7:30AM**

Media Availability – Room 217, San Antonio Convention Center

As each State completes their presentation they will hold a media avail. The BRAC Commission's media avail will begin promptly 15 minutes after the end of the hearing.

LOCATION:

City of San Antonio Convention Center
200 East Market Street
San Antonio, TX 78205

PARTICIPATING STATES:

Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma

BRAC COMMISSIONERS: Chairman Anthony J. Principi, General James T. Hill (U.S. Army, Ret.), General Lloyd W. Newton (USAF, Ret.), General Sue Ellen Turner (USAF, Ret.)

Logistical information for media

- Satellite truck parking available on Bowie Street on west side of Convention Center
- 500 ft. Cable run to press risers
- 65 ft. Max camera throw
- TV quality sound and lighting
- Internet will be available

Credentialing and Media Inquiries: For media credentials, please register online at www.brac.gov under Media. Contact Robert McCreary for inquiries: 703-901-7835

For more information, schedules and future updates.

Please visit our website, www.brac.gov,

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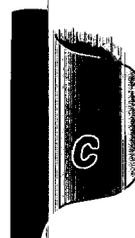
**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Brooks City Base**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close Brooks City Base.**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest Brooks City Base for closure is military value.
 - The Commission understands the importance of both the School of Aerospace Medicine and the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory. While evaluating their value on their own merits, the Commission will evaluate the installation primarily based upon its military value.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to close Brooks City Base could have and is taking this into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission recognizes the skilled labor force employed by Laboratory Sciences Equipment Laboratory at Brooks City Base and realizes the broader ramifications of moving these employees to a different location.
 - The Commission recognizes the important role that the School of Aerospace Medicine plays in the region. The Commission also recognizes the potential role that it could continue to play as San Antonio becomes a regional medical hub for the military.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
 - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to Brooks City Base**

Q1. Under the Pentagon's proposal, jobs lost at Brooks City Base would be offset by a net gain of over 3,500 other jobs in the San Antonio area. For this reason, San Antonio leaders have urged restraint in making the case for Brooks City Base. Will the Commission's decision be influenced by the overall net job gains in the San Antonio area?

A1. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Brooks City Base, but will also consider the impact that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q2. Under the BRAC recommendations, the Air Force would relocate nearly 3,000 workers and civilian jobs to Wright-Paterson AFB in Ohio. The estimated economic impact of the move on the community is more than \$400 million. Will the Commission analyze this economic impact on the community surrounding Brooks City Base?

A2. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Brooks City Base. Military value is determined through three primary criteria—jointness, ease of mobility, and role in the changing global threat structure. The Commission will also analyze the economic impact of the DoD's decision to close Brooks City Base. In addition, the Commission will review Wright-Paterson AFB's ability to receive certain resources from Brooks.

Q3. Brooks City Base is unique in that the installation is owned by the city and leased to the Air Force. Is the decision to close Brooks City Base tied to the DoD's overall decision to move out of leased space throughout the country?

A3. The DoD based its BRAC recommendations primarily upon military value. The criteria used to determine military value include jointness, ease of mobility, and the installation's role in the changing global threat paradigm. In addition, recent changes in the DoD Anti-terrorism/Force Protection standards have led the DoD to suggest realignment of resources out of leased space throughout the country. The Commission will thoroughly and accurately review the DoD's recommendations concerning these issues.

Q4. Under the Pentagon's proposal, the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory is scheduled to move to another base. Logistically this will be difficult and costly as the laboratory has more than 50,000 artifacts including some reconstructed helicopter and plane cockpits. Will the Commission consider the economic cost of moving the laboratory both in terms of the physical material and the loss of specialized labor?

A4. The Commission will consider the full economic impact of the DoD's recommendations, while maintaining military value as the paramount criteria. The

A4. Continued

Commission recognizes the unique, difficult, and necessary mission conducted by the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory in locating our POW/MIAs around the world. As such, the Commission will fully evaluate the impact that moving the laboratory will have on performing its important work.

Q5. What is the Commission's understanding of what will happen to Brooks City Base property?

A5. The Commission understands that Brooks City Base is not federal property but is leased to the Air Force by the city. As such, the property is not governed by the same laws as many of the other installations slated for closure. If the DoD recommendations regarding Brooks City Base are approved, then the property will return to the city.

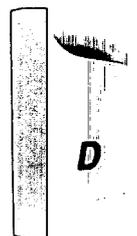
Q6. Currently the Brooks City Base School of Aerospace Medicine is scheduled to be relocated. Will the Commission consider maintaining the school at Brooks given the DoD's plan to build a regional medical center at Brooke Army Medical Center located at Fort Sam Houston?

A6. The Commission will consider the full impact of the DoD's recommendations on the local community. The Commission understands that decisions regarding health care may have a dramatic impact on a community. Oftentimes, the decision to remove a medical capability at one location requires that it be performed at another. The Commission will analyze the DoD's recommendations regarding this medical center deliberately and carefully.

Q7. How can the Community inform the Commission of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A7. The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



BROOKS CITY BASE TEXAS

National News Articles

Local News Articles

S.A. ready to take its shot with BRAC

Brooks City-Base officials seeing beyond BRAC

The remains of CONFLICT

Brooks changes won't sideline S. Side

Pentagon officials come to call; Two from closure commission tour Fort Hood before hearing

Lawmakers Fear Texas Communities Won't be Able to Beat BRAC Clock

BRAC chief to attend San Antonio hearing next month

Cuellar, S.A. Differ on Brooks Approach

Base closure expert hired

S.A. now to have BRAC's only hearing in Texas

New face of Brooks City-Base celebrated

Combined research is sought for Brooks

Editorial/Opinion Articles

National News Articles

Local News Articles

S.A. ready to take its shot with BRAC

San Antonio Express-News

Sig Christenson

July 5, 2005

As a commission begins a tour of local military installations today, San Antonio officials have settled on a strategy to save key missions at risk of being lost without jeopardizing big gains in the latest round of base closures.

But two questions remain.

The first is how to use the 15 minutes local leaders will have to make their pitch when the 2005 Defense Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission meets here next Monday.

The second is whether U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar will join San Antonio base advocates in backing the Pentagon's plan to close **Brooks City-Base** -- or go off message in a way that some fear could undermine this year's unexpected BRAC windfall.

"My intent is to speak with a unified voice, and that will be our No. 1 goal," Cuellar said. "At the same time, part of my job as a congressman that represents the southern part of San Antonio that includes **Brooks City-Base** is to talk about certain things that will be important missions I feel we should keep."

After years of preparing for the BRAC hearing, community leaders will ask the commission to keep some of Brooks' missions in San Antonio.

Brig. Gen. John G. Jernigan, head of San Antonio's Military Missions Task Force, said the city is "putting those points in a really nifty package." But, he added, "You can imagine we can't have four congressmen, two senators, a (county) judge and a mayor all talking in 15 minutes and come out with a cohesive message."

Cuellar, D-Laredo, could find himself at odds with the others as the city makes its case. Last month, he urged the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to fight harder for Brooks and its 3,700 military and civilian jobs.

"I'll be very honest," he told the chamber during a June 14 breakfast in Washington. "I'll be a team player for San Antonio, but you have to help me out on the South Side."

The comments raised eyebrows among some here who expected Brooks to close long ago and who sought to soften the blow.

Cuellar said in a San Antonio Express-News commentary last week that "it is critical that we are prepared with a plan of economic redevelopment and job training assistance." He didn't call on officials to fight to keep Brooks open, and in an interview Friday he seemed to backtrack on the statements that sparked the flap.

"(When) I said that I am going to fight for **Brooks City-Base**, I was very specific. I mean, I was very careful about how I used the words," he said. "I intend to fight for **Brooks City-Base**. But what we're looking at here is what specific missions can we fight to keep here at **Brooks City-Base**."

"I've always been a team player. I intend to be a team player."

It's unclear how hints of discord would play with the nine-member commission. Cuellar will be with at least one commission member at today's tour of Brooks. Officials will bend the commissioner's ear at a dinner that is included in a tour of Brooks and Lackland AFB.

Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff and others believe the city emerged a big winner in this year's BRAC, despite losing Brooks and Wilford Hall Medical Center's trauma center, which treats an average of 100 trauma victims a month -- most from the South Side.

San Antonio would gain nearly 3,500 jobs and \$1 billion in construction if the commission approves the Pentagon closure blueprint. Fort Sam Houston would become a Defense Department center of excellence for joint enlisted medical training.

Former Mayor Howard Peak, who oversees the quasi-municipal authority that runs Brooks, said the task force has developed a finely tuned message in the hope of keeping some high-tech missions. Wolff echoed that theme, suggesting the smart play is to make good arguments for critical parts of the base.

"We had 67 missions that are affected at four bases, but we're approaching it on a mission basis rather than just a blind argument -- 'don't close Brooks,'" Wolff said.

San Antonio's new mayor, Phil Hardberger, agreed. "I think you have to have a balanced approach and you have to pick where your fights are going to be," he said.

Things are much better for the city this time around than in 1995, when Brooks initially was targeted for closure. Though the '95 commission later spared Brooks, it shuttered Kelly AFB, costing 10,000 jobs.

The conundrum for Wolff, Jernigan and others since the dreaded BRAC list was unveiled in May has been how to persuade the commission to save key missions without undermining Fort Sam's gains.

Leaders in Corpus Christi and Texarkana would love to have that problem.

Ingleside Naval Station and Red River Army Depot are targeted for closure, and Corpus Christi Naval Air Station would lose 1,025 jobs. Those bases, along with Brooks and Wilford Hall, account for 12,938 military and civilian jobs and an annual economic impact of more than \$1.6 billion.

Texarkana officials are scrutinizing Pentagon data to see if analysts erred in rating a rival depot ahead of Red River. But they declined to provide details of what they've learned.

"We have every reason to believe that some of those who have everything to gain from our loss are checking print sources and the Web," said Jerry Sparks, chairman of the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce's BRAC committee. "It's a poker game. When can you tell how good a hand you have?"

Every community faces the same problem. Jernigan is on record as saying he wants to convince the commission to keep Brooks' School of Aerospace Medicine as well as Lackland AFB's Cryptologic Systems Group, where 840 people work.

A past Brooks commander, Jernigan said other missions could remain, but he didn't elaborate. He said that although the School of Aerospace Medicine is small enough to stay at Brooks, which is owned by the city and leased to the Air Force, it would be necessary for the service to move out quickly to make way for potential tenants.

Cuellar said certain missions should stay at Brooks, but "not the whole thing." Asked if the missions he'd like to keep are the same as those targeted by the task force, he said, "Again, we're still working on it. We will have something by this week for sure."

Peak said the city's approach is to accept most of the recommendations, show the commissioners how they can improve on the closure round by keeping some missions here, and accept reality -- that Brooks is gone.

"What we're trying to do here is very, very precise," he said.

"Cuellar's a realist," said U.S. Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio. "I don't see him getting out

there and going, "You guys, contrary to what everybody else here feels, I think you need to keep it open."

Brooks City-Base officials seeing beyond BRAC

San Antonio Express-News

L.A. Lorek,

July 3, 2005

If the Pentagon moves the Air Force out of **Brooks City-Base**, officials plan to continue developing the research park.

Under the Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission, known as BRAC, the Defense Department would relocate the Air Force's nearly 3,000 workers and civilian jobs to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. Brooks has an estimated economic impact of more than \$400 million in San Antonio. But some of the Air Force's employees may move to other San Antonio bases.

The Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory is scheduled to move to another base. The move would be a difficult one since the lab has more than 50,000 artifacts including some reconstructed helicopter and plane cockpits. The fate of the lab will become more clear after the July 11th BRAC meeting in San Antonio and the final recommendation for base closures and mission moves comes out in September.

"We're prepared for whatever happens," said Tom Rumora, executive director of the Brooks Development Authority, which runs **Brooks City-Base**. "We're already started on the road to redevelopment thanks to good leadership in the community."

If the Air Force missions are moved, **Brooks City-Base** would try to retain as many scientists in San Antonio as possible by working with other local bases, institutions and companies, Rumora said. The park would also work to attract private companies and government contractors, he said.

"It's clear that the federal government wants to get out of leased space," said Howard Peak, chairman of the Brooks Development Authority. "That puts us in a vulnerable position with this list. But we were vulnerable in the first place. We were on the 1995 list. The city base concept and its implementation has given us a three-year head start on redevelopment."

Since 2002, city and park officials have worked to transform the historic Air Force base, founded in 1917, into a new-technology park. The City Council established the Brooks Development Authority to take over the base from the Air Force to manage its real estate and to maintain the grounds.

The Air Force has some of its best and brightest minds at **Brooks City-Base**, such as the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. **Brooks City-Base** officials hope to convince the Defense Department to move the school to Fort Sam Houston.

Meanwhile, the redevelopment continues. With the May groundbreaking for DPT Laboratories' \$22 million expansion at Brooks, park officials hope to lure even more private companies to the park. They recently sold 60 acres to a commercial developer to create a 550,000-square-foot retail

center in one corner of the 1,250-acre park near Interstate 37 and Loop 410. Proceeds from that sale go toward building the new DPT site.

The city has also invested \$10 million on storm drainage improvements along Goliad Road, and City Public Service invested another \$10 million for utility upgrades. The city and county are also opening a \$24.5 million emergency operations center at Brooks. And Baptist Health System recently signed a letter of intent to move a hospital into Brooks.

"**Brooks City-Base** is not closing," Rumora said.

The remains of CONFLICT

San Antonio Express-News

L.A. Lorek

July 3, 2005

Decades-old pieces of wreckage that might hold the clue to solve a missing-soldiers case arrive every week at the **Brooks City-Base** Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory.

Hunched over a table covered with debris from a JU21-A twin-engine plane that crashed in Vietnam 34 years ago, Dave Headley examines a chunk of a size 10 regular boot. He compares it to the manufacturer's model. It's a match.

Next he takes tweezers to turn over a patch of fabric belonging to the standard green soldier's uniform. He's looking for evidence of five people whom records show were on that plane when a missile shot it down just north of the demilitarized zone in 1971. Six plastic shoebox-size containers hold the entire case.

"The more duplications we can get, the more evidence there is that the five people were in the crash," said Headley, a forensics investigator specializing in POW-MIA cases.

When it comes to a jet crash in a harsh jungle environment more than three decades ago, human remains sometimes cannot be found, said John A. Goines III, the lab's chief. Add to that years of deterioration and human and animal scavengers, and investigators have little to go on to identify the missing soldiers except equipment, personal belongings and clothing, he said. That's where the Life Sciences Equipment Lab and its 10 forensics analysts, a historian and two photographers come in.

"We only get the equipment if they cannot do an identification with the remains they've found through DNA testing," Goines said.

For Headley, a veteran who served two tours in Vietnam as a Huey helicopter pilot, the aim is to bring closure to families who lost loved ones in that war and other conflicts.

"I actually flew on this aircraft," Headley said.

During the Tet Offensive, Headley got shot down three times in one day by small-arms fire 45 miles south of Saigon. He was a member of the unit in the case he's now investigating.

"For me, this case has close ties," he said. "It would give me great satisfaction to account for all five individuals."

So Headley spends days poring over the tiny fragments of a long-ago crash. He builds a circumstantial case from old equipment and personal effects. He pieces together the remains to try to account for all five individuals. He puts all of his findings along with photographs into a book that ultimately will help identify the missing soldiers.

His tools include rubber gloves, a microscope, tape, plastic bags, magnifying glasses, tweezers and bookcases packed with stacks of reference materials such as books on Vietnam, and boxes of boots, uniforms, helmets and plane parts. For each piece of the puzzle, he has to find a match by comparing it with original items. A weave in a swatch of fabric or a zipper might help solve the case. Sometimes the investigators have to destroy the original helmet or flight suit to duplicate a crash scenario.

A screw that came off the chin strap of a helmet or the buckle of a parachute harness could be the key to determining whether the pilot died in the crash or left the crash site alive. Some cases involve no more than one box of debris and other cases come in a big box with 800 pieces.

"You never know what the piece is that is going to tell you something," Goines said. "It's one piece at a time."

The lab has worked on 120 cases since 1994 and even works on modern-day cases involving equipment failure, including a few plane crashes out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The lab belongs to the Air Force's prestigious 311th Human Systems Wing and it relocated to Brooks after Kelly Air Force Base closed under a previous Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission round. The lab works closely with the Defense Department's POW/MIA personnel office in Arlington, Va., and the military's POW/MIA Accounting Command, known as JPAC, in Hawaii.

Thousands of crash sites still exist around the world. Sometimes eyewitnesses in the area point investigators to a site. Other times they go on eyewitness accounts from years ago. The investigators might venture into the jungles of Southeast Asia or the icy mountains of China. In May, the government called off all exploration of crash sites in the rugged hillsides of North Korea until an agreement can be reached with the country's government.

When artifacts exist without human remains, they generally get sent to the Brooks lab for identification.

Stepping into the 22,000-square-foot laboratory is like venturing into a wing of the Smithsonian Institution full of 20th century war artifacts. An entire room features dozens of mannequins wearing flight gravitational suits, known as G-suits, dating to World War I. The lab has one of the nation's largest collections of ejection seats, vintage flight apparel, military uniforms and combat infantry gear, parachutes, life rafts, radios, signaling devices and specialized body armor.

A glass case holds some of the artifacts collected from wars around the globe, such as backpacks, pocketknives and military dog tags. A smashed Vietnam-era helmet with "Love is all I need" painted on the side shows how personal some of the items are.

The laboratory investigators get their artifacts from private collectors and donors -- many of them

veterans who lost friends in the war, and they borrow items from the Smithsonian's Southeast Asia collection. The investigators also buy items off eBay.

"We bought a Vietnamese combat shoe on eBay," Headley said. "We'll pay for it out of our own pocket if that is what it takes for accountability."

The lab also has four fully restored plane cockpits, as well as a Huey and Cobra helicopters -- giving investigators a point of comparison for fragments.

Since the end of the Vietnam War, the Defense Department has accounted for thousands of missing Americans, but many more remain missing, including 120 from the Cold War, 1,833 from Southeast Asia, 8,100 from Korea, 78,773 from World War II and 4,452 from World War I.

At the Brooks lab, a case can take anywhere from two months to a year or more, depending on the amount of evidence. No matter how complex the case, the investigators know each one represents a family, Goines said.

"Even today we are still bringing people home from World War II," he said. "For them I think the most important fact is it gives them closure, some assurance that the individual didn't bail out and wasn't being held captive. To tell them the wheels hit the ground and they didn't suffer -- it's very emotional."

Brooks changes won't sideline S. Side

San Antonio Express-News

Henry Cuellar

June 30, 2005

In the past few years, I have watched the Brooks Development Authority exercise extraordinary foresight, aptitude and creativity in transforming **Brooks City-Base** into one of the most efficient military installations in the country.

Brooks is the only installation in the country that can quantify, to the penny, how much it costs to operate. At a cost of only \$6 per square foot, it is by far the most efficient model in the country.

Ten years ago, Brooks AFB, slated for closure under the Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission, narrowly escaped this fate. Those who knew and understood the system best saw very clearly that while the base had been momentarily spared, its future was in jeopardy.

The Brooks Development Authority, in partnership with the city of San Antonio, created an unprecedented plan for establishing **Brooks City-Base** as a hub for private investment and began to lay the groundwork for independent operation.

I understand that for the San Antonio area as a whole, this year's BRAC recommendations would result in a net gain in jobs. Still, as we welcome the new benefits of this recommendation, we need to grapple with the challenges it poses.

Ten years ago, South Side residents suffered a tremendous blow with the closing of Kelly AFB. It

is my primary responsibility to protect the employees in the 28th District and ensure that South Side residents don't suffer further job loss.

We are working as a team with the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the Brooks Development Authority to create a comprehensive strategy that protects South Side interests. We are working together to assess which missions are most important to the community and most realistic to retain.

Furthermore, we are looking to evaluate the standing of area businesses, aware that any change in the operations of **Brooks City-Base** would have a direct and significant impact on their profits.

Given the volatile nature of this situation, it is critical that we are prepared with a plan of economic redevelopment and job training assistance. Thanks to the good work of **Brooks City-Base**, the Brooks Development Authority and the city of San Antonio in creating tremendous employment opportunities with Toyota and others, we are years ahead of other bases in preparedness.

We now look forward to the statewide BRAC hearing July 11, where we will come together as a coalition and present the case for **Brooks City-Base**. It is to the credit of Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn that we will be organized as a delegation to protect our most vulnerable bases. I will be there, working in partnership with fellow San Antonio Congressmen Charlie Gonzalez, Henry Bonilla and Lamar Smith.

At the end of the day, our goal is to ensure that every South Side employee at Brooks has a job. Brooks has been a major economic engine for the South Side for years, and the men and women from South San Antonio have worked hard to make Brooks one of the most efficient and creative military installations in the country.

As we face the BRAC recommendations, we need to work together to make sure the South Side is not forgotten and that everyone in San Antonio is able to look forward to a bright future.

U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, represents District 28, which includes South San Antonio.

Pentagon officials come to call; Two from closure commission tour Fort Hood before hearing

American-Austin Statesman
Anita Powell
June 23, 2005

KILLEEN -- Members of the Pentagon's Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission visited Fort Hood on Wednesday to discuss the Pentagon's plan to significantly reduce the post's size in upcoming years, a proposal that has been met with sharp criticism from Texas legislators since its release in May.

The two visiting commission members, retired Gens. James T. Hill and Sue E. Turner, said they had not drawn any conclusions from the visit, which included a flyover of the post's recently acquired training acreage and visits with top post commanders.

Turner said only that she was impressed with Fort Hood's resources and felt the visit was worthwhile. Neither commissioner would talk about their private visits with post officials.

U.S. Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock, who accompanied the commissioners for part of their visit, said at a news conference at the Killeen airport that he was still opposed to any plan to reduce Fort Hood in size.

"It doesn't make economic sense," he said. "I have questions about the expenditures and whether this is cost-effective."

The Pentagon's proposal calls for Fort Hood to shrink by 5,000 to 7,000 soldiers by 2011. A related Department of Defense document says the 47,000-soldier post would dwindle to less than 41,000 by 2011.

The 750-page report also recommended the closure of 33 major installations nationwide. Three are in Texas: the Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, Naval Station Ingleside near Corpus Christi and **Brooks City-Base** in San Antonio.

Wednesday's visit was a prelude to a July 11 commission hearing in San Antonio. Fifteen such hearings are planned nationwide in June and July.

Carter said he was confident that Texas legislators would make a compelling case for Fort Hood at the hearing.

"We have a lot to sell," he said. "I think they'll listen."

Carter and U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, have lobbied fiercely to keep the post as is. Both noted that the closure commission's report, which was based on figures from 2003, did not take into account a recent post expansion that added nearly 40,000 acres of training land.

The report justified the transfer of one brigade combat team and a unit of employment headquarters from Fort Hood to Fort Carson, Colo., by saying that Fort Hood lacked "available maneuver training acreage."

Carter and Edwards challenged that assertion, saying Fort Hood's new acreage would serve as better training ground than Fort Carson's Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, 150 miles southeast of the main post.

After the hearings, the commission will make its final recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8.

Bush has until Sept. 23 to accept or reject the recommendations. If he accepts the recommendations, Congress has 45 days to pass a joint resolution against it. Otherwise, the plan will move forward.

Carter did not say whether he would seek the congressional resolution.

"That's really far out," he said, but added: "I think there's a lot of unhappy people in Congress."

Lawmakers Fear Texas Communities Won't be Able to Beat BRAC Clock

San Antonio Express-News

Gary Martin

June 22, 2005

WASHINGTON -- Texas lawmakers voiced concern Tuesday that communities won't have enough time during next month's hearing in San Antonio to convince the Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission to save installations in the Lone Star State.

Texas and Arkansas have been allotted just four hours at the July 11 hearing to show the Pentagon deviated from the selection criteria in making its recommendations.

San Antonio has 15 minutes to make its case for **Brooks City-Base**, which is targeted for closure, and Lackland AFB, which would lose a medical hospital and an intelligence mission to **realignment**.

"Give us a little time," said Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio. "Fifteen minutes doesn't seem adequate."

The lawmakers spoke out as BRAC Chairman Anthony Principi announced he'd attend the hearing at the Convention Center, along with three other commissioners.

"The overall impact on Texas is enormous and the chairman's presence indicates his interest in hearing the facts on which the commission must base its decision," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said he was encouraged by the fact Principi will attend the hearing.

A BRAC spokeswoman, Megan Riffle, downplayed Principi's attendance, saying it was based on his availability rather than the priority of Texas military installations.

The chairman is expected to attend several regional hearings as the commissioners spread out to cover more ground, she said.

The commission has until Sept. 8 to review the Pentagon list and prepare a final roster of bases for closure.

That list goes to the president for his approval or rejection.

The amount of time given to each state at regional hearings is determined by criteria that includes the number of jobs lost and other factors.

A request by Hutchison for more time at the San Antonio hearing was denied.

According to the base closure commission, the senior senator determines the time allotted each community.

Under a plan devised by Hutchison, Texarkana officials will have 55 minutes to defend Red River Army Depot and the Lone Star Ammunition Plant.

Coastal Bend leaders have 45 minutes to make the case for the Ingleside Naval Station, Corpus Christi Naval Air Station and the Corpus Christi Army Depot.

"What can you explain in 45 minutes when you are talking about billions of dollars of equipment and soldiers lives?" asked Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi.

El Paso, Houston, Wichita Falls, Temple and Abilene each will have 30 minutes or less.

"It's never enough time," said Chris Paulitz, a Hutchison spokesman. "Everyone in this process should be unhappy. Anyone who is satisfied about the time we have to fight for these bases would be way too complacent."

Under the formula, Arkansas gets 30 minutes, part of which will be used to defend the Texarkana installations.

San Antonio leaders said they'd be hard-pressed to cram all the details about Brooks and Lackland into a 15-minute presentation.

"Obviously, you can't get into any level of detail," said retired Brig. Gen. John Jernigan, who heads a San Antonio military missions task force.

"The only thing we will be able to do is get the ideas on the table," Jernigan said.

San Antonio wants to use its time to reinforce the Pentagon's plan to build a regional medical center at Brooke Army Medical Center.

They also will contend the regional center would be enhanced by keeping the School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks and locating other Brooks research missions at local installations.

"We wish we had more time, but if this is the time that is allotted, the San Antonio delegation is going to come together," said Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, whose district includes South San Antonio. "I feel very confident we will make the presentation."

City leaders also will argue that the Cryptologic Systems Group at Lackland AFB should remain intact, not splintered under **realignment**, and at the San Antonio base if possible.

The cryptologic group accounts for 700 intelligence jobs. Its clients include the National Security Agency, which recently announced a major relocation to San Antonio.

Despite the lack of time at the hearing, Gonzalez said it wouldn't be San Antonio's sole opportunity to make its case.

He said commissioners also would conduct site visits of each base targeted for closure.

"There is a lot going on behind the scenes," he said.

BRAC chief to attend San Antonio hearing next month

Associated Press State and Local Wire

June 21, 2005

The head of a national panel reviewing which military bases should be closed said Tuesday that he will attend a hearing in San Antonio next month about Texas installations.

Anthony Principi, chairman of the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, told U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, and other members of the state's congressional delegation that he will be on hand to discuss the futures of military bases in Texas.

"The overall impact on Texas is enormous and the chairman's presence indicates his interest in hearing the facts on which the commission must base its decisions," Hutchison said.

The Tuesday morning meeting also included U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, U.S. Rep. Ralph Hall, R-Rockwall, Sens. Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor, both Arkansas Democrats and Rep. Dan Boren, D-Oklahoma.

The lawmakers were concerned about the future of the Red River Army Depot and the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant. Both installations near Texarkana employ many workers from Arkansas and southeastern Oklahoma.

The Pentagon has recommended the closure of Red River and Lone Star, as well as Naval Station Ingleside near Corpus Christi and **Brooks City Base** in San Antonio. Other installations are to be realigned under the plan.

The nine-member BRAC commission has until Sept. 8 to make recommendations to President Bush, who must accept or reject them by Sept. 23. The list becomes final if Congress doesn't reject it within 45 days.

In past years, about 85 percent of base closures recommended by the Pentagon have remained on the BRAC list.

Cuellar, S.A. Differ on Brooks Approach

San Antonio Express-News

Gary Martin

June 15, 2005

WASHINGTON -- San Antonio leaders said Tuesday they are walking a tightrope, defending **Brooks City-Base** from closure while being careful not to jeopardize Pentagon plans to build a regional medical center at Fort Sam Houston.

But Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, prodded the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to fight harder for Brooks, even though the city stands to gain jobs and federal spending under the plan submitted to the Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission, commonly called BRAC.

"I understand it's a major win for San Antonio, not only for jobs but for the potential, but all I ask is, 'Help me out on this particular part,'" Cuellar told the group during a breakfast gathering at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel.

"I need your help," he said.

Under the Pentagon's proposal, jobs lost at Brooks and Lackland AFB would be more than offset by 9,300 new positions at Brooke Army Medical Center, site of the new medical center, and more than \$ 1 billion in new construction that comes with it.

Because of that, San Antonio leaders have urged restraint in making the case for Brooks to the Pentagon and BRAC, when it holds a regional hearing July 11.

"San Antonio is considered a net gaining unit," said John Montford, chairman of the Greater San Antonio Chamber. "We need to temper our comments."

But Cuellar, whose congressional district includes the working-class South Side, urged business leaders not to ignore the fight for Brooks or for the 3,700 civilian and military jobs that would be lost if the base closes.

He said the fight needs to be waged, not only for the research personnel who command high salaries, but also for workers who make the minimum wage.

"I'll be very honest," Cuellar told the group. "I'll be a team player for San Antonio, but you have to help me out on the South Side."

Cuellar said losing Brooks would mean a second economic hit for the South Side, which lost thousands of jobs after Kelly AFB was ordered closed in 1995.

Then, San Antonio business leaders organized huge demonstrations involving thousands of people who donned T-shirts with slogans and urged BRAC to spare local facilities.

Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff said those tactics, "T-shirts, begging, just didn't work."

This time, Wolff suggested, a little perspective would be useful.

Though San Antonio will argue to save specific missions at Brooks, the city will gain far more than it loses under the 2005 BRAC proposal. And, besides, the Pentagon has considered closing the base for more than a decade.

"You can't argue out of both sides of your mouth," Wolff said. "We're not going to take a broadside at the Pentagon."

Others say that's not necessarily a bad thing.

Officials in the District of Columbia are protesting the closing of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which would consolidate with National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and send other missions to Fort Belvoir, Va.

Nearby states and counties, though happy to be beneficiaries of the BRAC recommendations, nevertheless are complaining that the Pentagon failed to adequately plan to move thousands of

jobs to facilities in a metropolitan area ranked as one of the highest nationwide for traffic congestion.

Local governments are seeking federal assurances that roads and infrastructure would be improved to handle the influx of new workers in Maryland and Virginia.

Paul Taibl, with Business Executives for National Security, a nonpartisan group that advocates corporate practices in the Defense Department, said San Antonio might be wise to consider a similar strategy.

"They ought to be saying, 'What are you going to do for me?'" Taibl said.

"Communities and their local leadership should take their best shot at saving their base," Taibl said.

But if it looks as if the Pentagon will prevail, "they should look at alternative uses if they stay on the list."

If Brooks closes, Cuellar said, he would seek reimbursement from the Air Force of \$ 9 million spent by San Antonio during the past decade to take over maintenance of the base.

Taibl said the city was right to seek those funds.

"They should certainly ask. They should definitely make that case," he said.

Wolff agreed that if the base closure commission, which has until Sept. 8 to review Pentagon proposals, sides with the Defense Department, the community should accelerate its redevelopment plans.

He noted that numerous private businesses are moving to the base's business park operated by the Brooks Development Authority.

If the commission orders the Air Force to close Brooks, Wolff said, the military should move out immediately and allow the city and county to complete its redevelopment.

"If they make a decision to go, the quicker they go, the better for us," Wolff said.

Base closure expert hired

San Antonio Express-News

Jerry Needham

June 9, 2005

A San Antonio man with deep experience in the base closure process has been tapped to help a task force that's advising Texas communities on how to fight for their military installations.

Retired Air Force Col. Bob Rasmussen was hired late Tuesday to assist the Texas BRAC Response Strike Force, which Wednesday launched a statewide tour of sites on the Pentagon's

closure list with a two-day visit to Ingleside Naval Station near Corpus Christi.

Rasmussen was part of the military team that made presentations to the Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission, commonly referred to as BRAC, in 1993 and 1995 in efforts to keep San Antonio's Kelly AFB alive. After the decision was made in 1995 to close Kelly, he was part of the community team that developed the plan to turn it into KellyUSA, a thriving industrial center.

"My role is providing information and experience to the strike force and the communities, and it's a role that's going to evolve over time as we go through the process," Rasmussen said via telephone after touring Ingleside with other members of the strike force.

Gov. Rick Perry appointed the 14-agency strike force, which is led by Secretary of State Roger Williams.

The group will visit the Red River Army Depot and Lone Star Ammunition Plant in Texarkana on Tuesday and Wednesday, as well as Sheppard AFB at Wichita Falls next Thursday. The Pentagon has recommended closing or realigning those installations.

The task force also plans to visit **Brooks City-Base** and Houston's Ellington Field, which also are on the list for closure.

Williams said the mission is to help local communities present their case at a July 11 hearing before BRAC in San Antonio.

"This can be an emotional issue, but we're not going to give the commission our emotions, we're going to give them our facts," Williams said. "We have a short time and the opportunity to change some minds."

Williams' office said Rasmussen, who worked in logistics in the military, could help local officials fine-tune their presentations.

"Bob is the guy who has the most background and knowledge of this," said Williams' spokesman, Bill Kenyon. "We've assigned three people from our staff as analysts to aid communities to fill in gaps in their analysis and research, but Bob brings much more military background and experience to the team.

"He's been through the process with Kelly and understands the BRAC process."

Rasmussen will be paid \$ 7,500 a month for three months, with up to \$ 14,000 in bonuses possible, depending on the impact of his work, Kenyon said.

The contract normally would be put out for bids, but Perry's office granted a waiver to hire Rasmussen right away because of the looming July 11 hearing, Kenyon said.

Rasmussen said his role with the task force could involve "assisting the communities in understanding some of the alternatives, if they decide to start thinking about that."

"There's an emotional dimension to this, and part of what needs to be reinforced through this process is the need for the facts and to make the best mission and business face as possible, and I'm hopeful I can provide some insight into doing that," he said.

S.A. now to have BRAC's only hearing in Texas

San Antonio Express-News

Gary Martin

May 27, 2005

WASHINGTON -- An independent base closure commission canceled a planned hearing in Dallas, making the July 11 regional meeting in San Antonio the only chance for Texas communities to make their case to save installations targeted for elimination, officials said Thursday.

"This means the San Antonio hearing will be a pivotal moment for us, and for many other communities," said Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi, who's leading the fight to save Ingleside Naval Station.

The Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission, commonly called BRAC, is holding regional hearings across the country to allow communities to testify against closing installations that provide jobs and millions in federal spending to local economies.

A June hearing in Dallas was canceled when the base closure commission sought to consolidate the hearing in San Antonio, said Robert McCreary, a spokesman for the panel.

"We just consolidated the two Texas hearings to San Antonio," McCreary said.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry asked the base closure commission to reconsider.

Perry said canceling the Dallas hearing "will cause an undue hardship on the North Texas communities."

In a letter to the commission, Perry said some community leaders would have to travel "an additional 271 miles to San Antonio."

The Pentagon has proposed closing four major military installations in Texas: **Brooks City-Base** in San Antonio, Ingleside and the Red River Army Depot and Lone Star Ammunition Plant, both of which are in Texarkana.

In addition, several other Texas installations would see **realignment**, including Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, Ellington Field in Houston and Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls.

Texas communities prepared to fight the Pentagon's closure recommendation have complained that the Defense Department has yet to publicly release the data used to compile the base closure list.

The state's two U.S. senators, Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn, both Republicans, sent a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Thursday asking that the information be released.

"Communities have a right to know how their bases were measured so they can either support or challenge the proposals," the letter stated. "We urge you to release this data immediately to avoid undermining the BRAC process."

Commissioners on the independent panel reviewing the Pentagon proposals also have complained about the delay in receiving information from the Department of Defense.

The panel has until Sept. 8 to review the recommendations and craft a final roster of bases to be eliminated. That list must be submitted to President Bush, who either can accept or reject it.

Meanwhile, retired Gen. James Hill, a commissioner, is scheduled to visit Ingleside and Corpus Christi NAS on July 6-8. Hill is a former resident of El Paso and a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio.

"I am confident that Gen. Hill will be pleasantly surprised when he sees the state-of-the-art facilities at" Ingleside, Congressman Ortiz said.

New face of Brooks City-Base celebrated

San Antonio Express-News

L.A. Lorek

May 26, 2005

Despite the Defense Department's plans to remove the Air Force's missions at **Brooks City-Base**, officials said Wednesday it will become a thriving technology park.

"The city voluntarily undertook the closing of the old Brooks Air Force Base three years ago," said former Mayor Howard Peak, chairman of the Brooks Development Authority, which runs the park. "It was with the understanding that the military would move."

Now **Brooks City-Base** has a head start on redeveloping the old Brooks AFB, he said.

That redevelopment got a big boost with the groundbreaking Wednesday for the park's first major commercial tenant, San Antonio-based DPT Laboratories, a subsidiary of DFB Pharmaceuticals.

City and park officials gathered in the sweltering heat under a tent to listen to speeches and watch a bulldozer turn over dirt at what will be DPT's new manufacturing plant and lab.

Brooks Development Authority will own the \$24 million two-building development and lease it to DPT for 18 years. DPT will move into the buildings within a year.

The project means DPT will retain 136 pharmaceutical and biotech jobs in San Antonio, with plans to grow to 175 employees within five years, said DPT President John Feik. *** SEE CORRECTION ***

DPT is a contract research and manufacturing company with more than 200 customers that specializes in making prescriptions and nonprescription lotions.

"I think San Antonio is a city where biotech companies can grow and flourish," Feik said.

That's what park officials are counting on. **Brooks City-Base** made the list of bases slated for closure in a report for the Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission, known as BRAC. This was announced two weeks ago.

Under the recommendation, many of Brooks' 2,923 workers in Air Force and civilian jobs will move to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. But some of those employees may relocate to other San Antonio bases.

"There is not one place in the country that is on that (BRAC) list that is having a groundbreaking today or planning a groundbreaking," said Mayor Ed Garza.

DPT's presence in the park sends a message about the importance of **Brooks City-Base** and the South Side as a growing region of economic development and research and technology, Garza said.

Some of the biggest economic development projects in the past four years have been on the South Side, Garza said, including Toyota Motor Manufacturing Corp.'s new plant, the Toyota supplier park and now DPT.

The effort to remake **Brooks City-Base** began in September 2001 when the City Council established the Brooks Development Authority. A year later, the authority bought the Brooks property from the Air Force. It has been managing and leasing real estate at **Brooks City-Base** since then.

DPT's presence there will attract other research and development companies, former mayor Peak said. The 1,300-acre park near Interstate 37 and Loop 410 has a bustling retail center under construction. The Brooks Development Authority sold 60 acres to retailers including Wal-Mart, and proceeds from the sale are being used to build the new DPT site.

"I see the Air Force leaving is not just, 'Gosh we're losing something,' but the opportunities it creates," Peak said. "We're going to miss them. But we've got great things in the wings."

Combined research is sought for Brooks

San Antonio Express-News
Sig Christenson
May 24, 2005

AUSTIN -- The head of a San Antonio task force charged with saving local military missions said Monday he'll seek to create a joint aerospace medical research hub at **Brooks City-Base**.

The idea would salvage at least one critical military mission at Brooks, which stands to lose its entire Air Force footprint under the Pentagon's 2005 base closure recommendations.

But retired Air Force Brig. Gen. John Jernigan said it also would create a new joint medical

mission with ties to Fort Sam Houston, which is to become a center of excellence for health research and training.

Under the plan, the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine would remain at Brooks, and similar Army and Navy facilities at Pensacola, Fla., and Fort Rucker, Ala., could move to Brooks, creating about 500 research jobs.

"In my view, one of the crucial aspects for our national military strategy is air medical evacuation," he said. "So it makes no sense to me to move the school that teaches that away from the center of mass of where you're training other people."

Jernigan, head of the San Antonio Military Missions Task Force, raised the idea at a Texas Military Preparedness Commission meeting. It was the panel's first session since the closure announcement and was aimed at helping officials craft strategies to regain bases on the Pentagon's hit list or preserve missions that could be lost. The 2005 Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission is studying the list.

The planning commission's chief, retired Air Force Col. William Ehrie, told four dozen people from around the state that one in 10 closure recommendations was reversed in a 1995 round of closures. But he and Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams said a rigorous analysis of the Pentagon's data would make or break the case for communities.

"It's going to be an emotional issue," Williams said. "But we're not going to give them emotions, we're going to give them facts."

Brooks, Ingleside Naval Station and Red River Army Depot in Texarkana were ordered to close, costing their communities about 6,668 jobs. Corpus Christi Naval Air Station would lose another 1,000 workers in a major **realignment**.

Officials statewide lack crucial BRAC data, and few on hand Monday seemed to know how to fight the recommendations. But Ingleside City Manager Mike Rhea and former Corpus Christi Mayor Loyd Neal pointed to the Navy's role in safeguarding the heavily industrialized Texas Gulf Coast.

"That port ... can accommodate all classes of Navy ships, and what happens if something happens on the West Coast ports or the East Coast ports?" agreed retired Army Maj. Gen. Joe Robles, a San Antonian who served on the 1995 closure commission. "You have a backup."

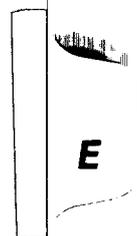
Though still a work in progress, Jernigan's game plan is designed to save parts of Brooks' missions, rather than all of them and the site's 3,700 jobs. He won't fight the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence's move to Fort Sam. But he could argue for keeping two research groups under Brooks' Human Effectiveness Directorate, due to move to Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio.

Both he and Robles, chief financial officer for USAA, suggested that the highly educated researchers needed to make the labs work may not move to Ohio, complicating the new organization there.

A different argument will be needed to persuade BRAC to keep the School of Aerospace Medicine in San Antonio. Jernigan will contend that it makes more sense to bring the Navy and Army organizations here and create a joint center of excellence.

"It obviously makes sense to put it under one umbrella," Ehrie agreed, "especially with the medical synergy that you have going on at BAMC (Brooke Army Medical Center), Fort Sam and the current Brooks."

Editorial/Opinion Articles



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to realign Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the re-alignment could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest Naval Air Station Corpus Christi for Realignment.
 - The Commission understands the role that Naval Air Station Ingleside plays in our national security and the training of our military.

- 2. The Commission is well aware of the human impact that the suggestions to close Naval Station Ingleside could have and will take this into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic and social impact that the base's realignment would have on the surrounding community, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
 - The Commission encourages public input. The public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Qs & As for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi**

Q1. Naval Air Station Corpus Christi trains approximately 300 aviators a year and is considered by some to be an important hub for homeland security. Will the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) take this into account in its consideration of the military value of the installation?

A1. The Congress established the BRAC Commission as an independent entity to evaluate in an open, objective, and thorough manner, as prescribed by law, the suggestions by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close or realign various military installations across the country. The Commission will perform a full evaluation before it reaches its conclusion regarding NAS Corpus Christi. DoD has based its strategic determination of military value upon criteria including jointness, ease of mobility, and efficiency. The Commission was established to ensure that DoD followed the law and took all pertinent factors into account in its suggestion to close or realign military installations, including the suggestion to realign NAS Corpus Christi.

Q2. While Texas will have a net gain of military jobs, should DoD's suggestions be implemented, the community surrounding NAS Corpus Christi will lose jobs from the realignment. Will the Commission take the economic effects of the suggestion to realign NAS Corpus Christi into account?

A2. While the Commission will base its final decision almost entirely upon military value, it will also take the economic, environmental, and other effects that the suggestion to realign NAS Corpus Christi could have on the region, should the suggestion be enacted. The Commission is well-aware of the human impact of the suggestion and will perform a full evaluation prior to reaching its conclusions.

Q3. The Corpus Christi region is a tourist destination, industrial hub, and medical center in addition to being a military area. Does the ability of a region to "bounce back" economically, after the realignment of a base, play into the final decision as to whether or not to suggest the installation for realignment?

A3. While the economic effects of the suggestion to realign an installation will be taken into full account, the final by the Commission will be based almost entirely upon military value, as prescribed by law. The Commission is completely transparent and open and the factors to be considered in the Commission's evaluation have been specifically prescribed by law.

Q4. How can members of the Community make the Commission aware of factors that they feel were missed by DoD in DoD's evaluation of and suggestion regarding NAS Corpus Christi?

A4. Community input is encouraged by the Commission; it is an important part of the process of evaluation. The public is encouraged to contact the BRAC Commission through the official Commission website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



NAVAL AIR STATION CORPUS CHRISTI TEXAS

National News Articles

Local News Articles

Too many cooks spoil BRAC strategy recipe: More than 100 attend session about Ingleside

Army general visits CCAD, thanks employees; Trip unrelated to realignment plan, Cody says

Lawmakers hit Capitol in effort to save bases; Salesmanship must be rapid, Seaman says

Officials to tour area bases; Visits part of BRAC procedure

23K jobs ride on BRAC; List to be out today

Editorial/Opinion Articles

Now's the time to show your support for bases Thousands of jobs of your friends and neighbors depend on the BRAC decision.

National News Articles

Local News Articles

Too many cooks spoil BRAC strategy recipe: More than 100 attend session about Ingleside

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Fanny S. Chirinos

June 10, 2005

PORTLAND - A community strategy session to try to remove Naval Station Ingleside from the BRAC list didn't materialize Thursday, largely because "there were so many people that we just couldn't do that," said Bill Kenyon, BRAC Response Strike Force communications director.

"We thought it was going to be a small group of people, like the dinners we had been having," Kenyon added. "We still learned some more stuff. It served its purpose."

More than 100 community leaders met Thursday and agreed Ingleside still had a chance to be removed from the closure list at the July 11 BRAC commission hearing in San Antonio.

Another surprise at the meeting was that media representatives were kept from attending.

"The meeting was closed because we wanted to give these leaders the opportunity to express themselves freely without scrutiny," said Jonathan Black, director of research with the secretary of state's office. "Future meetings will not be closed because we saw there was no need for it."

Portland Mayor David Krebs and Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce president Terry Carter said they were not aware media had been asked to leave.

Toward the end of the meeting, there were some sensitive technical discussions, Carter said.

"Other military installations would love to know how we're going to handle our case," he said. "That might have played a part on why media was asked to leave, but I don't know."

Caller-Times publisher Patrick J. Birmingham said he was surprised and disappointed that any member of the media would be asked to leave a public meeting on base closures.

"Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams and other members of the state's BRAC Response Strike Force visited the Caller-Times and spoke with the editorial board just (Wednesday) stressing the importance of community involvement and unity," Birmingham said. "And then today to turn around and ask members of the media to leave a public meeting is disingenuous to say the least."

It is unclear whether the closed meeting violated any state open meeting laws. Most members of the San Patricio Commissioners Court were present at the meeting, though they did not sit together, Krebs said. Generally, if a quorum of a government entity attended the meeting, it would be required to post public notice.

William Ehrie, chairman of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, told the group what to expect at the July meeting.

"As I understand it, we'll be given 20 minutes to make our case and will be told that day if we remain on the closure list or are removed," Krebs said.

The Pentagon on May 13 recommended closure for Ingleside and three other Texas bases along with the realignment of six others, including Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi Army Depot. Williams also will visit the Red River Army Depot, Brooks City Base in San Antonio and Lone Star Army Ammunitions Plant, which also are on the base closure list.

"We must not focus on the why, but on the how," Williams, chairman of the BRAC Response Strike Force, said. "How can we make our case? This is a big deal not only for Ingleside, but for Texas and the entire country."

The strike force has brought in state analysts to prepare for a visit to Corpus Christi and Ingleside by BRAC commissioner James T. Hill on July 7-8, Ehrie said after the meeting.

"I think it'll be successful," Ehrie said. "We've done a lot of listening and have heard very positive things."

Judy Hawley, a member of the South Texas Military Facilities Task Force, said this was the first time area leaders had seen the state come in with personnel, leadership and ideas to help with BRAC issues.

"(Williams) has inundated himself with the statistics and flavor of the area," Hawley said. "It could only help us with our case in July."

Army general visits CCAD, thanks employees; Trip unrelated to realignment plan, Cody says

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Fanny S. Chirinos

June 30, 2005

A four-star Army general thanked employees of the **Corpus Christi** Army Depot for their hard work in support of the war in the Middle East during a visit to the depot Wednesday.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody toured the depot and shook hands with employees during his visit. He said his visit had nothing to do with the Pentagon's May 13 recommendation to move 92 civilian jobs in the Defense Distribution Center, which works closely with the depot, to Oklahoma City.

The visit came the day after President George W. Bush's speech reiterating his intent to continue efforts in Iraq.

"Your jobs are important to every soldier who flies, every soldier who is rescued and every soldier who is protected by helicopters," Cody said. "You can't measure your importance by your proximity to the battlefield."

On May 13, the Pentagon recommended realignment for the depot as well as Naval Air Station **Corpus Christi**. It also recommended Naval Station Ingleside for closure. If the recommendations are enacted, the region stands to lose 7,015 jobs: 3,335 military and civilian jobs directly, and, indirectly, 3,680 jobs supported by the spending of military personnel.

Base Realignment and Closure Commissioner James T. Hill is scheduled to visit area bases July 7 and 8. BRAC Chairman Anthony Principi is scheduled to visit Naval Station Ingleside on July 10.

Depot employees, however, said they are not worried about their future at the base. Melinda De La Fuente has worked as a government civil service employee for 27 years and relocated to the **Corpus Christi** Army Depot following BRAC's 1995 realignment of Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio.

"We're an integral part of the fleet. Without us, they couldn't function," De La Fuente said. "(Cody's) presence validates that."

Lawmakers hit Capitol in effort to save bases; Salesmanship must be rapid, Seaman says

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Tim Eaton

May 24, 2005

AUSTIN - In 1779, the British ship HMS Serapis blasted a hole in the Bon Homme Richard, a ship captained by American Revolutionary War hero John Paul Jones. The British captain called

on Jones to surrender. But no. Jones replied, "I have not yet begun to fight!"

Fast-forward 226 years. Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, paraphrased those words at the Capitol on Monday. Estes' 2005 version of Jones' famous line summed up the goal of a gathering that focused on the Pentagon's recommendations to the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Estes talked about saving 2,624 jobs that could be taken from Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls as part of realignment. He was joined by others, including a Coastal Bend contingent, who spoke about potential problems associated with base realignment and closure.

Naval Station Ingleside is one of nine Navy bases the Pentagon has recommended for closure and one of 46 Navy bases it decided to realign. Most of Ingleside's mine-sweeper and mine-hunting assets are being relocated to San Diego except for the Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15), which is going to Norfolk, Va., where the other remaining helicopter mine countermeasures squadron, the HM-14, is based.

Commissioners from the Texas Military Preparedness Commission and Texas military community representatives pledged to fight the federal recommendations.

Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams, who serves as chairman of the state's BRAC response taskforce, said Texans need to stand together with one voice in the face of base closure and realignment.

"Do everything we can to sell Texas to the U.S.," Williams said.

Former **Corpus Christi** Mayor Loyd Neal said commissioners need to realize Naval Air Station **Corpus Christi** is an important hub for homeland security. The base is set for realignment and the loss of 92 jobs.

Rep. Gene Seaman, R-**Corpus Christi**, who attended a portion of the meeting, said he would like to see federal decision-makers visit Naval Station Ingleside before the final list is crafted in September. He said that is the only way "to get a fair shake."

In the meantime, area leaders will have to promote NS Ingleside, which is slated for closure and the loss of 2,218 jobs.

"Any salesmanship that the community has to do has to be done rapidly," Seaman said, adding that officials have to remind BRAC officials about the potentially lost opportunities.

Ingleside City Manager Mike Rhea noted the port at Ingleside is the only military facility on the Gulf of Mexico that can handle all types of the Navy's ships.

Rep. Abel Herrero, D-Robstown, said his two concerns were the economic impact on the Coastal Bend and the possible misstep of losing strategic military positions in Ingleside and **Corpus Christi**.

In other parts of Texas, Fort Sam Houston and Fort Bliss are recommended to add personnel, 11,501 and 9,364, respectively. In all, Texas could gain 6,150 positions if federal officials go with the recommendations, making Texas the third biggest gainer of personnel in the country behind Maryland and Georgia.

Officials to tour area bases; Visits part of BRAC procedure

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Nancy Martinez

May 28, 2005

Naval Air Station **Corpus Christi** and Naval Station Ingleside will get a visit from Base Realignment and Closure commissioners in July.

BRAC officials announced their schedule in a May 26 statement for commissioners' visits to major bases recommended for closure or realignment by the Department of Defense.

"The 2005 BRAC Commission is not going to serve as a rubber stamp," said Anthony Principi, the 2005 BRAC Commission chairman. "We will look at the DOD recommendations carefully and closely to see if they complied with, or substantially deviated from, the selection criteria and force structure against which all bases are to be measured."

Commissioners are expected to be at NAS **Corpus Christi** on July 7 and Naval Station Ingleside on July 8, according to the BRAC statement. They plan to visit military installations recommended by DOD to lose either 300 civilian jobs or a total of 400 civilian and military jobs. The fact-finding visits will involve briefings by base representatives as well as tours of facilities and will be conducted for the primary purpose of determining the military value of the installations, according to the BRAC statement.

Spokespeople from both bases say they are preparing to answer commissioners' questions.

Judy Hawley, former state representative and member of the South Texas Military Task Force, said the visit is incredibly important to Ingleside.

"It gives us a chance to showcase the facility. There are a lot of people in the Pentagon and Department of Defense that haven't seen the facility yet," she said. "Part of the value of Ingleside doesn't show through in the written word. The military value is much more apparent when you actually see the facility. It will provide them with a more complete picture."

U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-**Corpus Christi**, said the visits are especially important because community representatives from each base will have just 20 minutes to present their case at the July 11 regional hearing in San Antonio. A June 22 Dallas hearing that had been scheduled by BRAC recently was cancelled.

"We're going to need one person who has a nice delivery who knows all the issues and knows the justifications and all the information we have to counter-attack," Ortiz said. "It's like a lawyer going to the jury. He has to have a grasp of the issues."

The commission was created to take into account the economic, environmental and other effects the closure or realignment of a base would have on the surrounding community.

"We have been given the mandate to provide an independent, fair, and equitable assessment and

evaluation of both the DOD BRAC proposal and the data and methodology used to develop that proposal, Principi said in the prepared statement. "My commissioners and I have pledged to provide that assessment openly and transparently."

Ortiz said Friday that he requested adding a few more stops to the BRAC commissioners' itinerary to Naval Air Station Kingsville and the **Corpus Christi** Army Depot.

"Because everything is on the table. It doesn't do any good to come and visit if they don't see the Army Depot and Kingsville," Ortiz said. "The cities that are on the list are trying to get on the list and put somebody else on the list. I feel very confident about Kingsville and CCAD staying off the list, but this is just in case. We want to be very cautious."

In addition to Naval Station Ingleside, Red River Army Depot, the Lone Star Army Ammunitions Plant and the Brooks City Base, the Pentagon has recommended reorganization of six Texas facilities. Those include Naval Air Station **Corpus Christi** and **Corpus Christi** Army Depot.

Altogether, the recommendations would mean a loss of 3,335 direct jobs and 3,680 support jobs for the **Corpus Christi** region. The total job loss would top \$364 million in salaries.

Lawmakers Fear Texas Communities Won't Be Able to Beat the BRAC Clock

San Antonio Express-News

Gary Martin

June 22, 2005

WASHINGTON -- Texas lawmakers voiced concern Tuesday that communities won't have enough time during next month's hearing in San Antonio to convince the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission to save installations in the Lone Star State.

Texas and Arkansas have been allotted just four hours at the July 11 hearing to show the Pentagon deviated from the selection criteria in making its recommendations.

San Antonio has 15 minutes to make its case for Brooks City-Base, which is targeted for closure, and Lackland AFB, which would lose a medical hospital and an intelligence mission to realignment.

"Give us a little time," said Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio. "Fifteen minutes doesn't seem adequate."

The lawmakers spoke out as BRAC Chairman Anthony Principi announced he'd attend the hearing at the Convention Center, along with three other commissioners.

"The overall impact on Texas is enormous and the chairman's presence indicates his interest in hearing the facts on which the commission must base its decision," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said he was encouraged by the fact Principi will attend the hearing.

A BRAC spokeswoman, Megan Riffle, downplayed Principi's attendance, saying it was based on his availability rather than the priority of Texas military installations.

The chairman is expected to attend several regional hearings as the commissioners spread out to cover more ground, she said.

The commission has until Sept. 8 to review the Pentagon list and prepare a final roster of bases for closure.

That list goes to the president for his approval or rejection.

The amount of time given to each state at regional hearings is determined by criteria that includes the number of jobs lost and other factors.

A request by Hutchison for more time at the San Antonio hearing was denied.

According to the base closure commission, the senior senator determines the time allotted each community.

Under a plan devised by Hutchison, Texarkana officials will have 55 minutes to defend Red River Army Depot and the Lone Star Ammunition Plant.

Coastal Bend leaders have 45 minutes to make the case for the Ingleside Naval Station, **Corpus Christi** Naval Air Station and the **Corpus Christi** Army Depot.

"What can you explain in 45 minutes when you are talking about billions of dollars of equipment and soldiers lives?" asked Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-**Corpus Christi**.

El Paso, Houston, Wichita Falls, Temple and Abilene each will have 30 minutes or less.

"It's never enough time," said Chris Paulitz, a Hutchison spokesman. "Everyone in this process should be unhappy. Anyone who is satisfied about the time we have to fight for these bases would be way too complacent."

Under the formula, Arkansas gets 30 minutes, part of which will be used to defend the Texarkana installations.

San Antonio leaders said they'd be hard-pressed to cram all the details about Brooks and Lackland into a 15-minute presentation.

"Obviously, you can't get into any level of detail," said retired Brig. Gen. John Jernigan, who heads a San Antonio military missions task force.

"The only thing we will be able to do is get the ideas on the table," Jernigan said.

San Antonio wants to use its time to reinforce the Pentagon's plan to build a regional medical center at Brooke Army Medical Center.

They also will contend the regional center would be enhanced by keeping the School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks and locating other Brooks research missions at local installations.

"We wish we had more time, but if this is the time that is allotted, the San Antonio delegation is going to come together," said Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, whose district includes South San Antonio. "I feel very confident we will make the presentation."

City leaders also will argue that the Cryptologic Systems Group at Lackland AFB should remain intact, not splintered under realignment, and at the San Antonio base if possible.

The cryptologic group accounts for 700 intelligence jobs. Its clients include the National Security Agency, which recently announced a major relocation to San Antonio.

Despite the lack of time at the hearing, Gonzalez said it wouldn't be San Antonio's sole opportunity to make its case.

He said commissioners also would conduct site visits of each base targeted for closure.

"There is a lot going on behind the scenes," he said.

23K jobs ride on BRAC; List to be out today

Corpus Christi Caller Times

Brad Olson

May 13, 2005

After years of anticipation, the Defense Department's day of reckoning - when it will release recommendations for closing many of the nation's 440 military bases - is here.

Last-minute speculation about the Coastal Bend's four military facilities- Naval Air Station **Corpus Christi** and **Corpus Christi** Army Depot, Naval Air Station Kingsville and Naval Station Ingleside - focused on Naval Station Ingleside as a likely victim.

Lawmakers, defense officials and local boosters all said they had not seen the list and that any information released before this morning would be speculative at best. The list is set to be released after a morning news conference with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on the department's Web site at www.defenselink.mil/brac, including details about why certain bases were recommended for closure or realignment.

The four area military facilities generate about \$1 billion a year and about 23,000 jobs.

Local base commanders returned this week from a two-day conference in Washington, D.C., part of which was dedicated to preparations for today's release.

Capt. Paula Hinger, the base commander at Naval Air Station **Corpus Christi**, said all bases were represented at the conference and no specifics were given, only general information. Base spokesman Robert Torres said Hinger won't see a closure list until about an hour before Rumsfeld's recommendations, the same time members of Congress will be notified.

Gary Bushell, a local military consultant for two area military groups, said no list would be valid until Rumsfeld's announcement.

"There is no official list you can rely on until then," he said. "People are still working on trying to affect the decision, whatever it is, as we speak."

Loyd Neal, chairman of the South Texas Military Facilities Task Force, is on vacation until May 19 in Germany.

Bushell said whatever the outcome of today's announcement, the task force will be ready.

"Through three previous rounds of base closures, we've been extremely fortunate and have grown our military presence," he said. "If we're on the list in a negative way, we will work to change that. If we're not on list in a negative way, we will be working to add missions for the region."

Over the past six months, much of the speculation has focused on Ingleside, as local boosters and key lawmakers have stated publicly that the Navy was recommending the base for closure. But all of the bases have vulnerabilities. Depots similar to the **Corpus Christi** Army Depot have not fared well in past rounds, and rumors about the possibility of removing air training from **Corpus Christi** have circulated since the first closure round in 1988.

Judy Hawley, chairwoman of the North Bay Military Task Force, said she was optimistic about Ingleside's chances and ready to fight on its behalf.

"If we are on the list, clearly that will be a budget-driven decision and we think that's a false economy," Hawley said. "We're going to give it everything we can to tell our story and make sure the (Base Realignment and Closure Commission) is advised of the merits of Naval Station Ingleside.

"Our story is succinct and it's extremely strong."

Once the list is released, the commission whose task it is to review the recommendations will have until Sept. 8 to submit a revised list to President Bush, which he will send to Congress Nov. 7. By Dec. 22, Congress must vote either yes or no on the final recommendations.

Graphic: NAVAL STATION INGLESIDE

- * Civilian employees: 365
- * Military reserve, active-duty employees: 3,044
- * Home to 20 ships: 10 mine countermeasure ships and 10 coastal minehunters.

NAVAL AIR STATION KINGSVILLE

- * Civilian employees: 892
- * Military active-duty employees: 479
- * Base trains about 150 aviators per year for Navy and Marine Corps.

NAVAL AIR STATION CORPUS CHRISTI

* Civilian employees: 1,500

* Military reserve, active-duty employees: 1,883

* The base is home to four pilot training squadrons training about 300 aviators per year, **Corpus Christi** Army Depot and the Mine Warfare Command and also houses the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and the Naval Hospital.

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT

* Civilian employees: 2,700

* Military employees: 7

* Maintains Army aircraft and aeronautical equipment, trains military personnel, prepares and distributes aircraft for overseas shipment.

Source: Navy, **Corpus Christi** Regional Economic Development Corp.

Graphic: THE ROAD AHEAD FOR MILITARY BASES

Pentagon officials say they are looking at all 425 military installations in the United States for the coming round of military base closings. The process will be handled by an independent commission, working from a preliminary list from Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Main deadlines in the process

MAY 16

Rumsfeld must send his list of proposed closings to the commission and Congress.

JULY 1

GAO must issue its analysis of the list to Congressional defense committees.

SEPT. 8

Commission must send its list to President Bush

SEPT. 23

Bush must either accept or reject the list in its entirety.

OCT. 20

Commission must issue revised list if Bush had objections.

NOV. 7

President must forward revised commission list to Congress.

Secretary Rumsfeld

Base-closing commission

President Bush

Congress

Congress studies the list

No

Yes

Congress must disapprove of the list within 45 legislative days or before adjournment; otherwise it becomes binding.

Sources: Department of Defense; Congressional Research Service; Government Accountability Office

Credit: New York Times News Service

Graphic: TEXAS BASES

Here's a brief look at the major Texas military installations, with locations and number of employees:

- * Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, 9,575 military personnel, 1,442 civilian personnel.
- * Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, 267 military, 1,342 civilian.
- * Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene, 5,271 military, 391 civilian.
- * Fort Bliss, El Paso, 10,431 military, 1,491 civilian.
- * Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, 2,899 military, 574 civilian.
- * Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, 1,407 military, 928 civilian.
- * Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, 17,096 military, 3,916 civilian.
- * Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, 7,963 military, 3,979 civilian.
- * Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, 4,577 military, 6,540 civilian.
- * Brooks City-Base, San Antonio, 1,196 military, 1,228 civilian.
- * Naval Station Ingleside, 585 military, 229 civilian.
- * **Corpus Christi** Naval Air Station and **Corpus Christi** Army Depot, 2,207 military, 4,088 civilian.

- * Kingsville Naval Air Station, 434 military, 229 civilian.
- * Fort Hood, Killeen, 43,522 military, 3,641 civilian.
- * Ellington Field, Houston, 2 military, 344 civilian.
- * Lone Star Ammunition Plant, Texarkana, no numbers available.
- * Red River Army Depot, Texarkana, 3 military, 1,844 civilian.

Editorial/Opinion Articles

Now's the time to show your support for bases Thousands of jobs of your friends and neighbors depend on the BRAC decision.

Corpus

Libby Averyt

July 3, 2005

Imagine a Corpus Christi where all city employees got up and left town.

Add to that everyone employed locally at H-E-B grocery stores, Del Mar College and the Caller-Times.

Those hypothetical job losses equal about the same number that could vanish as part of the Pentagon's recommendation to close Naval Station Ingleside and realign **Naval Air Station Corpus Christi** and the Corpus Christi Army Depot. Those changes would affect at least 7,000 civilian and military jobs.

These numbers represent more than just jobs; they represent our neighbors and friends. Men and women with whom we share our lives and our homes.

We've built a community with our military family here for the past 65 years. It's part of who we are.

As families do, it's now time for us to offer support. Actually, it's critical. We're in serious competition with other cities for the survival of our bases. Thousands have turned out to show their support for the military. We must do the same.

"They'll know what we stand for when we come out united," Congressman Solomon Ortiz said last week as he urged community-wide support for our bases. "We're going to be together in this battle."

We've seen such competition before, and we'll see it again. For centuries, cities have competed against each other for businesses, residents and visitors, Joel Kotkin, a consultant and author, told a Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corp. luncheon last week.

But what sets some cities apart, Kotkin said, is their sense of identity and their sense of what makes them sacred. Cities that welcome ideas from the outside and aren't too interior-focused, thrive in competitive situations, he said. Having a military presence, with personnel from all over

the country, helps deepen our pool of ideas.

"Great cities understand who they are and where they want to go," Kotkin said.

We're a wonderfully diverse area with a historically significant past and a promising future. We've got a deep love for the water and our beaches, our tropical weather and our easy way of life. We're a tourist destination, a medical center, an industrial hub and a military area.

And as corny as it may sound, we've got incredibly caring people who reach out to each other every day.

Ron Kitchens, our outgoing economic development corporation director, recognized that as he left our city last week.

"What I'm really going to miss is you all," Kitchens told those at the EDC lunch. "For us, you've been our family and we've been privileged to call Corpus Christi home."

It is a privilege to live in this area, and as my parents taught me, with privilege comes responsibility. Now it's time for us all to take responsibility for our community and do what we can to support our military neighbors.

We can't all afford to travel to Washington, D.C., to visit lawmakers, and we may not all know who to write to explain our bases' importance to this community and our national security.

But you can help and here's how:

On Thursday, line up along Chaparral Street between Interstate Highway 37 and the Ortiz Center by 7:30 a.m. to greet BRAC Commissioner James T. Hill, who will be here to tour our bases.

Later that day, attend a reception for Hill, a retired Army general, at the American Bank Center from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. TV host Johnny Canales will record his weekly TV show there, and entertainment will include Jimmy Gonzalez y Mazz, La Onda and Control. "We need to pack this place," Rep. Ortiz said of the arena. "We need the commissioner to walk in and say, 'This is the biggest crowd I've seen.'"

On Friday, when Hill visits Naval Station Ingleside, you can line up along Highway 361 between Gregory and the base by 7:30 a.m.

Commission Chairman Anthony Principi will visit Ingleside on July 10. Texas bases will make their case to commissioners on July 11 at the state's regional hearing in San Antonio.

A dozen buses will be available to take supporters to San Antonio for the hearing.

Port Commissioner Judy Hawley, a member of the South Texas Military Facilities Task Force, summed up the challenge before us well:

"Our task, as a community, is to let them know how valuable the military is."



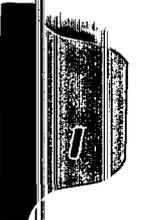
**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Red River Army Depot**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close Red River Army Depot.**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest the Red River Army Depot for closure is military value.
 - The Commission recognizes Red River's commitment to the current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The depot's role in servicing and maintaining the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, HUMVEE, and various weapons systems has been key to our success in those theaters.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to close the Red River Army Depot could have and is taking this into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic and social impact that the depot's closure would have on the surrounding community, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The Commission is aware of the economic impact that a loss of roughly 4,000 jobs can have on a local community.
 - The Commission commends the depot for serving the nation through every war effort since WWII.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
 - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to Red River Army Depot**

Q1. Under the Pentagon's proposal, jobs lost at Red River Army Depot would be offset by a gain of over 6,000 other jobs in Texas. Will the Commission's decision be influenced by the overall net job gains in Texas?

A1. The Commission will consider the full impact of the DoD's recommendations on the local communities surrounding installations that are negatively impacted. Each installation will be evaluated independently and on its own merits—primarily through criteria established to determine military value.

Q2. Under the BRAC recommendations, closure of the Red River Army Depot will result in a loss of roughly 4,000 jobs. These job losses will affect communities in Texas and Arkansas. Will the Commission consider the economic impact on the local communities?

A2. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Red River Army Depot. Military value is determined through three primary criteria—jointness, ease of mobility, and role in the changing global threat structure. The Commission will also evaluate the economic impact of the Pentagon's proposal. In the case of Red River the Commission is fully aware that the economic impact of closure will be strong and will affect communities in Arkansas and Texas.

Q3. In the 1995 BRAC round, local officials were able to save the Red River Army Depot. Why shouldn't the depot be saved again given its importance and established relationships within the community?

A3. The statute, *not precedence*, establishes the criteria. As outlined by the statute, the Commission will place priority on military value; while also taking into consideration economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of a base would have on the community surrounding that base. Information that is gathered in the analysis of a base, with the exception of information that is sensitive to national security, will be made accessible to the public.

Q4. The Red River Army Depot provides support and maintenance for some of the nation's most critical weapons systems and vehicles including the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and Multiple Launch Rocket System—both of which have been integral to our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Will the Commission consider the broader ramifications on the recommendation for closure on the overall war efforts in those locations?

A4. The Commission will evaluate the DoD's recommendations primarily through the lens of military value. Military value is determined through three primary criteria—jointness, ease of mobility, and the role in the changing global threat atmosphere. The Commission is aware of the role that Red River plays in current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and will evaluate the effect of the DoD's recommendations on those efforts.

Q5. Recently, Governor Rick Perry has said that he would establish a “strike force” to coordinate with communities that would be negatively impacted by the BRAC recommendations. In addition, Senators John Coryn (a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee) and Kay Bailey Hutchison have stated that they will fight certain BRAC recommendations. Will the Commission’s evaluation of the DoD be non-partisan? Does the Commission expect Texas to receive a favorable evaluation given that the President was previously governor of the state?

A5. The Congress established the BRAC Commission as an entirely non-partisan and non-political entity to independently evaluate whether DoD made its recommendations in accordance with the law. The Commission will serve to provide accountability to the public and ensure that all suggestions have been based upon the criteria set forth by statute. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis, in a completely open and transparent manner, which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Red River, but will also consider the economic, environmental and other effects that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community.

Q6. The depot has served the Army for the past 60+ years—from WWII to the current war in Iraq. Will the Commission consider the historical importance that the depot has served in evaluating the BRAC recommendations?

A6. The Commission will evaluate Red River primarily on its military value. Historic value is important to the Commission, however, jointness, ease of mobility, and the installations role in the changing global threat paradigm are of paramount importance.

Q7. How can the Community inform the Commission of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A7. The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission’s official website, which is www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



RED RIVER ARMY DEPOT TEXAS

National Articles

Arkansas Lawmakers United to Fight for Red River Army Depot

Local Articles

Arkansas delegation gets plum meeting with BRAC chairman

Planned closings a 'significant hit' on communities Texas' net gain of jobs is little comfort to employees who face ax

Texas would lose four military sites but gain jobs

Pentagon announces Texas base closings

Texans gearing up for a close look at base closure report

Report says base closure would cost Texarkana \$400 million a year

Governor promises to fight for Texas bases; Perry announces creation of BRAC response group

Texans make pitch to save state's bases

Base list leaves Texas cities relieved or rethinking plans; El Paso would gain 11,500 troops at Fort Bliss

Editorial Articles

National Articles

Arkansas Lawmakers United to Fight for Red River Army Depot

US States News

May 13, 2005

The office of Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., issued the following press release:

Sens. Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor, along with Fourth District Rep. Mike Ross, Friday reacted to Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendations to the Base **Realignment** and Closure (BRAC) Commission, issued in a comprehensive report earlier today. The report which was last issued in 1995 includes the Defense Department's recommendations to close or realign U.S. military facilities. All three lawmakers cautioned that today's BRAC report contains recommendations only, which are still subject to approval by the BRAC Commission, President Bush and Congress before becoming law.

The report recommends the closure of the **Red River Army Depot** and Lone Star Ammunition Plant, located near Texarkana, Texas, and that employs hundreds of Southwest Arkansas residents. In fact, according to the Department of the Army, the Red River Depot employs 2,500 directly and 1,676 indirectly, and the Lone Star Ammunition Plant employs 149 directly and 80 indirectly for a grand total of 4,405 jobs.

"We've worked extremely hard over the years to strengthen Red River and Lone Star and we're certainly not going to accept these recommendations without a fight," Lincoln said. "We're

currently in the middle of a war, and it makes no sense to close these two facilities which are providing vital services to aid our men and women in uniform who are stationed abroad. These two facilities support thousands of jobs in Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas and are critical to the economic well being of the region. Not to mention that they are strategically located in the center of the country, allowing them to serve a number of bases in a cost effective and timely manner. As the BRAC process moves forward, I look forward to making sure this message is heard loud and clear."

"I am disappointed that Secretary Rumsfeld has not seen the obvious value and potential of the Red River and Lone Star Army Depot," said Pryor. "They provide support and maintenance for some of our most critical weapons systems and vehicles including the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and Multiple Launch Rocket System, both of which have been key to our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq."

"I have talked to BRAC Commission Chairman Anthony Principi and he has agreed to meet with the delegation next week. This is the beginning of a process - the BRAC Commission has until October to revise this list and the President will not certify it until November. In the next few months I will continue to work with my fellow delegation members as we scrutinize the DOD's recommendation and work to make sure the BRAC Commission understands all that Red River and Lone Star have to offer."

"The **Red River Army Depot** and the Lone Star Ammunition Plant are both vital military facilities," said Ross. "The Red River Depot is one of the premier sites in the world for making protective armor for Humvees. I would have hoped that during a time of war, the Department of Defense would have erred on the side of keeping military facilities that provide important functions critical to carrying out our mission in Iraq and that provide important protections for our brave men and women in uniform open."

"Fortunately, the Defense Department's recommendations for base closures are just what they are - recommendations. This is the first step in a long and lengthy base **realignment** process, and I will be working closely with Arkansas's congressional delegation, as well as Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison, John Cornyn and Representative Ralph Hall - whose district includes the Red River and Lone Star Depots, and the Texarkana community to fight to keep the **Red River Army Depot** open. I have already talked with Congressman Hall and Texarkana community leaders, and have pledged to assist them in any way I can concerning this effort. In fact, I will be in Texarkana at 1:30 p.m. this Sunday to meet with local officials as we develop a plan to get these military facilities off the list."

Despite the report's recommendation today to close the **Red River Army Depot** and the Lone Star Ammunition Plant, the state of Arkansas as a whole stands to have a net gain in jobs based on BRAC's recommendations.

The three Arkansas lawmakers said that they would pursue all possible options to reverse BRAC's recommendation to close both **Red River Army Depot** and the Lone Star Ammunition Plant. The three vowed to work with the independent BRAC Commission to demonstrate the value of the facilities to our national defense, submit testimony in support of the two facilities throughout the BRAC process, and seek all available alternatives to ensure the long-term sustainability of Red River and Lone Star.

Local Articles**Arkansas delegation gets plum meeting with BRAC chairman**

Associated Press State and Local Wire

David Hammer

May 18, 2005

Arkansas' congressional delegation used time with the chairman of the commission deciding the fate of military bases across the country to question him about the future of the 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith and the **Red River Army Depot** in Texarkana, Texas.

Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., was credited with arranging the lunch meeting with Anthony Principi of California, the chairman of the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, or BRAC. The commission received the Pentagon's recommendations for about 150 closures and hundreds of other **realignments** Monday.

"It was very timely. The Department of Defense comes out with the list on Friday, (Defense Secretary Donald) Rumsfeld testifies before the commission on Monday, and Tuesday we're sitting with the chairman," Democratic Rep. Mike Ross said.

The Pentagon listed the Fort Smith unit for **realignment** that will cost more than 70 jobs, and Texas base is slated to close and, while not in Arkansas, sits just across the river and employs about 500 Arkansans.

"The thing was they weren't bashful about closing bases, so the fact that (Fort Smith) wasn't closed shows they want us to be realigned with a mission in the future," said Rep. John Boozman, R-Ark., whose district contains the 188th.

But the Arkansas delegation was in a tough bargaining position because it came out of the Pentagon's recommendations with a net gain of more than 3,500 jobs, particularly at Little Rock Air Force Base.

"We were careful in the meeting to acknowledge that Little Rock Air Force Base and the Pine Bluff Arsenal did great and I was very pleased with the construction of the new reserve centers," Pryor said. "But that's why we wanted to find out about the process and the best way to affect it."

Ross said the proposed closure of **Red River Army Depot** and an adjacent base was especially hard for him to accept because there are Arkansans he's known all his life who have worked there for decades. Still, he was energized by the meeting with Principi.

"I didn't expect to walk in there and have him say, 'OK, we'll take it off the list.' But getting it on his radar screen this early has got to be a positive," Ross said. "This is affecting people who I grew up with. I don't know if we can save it but it won't be because we didn't try."

Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., said she would work to gather evidence and documentation to show that the 188th, Red River and Lone Star are critical to national defense. Pryor said the work Red River does with armoring Humvees and repairing armored vehicles is more important than ever. He acknowledged that the F-16 fighter jets at Fort Smith are likely to be phased out soon, but said he would look for new missions for the installation.

"I'd like to hold onto the F-16 as long as possible," he said. The ones at Fort Smith "can be the last F-16s in our fleet, as far as I'm concerned."

Boozman said the delegation benefited from a good rapport with Principi from his time as Veterans Affairs chairman.

"He knows we have a reputation that when we do meet with him, we are productive and aren't crying wolf," he said.

Planned closings a 'significant hit' on communities Texas' net gain of jobs is little comfort to employees who face ax

Dallas Morning News

David McLemore

May 14, 2005

For Texas, the Pentagon's recommendations for closure and **realignment** resulted in more good news than bad - a net gain of more than 6,000 military jobs.

But that was little comfort to the bases on the chopping block.

Corpus Christi took one of the biggest hits with the recommended closure of Naval Station Ingleside, the **realignment** at the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and the potential loss of more than 3,200 military and civilian jobs.

Also on the hit list were the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant and **Red River Army Depot** at Texarkana and Brooks City-Base at San Antonio.

Officials in Corpus Christi stressed that the proposed closure of Naval Station Ingleside is still just a recommendation. And they plan on arguing that the station's military mission is too vital and the human costs too high to be shut down.

"There's a significant hit in terms of jobs for this community," said Judy Hawley, a former state representative from nearby Portland. "The financial impact we haven't even begun to calculate at this time, but it would obviously be millions of dollars."

The state is no stranger to the military - or the up-and-down realities of military economics.

Roughly 250 million uniformed personnel and civilians are connected with the state's 18 major military installations, pumping about \$43 billion a year to the state. Texas also is home to several guard and reserve sites.

Since 1988, 17 Texas military bases have been closed and several others realigned.

But with the relocation of other military missions into Texas, including new jobs at Fort Bliss and the consolidation of military medical activities at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, the state

would see a net gain of military jobs.

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, chairwoman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, stressed that the Base **Realignment** and Closure recommendations overall enhanced Texas' status as a military state.

About half the state's new military jobs will go to San Antonio through the consolidation of medical services at Brooke Army Medical Center.

"From the perspective of the net gains we're seeing right now, we're very relieved," San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza said.

The gains were tempered, however, by the potential loss of about 2,500 jobs caused by the recommended closure of the Air Force contingent of Brooks City-Base, a public-private technology research park that grew out of the last round of base closures.

The consolidation of medical treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center comes at the cost of the Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, which will transform into an ambulatory care center. It will leave San Antonio with only two Level One trauma care centers.

"We have to be sensitive to those families who are losing jobs," Mr. Garza said. "No matter how much net growth in jobs we see, the loss of one job is too much to the family going through it."

In 1995, what was then called Brooks Air Force Base was scheduled for closure. San Antonio bought the land and facilities and joined with the Air Force to develop the newly christened Brooks City-Base as a research and development park.

"What the community in San Antonio needs to know is that because Air Force missions may relocate does not mean that Brooks City-Base will close," said Howard Peak, chairman of the Brooks Development Authority Board.

Gov. Rick Perry said he would create a "strike force" to work with communities affected by the proposed closure list.

"For more than a year, Texas officials have been working aggressively to position our military installations as vital to the overall mission of the U.S. military," Mr. Perry said, adding that the goal would be to convince officials of the bases' strategic importance.

'We'll survive'

Roger Wright, president of the Ingleside Chamber of Commerce, said community leaders would work with elected officials and the local task force to keep Naval Station Ingleside open.

"You have two choices: You can either cry in your beer or you can do something about it," he said. "And we're going to do something about it one way or another."

Mr. Wright said that even if Ingleside is picked for closure, the site's 45-foot depth and plans by the Port of Corpus Christi to dredge it and the rest of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel to 52 feet would likely attract interest from someone in the petrochemical industry.

Although closing the base would be a hard blow for the community, the city would be able to

recover.

"Sure, it's going to hurt for a while," he said, "but we'll survive and we'll do well."

Gary Bushell, a consultant for the South Texas Military Facilities Task Force, also stressed that with half the nation's refining and chemical manufacturing capacity located in the Gulf of Mexico, Ingleside station's location makes it a valuable source in the war on terrorism.

"We know that terrorism could come at us through the Gulf of Mexico," Mr. Bushell said.

And he noted that Pentagon recommendations also call for the closure of the naval station in Pascagoula, Miss. "That will mean there will be no naval station in the Gulf of Mexico despite its strategic position in the war on terrorism."

'Our best, nothing less'

In Texarkana, anguished workers at the **Red River Army Depot** worried that closure of the facility, one of the area's largest employers, would cut to the heart of the region's economy.

The deepest concern is for the loss of a huge economic engine - one official put it at \$400 million a year - and of the place that has employed thousands of people for several generations.

Built in 1941, the depot has served the Army from World War II to the current war in Iraq. Its motto: "Our best, nothing less."

About 4,400 people, mostly civilians, work at the depot and its surrounding complex.

After shaking off the shock of Friday's news, County Judge James Carlow and other officials promised to mount a campaign similar to the \$400,000 endeavor that saved the military facility 10 years ago. They described a grass-roots effort to plaster the area with signs, print T-shirts and raise money.

Judge Carlow put the likelihood of getting off the list at 15 percent. "We've got about 3 1/2 months," he said, "and we're going to fight like hell."

Texarkana, Ark., Mayor Horace Shipp said he could not let his anger get in the way of the work ahead.

"We can't let those emotions rule us in these 3 1/2 months, or we lose," he said. "I don't care what the odds are. We beat them in '95, and we'll do it again."

Scott Williams, a freelance writer based in Corpus Christi, contributed to this report from Ingleside and April Kinser of DallasNews.com contributed from Texarkana.

Texas would lose four military sites but gain jobs

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dave Montgomery

May 14, 2005

WASHINGTON -- Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Friday called for the closure of four military installations in Texas but gave a boost to Naval Air Station Fort Worth, the nation's first joint reserve base.

Nationwide, the Pentagon is proposing the shutdown of 150 major military installations, a move Rumsfeld said would save \$ 48.8 billion over 20 years while helping reshape America's fighting forces to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The closure would be phased in over six years beginning in 2006.

Naval Station Ingleside near Corpus Christi, Brooks-City Base at San Antonio, and **Red River Army Depot** and Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, both near Texarkana, would be closed under a nationwide base closure and **realignment** that was unveiled Friday at a packed Pentagon news conference.

Texas' losses were offset by news that the state will gain more than 9,000 military jobs by picking up pieces of other installations targeted for closure and **realignment**.

But Texas lawmakers condemned the closures and have vowed a unified effort to restore the bases during a four-month review by the nine-member Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, which is headed by Anthony Principi, former secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Gov. Rick Perry said he planned to announce "the creation of a strike force to work with communities that may be negatively impacted by the preliminary BRAC closure list.

"For more than a year, Texas officials have been working aggressively to position our military installations as vital to the overall mission of the U.S. military. Our goal will be to convince federal officials of the importance of these bases to the War on Terror and the overwhelming support from communities all across Texas for our men and women in the military so that those bases remain open."

All told, Texas would have a net gain of 9,838 military positions and a net loss of 3,175 civilian jobs under the plan, putting the state 6,150 jobs ahead.

Naval Air Station Fort Worth stands to gain 426 jobs -- 112 active military positions and 314 reserve slots.

The joint reserve base, commissioned in 1994 on the site of the former Carswell Air Force Base, is a major employer in Tarrant County. The Navy has invested more than \$ 200 million in modernizing the base.

NAS Fort Worth is home to 13 major units and 68 aircraft from the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force reserves and the Texas Air National Guard.

More than 2,000 active-duty personnel, 6,000 reservists and 1,500 civilians work at the base, which base officials said pumps \$ 500 million annually into the economy in salaries, construction projects and purchases.

Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief said Friday's announcement was good for Fort Worth.

"This is an institution that for 10 years has been an important part of the fabric of our community

and will continue to be an important part," he said. "I'm convinced that the base remains because of its unique and strategic importance to our country."

At the same time, Moncrief said he knows many communities weren't as lucky as Fort Worth.

"I have to extend our sympathies to these communities that are affected by these closures," he said. "Fort Worth has been there and done that. We know how devastating it can be, how debilitating it can be to the economy."

"We know out of the ashes can arise a new and stronger product that can work even more effectively," Moncrief said. "If we can do it, so can others."

Texas political leaders were braced for some of the closure despite an intense campaign to preserve the state's 18 major installations, which produce an annual economic windfall of \$ 77 billion in direct and indirect benefits, according to the Texas Military Preparedness Commission.

President Bush's home state hosts more than a tenth of the nation's military personnel but has lost seven installations in four previous rounds of base closings, second only to California.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison said, on balance, "Texas will keep and enhance its status as a military state, a state that respects and supports the men and women who are serving our country."

And regarding bases targeted for reductions or closure, Hutchison said, "This recommendation list is a first step in the base **realignment** process and is by no means final."

The **Red River Army Depot** in particular had hoped to escape the list, even though the facility has long appeared targeted for elimination. Its assembly lines have been running 24 hours a day over the last two years beefing up the armor on Bradley armored vehicles and Humvees.

President Bush and Congress will have the final say on the closures, either accepting or rejecting the entire list that will be produced by the national base closing commission.

Pentagon announces Texas base closings

Associated Press State and Local Wire

Suzanne Gamboa

May 13, 2005

The Pentagon on Friday recommended closing Naval Station Ingleside, Brooks City Base, Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, **Red River Army Depot** and several smaller military installations in Texas.

However, Texas would see a net gain of more than 9,000 military jobs under the plan, led by growth at Fort Bliss in El Paso and Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, according to the Pentagon. Six bases would be realigned, including Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and Sheppard Air Force Base.

The Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission will review the Pentagon's list and send its

recommendations to President Bush. He must issue a list to Congress by Sept. 23. Congress has 45 days to reject it before it becomes official.

Rep. Ralph Hall, R-Rockwall, whose district includes **Red River Army Depot** and the Lone Star ammunition plant, said he plans to fight the recommendations.

"We're at war and fighting a terrorist that hates us, and both those facilities have been the difference in wars in the past and will be the difference in wars of future," he said. "I think it's a mistake, and we are going to look into it, and we have to take them on."

Red River has been previously recommended for closure but survived. Although its work had slowed in peacetime, the Iraq war has sent numerous damaged Humvees and Bradleys its way for repair and reinforcement.

The closures would cost Danny Whitt, owner of Shorty's Southern Maid Donut Shop & Diner in Texarkana, \$1,000 in monthly revenue. He'll also have to let one employee go. The shop sells doughnuts, rolls and other pastries to both plants.

"I hate it," said Whitt, 48. "It's devastating. I really thought we would miss the list."

Fort Bliss in El Paso is recommended for significant expansion with a net gain of about 11,500 military and civilian jobs. Fort Sam Houston would add about 9,000 jobs.

The Defense Department is proposing to create a San Antonio regional medical center by moving the medical function of the 59th Medical Wing at Wilford Hall on Lackland Air Force Base to Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, also in San Antonio. Wilford Hall would be converted to an ambulatory care center.

Army National Guard Reserve Centers recommended for closing are located in Dallas, El Paso, Ellington Air Field in Houston, Lufkin, Marshall and New Braunfels. Naval Reserve stations in Orange and Lubbock also are recommended for closing along with an Army Reserve base in Houston.

One of the unexpected moves came at Sheppard Air Force Base near Wichita Falls.

The Pentagon's plan calls for relocating "a sufficient number" of maintenance technicians and logistic support personnel from the Joint Strike Fighter site to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. A Pentagon list says the base would lose about 2,624 military and civilian jobs.

Nearly a quarter million uniformed personnel and civilians are connected with the state's 18 major military installations, pumping about \$43 billion a year to the state. Texas also is home to several guard and reserve sites.

Since 1988, 17 Texas military bases have been closed and several others realigned.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said he would create a "strike force" to work with communities that could be negatively impacted by the proposed closure list.

"For more than a year, Texas officials have been working aggressively to position our military installations as vital to the overall mission of the U.S. military," Perry said in a statement. "Our goal will be to convince federal officials of the importance of these bases to the war on terror and

the overwhelming support from communities all across Texas for our men and women in the military so that those bases remain open."

Lobbyists, elected officials and communities have been playing cheerleader to the state's bases for a couple of years, with their boosterism intensifying in recent weeks.

"Our effort has been to make Texas be seen legitimately as a very good value to do business in," said Michael Smith, a retired Air Force general who headed the state's Military Preparedness Commission.

Texans gearing up for a close look at base closure report

San Antonio Express-News

Sig Christenson

May 16, 2005

Texans today begin the task of dissecting the Pentagon's voluminous base-closure report with an eye on finding glaring errors and fault lines in logic that could save three installations.

They have no hard evidence that Defense Department decisions to close Brooks City-Base, Naval Station Ingleside and **Red River Army Depot** in Texarkana were blown calls, but they do have one advantage in their battle to save 12,938 jobs: a variation of the NFL's instant replay.

The referees are the nine members of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission, commonly referred to as BRAC. They start the review this afternoon by quizzing top Pentagon officials about their desire to shutter 33 installations nationwide.

"In instant replay when a mistake has been made on the field, the replay officials are given the opportunity to look at the play from several directions over and over again, and the call can be changed," former Mayor Howard Peak said Sunday. "We have yet to know for sure whether any mistakes have been made."

The future of communities around Red River, Ingleside, Corpus Christi, Brooks and Wilford Hall Medical Center is at stake as the BRAC recommendations go under the microscope. Altogether those facilities have a \$1.6 billion-plus economic impact. They're cogs in homeland defense and the war on terrorism, but are seen as expendable by planners seeking to cut costs and create joint missions.

The Air Force wants to shift about half its 3,700 Brooks workers to Ohio. Wilford Hall would shutter its Level 1 trauma center, end its status as an inpatient facility and become an ambulatory clinic.

Peak said local leaders would scrutinize the BRAC list for mistakes while continuing to lure private firms to Brooks, which is owned by the city and leases space to the Air Force. New deals are in the works, he said, but he declined to elaborate.

Neither Brooks' demise nor that of Wilford Hall was unexpected by some, but many were surprised to see Fort Sam gain 9,364 jobs. The post graduates Army medics and will become a

Defense Department Center for Joint Enlisted Training.

But Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, said leaders must learn how many Wilford Hall workers will move to Brooke Army Medical Center. The BRAC report is vague on the point, he said.

Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff said it's possible Wilford Hall might remain an inpatient center if University Hospital or another system here cuts a deal.

He said the trauma center likely won't remain, leaving the city with two such facilities; but Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, called it critical to the South Side, adding, "I know it's going to be a difficult fight, but I'm not going to give up on this, no way."

That was the prevailing sentiment among politicians of both parties in the wake of BRAC's bad news. Two Team Texas co-captains, Republican rivals Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, praised the gains the state posted in this BRAC while vowing to fight for installations now on the chopping block.

Both toured towns hit hard by BRAC in whirlwind trips and agreed in separate San Antonio visits last weekend that the process had just begun.

"I'm here today to reassure the people of San Antonio and the surrounding area that we're not going to merely accept yesterday's news," Perry said while downtown Saturday.

He touted Brooks' role in developing such high-tech innovations as virtual reality training systems.

In an appearance Sunday at San Antonio International Airport, Hutchison talked of Ingleside's status as the Navy's only deep-water port in the Gulf of Mexico and Red River's role in rebuilding armored personnel carriers and Humvees battered by the Iraqi insurgency.

"**Red River Army Depot** has done the most in relation to the war in Iraq and Afghanistan probably of any depot in the Army," she said, noting it runs 24-hour shifts to rebuild vehicles ruined in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"They have gone the extra mile time and time and time again. Their productivity is the best. They win all the awards for excellence given by the Army. Their motto is, 'We work as if our lives depended on it.'"

As Hutchison, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, Wolff and other leaders gathered here in a bipartisan show of solidarity, Red River worker Doug Scott said he had high hopes that Team Texas would uncover evidence needed to persuade the BRAC commission to spare the depot.

"I think if we get that data in front of the right people and maintain our concentration on what we're doing (at the depot), we'll have a real good shot at getting off (the list)," said Scott, 59, of Atlanta, about 40 minutes southeast of Red River. "If we didn't have much of a workload right now it would be really bad, because you'd have time to cry in your milk. But we've got too much to do to concentrate on."

Texarkana needs the depot. It's the No. 1 employer with the town's best-paying jobs and a staple of life in East Texas since 1942. The Army, in turn, has needed its work force, which stood at

1,520 as Gulf War II began but has since nearly doubled to keep pace with the many vehicles and weapons systems that need to be refurbished.

Some here have put in 12 hours a day, seven days a week, for months. The workload has jumped from 2.3 million labor hours before the 9-11 attacks to 4 million.

The Pentagon wants to send Red River's workload to Alabama, Georgia and Pennsylvania, among other places, saying it would reduce the Army's industrial footprint for ground and missile systems and save \$539 million over 20 years.

Whether that's true isn't clear to retired Air Force Col. William Ehrie, chairman of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission.

Ehrie said Sunday he hadn't read the Pentagon's thick BRAC report and couldn't judge its recommendations.

But the best chance Texarkana and other impacted communities have, he suggested, is to debunk the Defense Department's case and prove why the bases should survive -- using facts, not emotional pleas.

Red River "got turned around in '95, and there's no reason why it can't be done again," Ehrie said. "But on the other hand, the case has to be made based on the facts."

Report says base closure would cost Texarkana \$400 million a year

Associated Press State and Local Wire

May 23, 2005

If a pair of military installations on the Texas side of the border shut down, the economic impact on the region would total about \$400 million a year, according to study done by the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce.

Under recommendations by the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, the **Red River Army Depot** and the Lone Star Army Ammunition plant are to close.

Jerry Sparks, chairman of the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce, said that, in turn, restaurants, repair shops, convenience stores and many other businesses would close as well. The yearly impact would be \$404,025,000, he said.

Sparks figures that the total number of direct jobs lost could be about 5,000 if local defense contractors are affected by Red River and Lone Star shutting down.

Using a job multiplier provided by state economic development agencies, the indirect and direct number of jobs lost could be 12,100, in both Arkansas and Texas. That total includes employment lost because of the lack of business and jobs at the Defense Department complex.

The chamber then calculates the wage impact by averaging a mean wage for the area (nearly \$30,000) with the average experienced wage (about \$37,000).

Even in a "best-case" scenario, where the number of Red River and Lone Star jobs lost total about 2,650, the eventual impact would fall somewhere near \$214 million.

Local officials are trying to save the installations.

"We think they have underestimated their capacity demands or needs," he said.

Another question to explore is the cost of closing down a certain type of facility such as the rubber products shop and moving it elsewhere or rebuilding, said Sparks.

"It's hard to understand how it's cheaper to move work and equipment out of there to areas that are going to have to be constructed," he said.

BRAC hearings are set for Dallas and San Antonio this summer.

Governor promises to fight for Texas bases; Perry announces creation of BRAC response group

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

Ty Meighan

May 14, 2005

AUSTIN - State officials presented a united front Friday as they vowed to work to save Texas' military bases from closure.

Gov. Rick Perry ordered creation of a BRAC Response Strike Force to develop an action plan in response to recommended closures of four military bases in Texas and the **realignment** of six others.

The strike force will include representatives from 14 state agencies, boards and commissions, to review the data the Pentagon used in identifying bases for closure or **realignment**.

On Friday, the Pentagon recommended four Texas bases for possible closure - **Red River Army Depot** in Texarkana, Naval Station Ingleside, Brooks City Base in San Antonio and Lone Star Army Ammunitions Plant near Texarkana.

Six other bases are slated for **realignment**, and seven National Guard reserve centers were on the closure list.

"These installations are world-class facilities that help our men and women in uniform, and they are essential assets in the war on terror that America cannot afford to lose," Perry said at a Friday afternoon press conference. "Today I want to reassure Texans in communities impacted by the BRAC recommendations that the state of Texas is prepared to make every effort to keep these bases open."

Perry will be in Corpus Christi today for a 1 p.m. news conference to discuss the possible closure of Naval Station Ingleside.

Lt Gov. David Dewhurst emphasized the state's commitment to military communities.

"Our military bases are the backbone of many of our local economies across Texas," said Dewhurst, who has served in the U.S. Air Force, Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. State Department. "For the sake of our Texas communities and the families that call them home, we need to bolster and protect our military bases and installations to keep them open."

Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, was among state lawmakers who stood with Perry and Dewhurst at Friday's news conference. The United States needs its military bases - especially since the nation is at war in Iraq and is fighting the spread of terrorism, he said.

"This is the wrong time to be closing military bases," said Hinojosa, a Vietnam veteran who represents Corpus Christi. He added, "This is not a done deal."

Reps. Gene Seaman, R-Corpus Christi, and Abel Herrero, D-Robstown, also stood alongside the governor.

Seaman, whose district includes Naval Station Ingleside, said he was not surprised by the list.

"It's a disaster for the area," Seaman said, questioning the logic of cutting back on use of a state-of-the-art pier in deep water. "Surely it has tremendous military value. It's not understandable why they would lose that asset."

Herrero said he was disappointed with the base-closure list. NAS Corpus Christi is in his district but he noted the list was just recommendations at this point.

"We're still trying to do what we can," said Herrero, a member of the Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations Committee. "We will work to lessen the effect."

Rep. Juan Escobar, D-Kingsville, said he was relieved that Naval Air Station Kingsville was not on the list. "Our community is very small and we need all the help we can get," Escobar said.

Texans make pitch to save state's bases

San Antonio Express-News

Gary Martin

May 12, 2005

WASHINGTON -- Texas lawmakers made a final-hour plea for the state's military bases Wednesday during a meeting with Anthony Principi, chairman of the independent panel that will review the Pentagon's "hit list" of recommendations.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is expected to submit the list on Friday to the Base **Realignment** and Closure commission, which has four months to review the recommendations and craft a final roster for presidential approval.

Principi listened to the concerns of Lone Star State lawmakers, who fear several Texas

installations could be targeted for **realignment** or closure.

He promised a fair hearing during a fast-paced process that has been tainted in the past by politics.

"We have a difficult challenge ahead of us," Principi said, "and a very, very short period of time to be the independent check on the Department of Defense."

Principi is meeting with state congressional delegations in advance of the fifth round of base closings and **realignments** since 1988, a process that has resulted in the closure of nearly 100 major bases and saved billions of dollars.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, held the meeting with Principi to "show Texas solidarity" for vulnerable installations and lay out a case for each base in the state.

Eighteen members of the Texas congressional delegation, both Republicans and Democrats, attended the meeting in a conference room off the senator's office.

"We discussed all of the bases, and we talked about Texas as a military state," Hutchison told reporters gathered outside the room.

Texas has 17 major active duty installations and several National Guard facilities, including Ellington Field near Houston.

All told, military spending at Texas installations pumps \$49 billion into the state's economy each year.

"We want the military bases that are in the state. We think we have a lot to offer," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Hutchison and Cornyn have spearheaded an effort to deploy to Texas some of the 70,000 troops being relocated from Europe and Asia.

But the focus of the meeting was on installations deemed at risk of closure or **realignment**, including Brooks City-Base in San Antonio, Ingleside Naval Station, Goodfellow AFB near San Angelo and **Red River Army Depot** in Texarkana.

San Antonio officials also worry that Fort Sam Houston, the historic Army base, as well as Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center could face **realignment**.

After the sting of the Kelly AFB closure in 1995, and the loss of thousands of civilian jobs, San Antonio lawmakers are gun-shy about the impending release of a fifth base closure list.

"We learned 10 years ago that you can't take anything for granted," said Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio.

"At this point, the focus, as it was 10 years ago, is Brooks. We will meet that challenge, and we'll make that case again," Gonzalez said.

Brooks was on the original Pentagon hit list in 1995, but was removed after San Antonio offered a cost-sharing arrangement that allowed the Air Force to keep its research missions in place.

"The city takes care of the support services, and they get to focus on what is important to their mission. That type of innovative partnership is very important," said Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, whose congressional district includes the base.

In the four previous closure rounds, in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995, the Pentagon closed 97 major installations.

Seven of those bases were located in Texas: Galveston Naval Air Station, Bergstrom AFB in Austin, Carswell AFB in Fort Worth, Chase Field Naval Air Station in Beeville, Dallas Naval Air Station, Reese AFB in Lubbock and Kelly.

To date, the closures have saved the military \$29 billion and produced recurring annual savings of \$7 billion, according to the Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative arm.

Texas lawmakers told Principi that the state has paid a heavy toll in previous rounds. He replied that the economic impact of closures and past actions would be taken into account.

In addition to lobbying Principi, Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-San Antonio, said the Texas delegation has put in motion a plan to persuade other commissioners that Texas bases are needed for national defense and homeland security.

"All of us will be reaching out to every member of the commission," Bonilla said.

Principi told the Texas delegation that the base closure commission wouldn't be a rubber stamp for Pentagon proposals. He said a commissioner would visit every base placed on a list for closure, and the panel would hold up to 15 regional hearings to hear the concerns of communities.

The commission will hold hearings next week on the proposed closure list.

Base list leaves Texas cities relieved or rethinking plans; El Paso would gain 11,500 troops at Fort Bliss

The Houston Chronicle

John W. Gonzalez, Terri Langford, Thomas Korosec

May 14, 2005

Texas military communities faced the Pentagon's base closure recommendations with clashing sentiments Friday after waging aggressive campaigns to avert any loss of jobs or prestige.

While Fort Hood in Central Texas, Fort Bliss in El Paso and Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio were enthusiastic about possible increases in personnel, other installations were reeling from the specter of downsizing or closing.

Naval Station Ingleside, Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Brooks City Base in San Antonio and two Army installations in Northeast Texas could be the hardest hit, but their advocates were planning strategies to immediately contest the Department of Defense recommendations to the Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission.

"I'm going to Washington (D.C.) on Sunday," said retired Brig. Gen. John Jernigan of San Antonio, whose community showed a net gain of personnel despite plans to withdraw Air Force aerospace medical research projects from Brooks City Base, which will remain a business park, and shift some programs out of Lackland Air Force Base.

The big winners

Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio could be one of the state's biggest gainers, adding more than 9,300 troops. All enlisted medical technician training - for all the military service branches - would be concentrated at its Brooke Army Medical Center.

But Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base would lose its renowned trauma center and training wing and would be transformed into a "world-class" outpatient and ambulatory surgery center.

El Paso would benefit even more, officials said. About 11,500 troops would be added to Fort Bliss as Army units were relocated there.

Fort Hood initially would show a 9,000-troop gain, but it would gradually lose that many soldiers as units are shifted around the nation, officials said.

Leaders at each of the major Army installations said they were examining the voluminous **realignment** plans.

Officials in Wichita Falls were sorting out the details of their projected loss of 2,624 military personnel at Sheppard Air Force Base, the city's largest's employer.

It's not the first time the base appeared on a **realignment** list, but it is the first time it's meant personnel losses for the area, officials said.

"We're happy we didn't make closure," said City Manager Darron Leiker. "We're disappointed, we're surprised to be on the loss end of the **realignment**."

In Texarkana, two facilities that doubled the city's population when they first opened during World War II were recommended for closure: the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant and the adjacent **Red River Army Depot**.

"It's going to have a tremendous impact on this community," Mayor James Bramlett said. About 2,500 civilian and military jobs would be lost in a community of 61,000 residents.

"Everyone's going to be hurt: grocery stores, car dealers, medical facilities, you name it," Bramlett said.

Red River had been targeted to close in 1995. But the federal base closing commission left it open to work on Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

The Lone Star plant, which makes grenades, mortar shells and other ammunition, has seen production decline since the Vietnam War era. Its demolition grounds have been designated a federal Superfund site because of soil and water contaminants.

Somber mood in Ingleside

The mood was sullen in Ingleside with its naval station on the Pentagon's "hit-list."

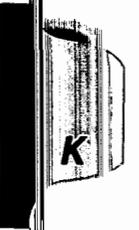
After living in the shadow of coastal neighbor Aransas Pass, Ingleside shed its wallflower status in 1985 when the Defense Department chose it for a \$ 140 million home port for the Navy. Suddenly, the town with one stop light and roughly 5,000 people was poised to become an economic generator.

"It was supposed to be a home port for a carrier battle group and the USS Lexington and battleship Wisconsin," recalled Mike Rhea, Ingleside's city manager.

"(But) They (the Navy) retired the Lexington and it's a museum in Corpus Christi and the Wisconsin is a museum in Norfolk (Va.)," Rhea said. "There goes the reason for being."

Naval Station Ingleside languished until 1995. Then, the Navy began moving some of its minesweepers to Ingleside and established a training facility. Ingleside doubled its population to about 10,000 by 2000.

Editorial Articles

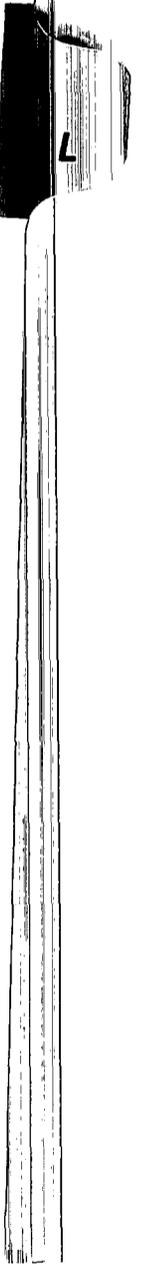


**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Lackland AFB**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to remove in-patient care capability at Lackland AFB-Wilford Hall and the Cryptologic Systems Group (CPSG).**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the re-alignment could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest the Lackland AFB for realignment is military value.
 - The Commission understands the important role that the medical center plays in the greater San Antonio community, but the Commission will evaluate the current military value of the medical center as the DoD seeks to streamline and transform our military to meet changing global threats.
 - The Commission recognizes the presence of Cryptologic Systems Group (CPSG) at Lackland AFB and commends the intelligence role that the group has played in the overall defense posture of the nation.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to realign the Lackland AFB could have and is taking this into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic and social impact that the medical center's realignment would have on the surrounding community, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The local community has developed a close relationship with the medical center. The Commission understands that the removal of in-patient care at Wilford Hall will have serious ramifications on the troops, dependents, and retirees.
 - The Commission recognizes the skilled labor force employed by CPSG at Lackland AFB and realizes the broader ramifications of dispersing these employees to several different destinations in the country.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
 - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to Lackland Air Force Base**

Q1. Under the Pentagon's proposal, jobs lost at Lackland AFB would be offset by a gain of over 3,500 other jobs in the San Antonio area. For this reason, San Antonio leaders have urged restraint in making the case for Lackland AFB. Will the Commission's decision be influenced by the overall net job gains in the San Antonio area?

A1. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Lackland AFB, but will also consider the impact that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q2. Under the BRAC recommendations, the DoD will relocate the Cryptologic Systems Group (CPSG) based at Lackland AFB to three other military installations. This would result in a loss of roughly 700 intelligence jobs and an estimated \$3 billion in defense spending in San Antonio. Will the Commission consider the impact that the recommendations will have on San Antonio's intelligence community and the nation's overall national security readiness?

A2. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Lackland AFB. Military value is determined through three primary criteria—jointness, ease of mobility, and role in the changing global threat structure. In reviewing the proposal regarding CPSG, the Commission will strongly consider whether the intelligence function at Lackland AFB adequately and effectively supports the nation's overall defense posture.

Q3. In past BRAC rounds, local San Antonio officials were able to save CPSG—which had been located at Kelly AFB. Why shouldn't CPSG be saved again given its importance and established relationships with other intelligence agencies in the region?

A3. The statute, *not precedence*, establishes the criteria. As outlined by the statute, the Commission will place priority on military value; while also taking into consideration economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of a base would have on the community surrounding that base. Information that is gathered in the analysis of a base, with the exception of information that is sensitive to national security, will be made accessible to the public.

Q4. The Pentagon proposal suggests building a new out-patient medical care facility at Lackland AFB. The new medical center would replace the current in-patient care facilities located on-base at Wilford Hall. Will the Commission review the broader medical care ramifications of these changes on troops, dependents, and retirees?

A4. The Commission will consider the full impact of the DoD's recommendations on the local community. The Commission understands that decisions regarding health care may

A4. Continued

have a dramatic impact on a community. Oftentimes, the decision to remove a medical capability at one location requires that it be performed at another. The Commission will analyze the DoD's recommendations regarding this medical center deliberately and carefully

Q5. The changes proposed at Lackland AFB will result in a loss of 2,624 jobs. While many of these jobs will be realigned to other facilities within the San Antonio region, the economic affects for the neighborhood surrounding Lackland AFB will be strong. Does the Commission take into account the economic impact of the DoD recommendations?

A5. The Commission will consider the full impact of the DoD's recommendations on the local community. Paramount to the Commission's review is the military value of the installation. In addition to military value, the Commission will review secondary factors such as economic/environmental impact on the local community. Please be assured that the Commission will thoroughly and objectively analyze the economic ramifications of realignment at Lackland AFB.

Q6. How can the Community inform the Commission of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A6. The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.

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