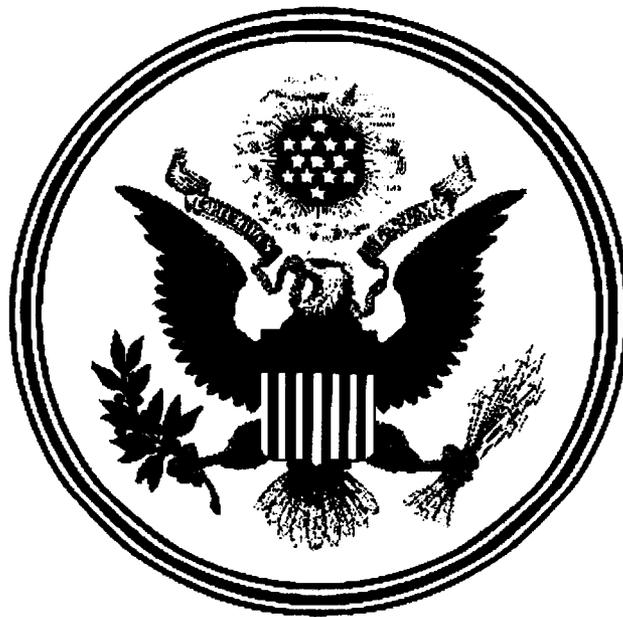


Advance

**DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND
REALIGNMENT COMMISSION**



MEDIA BRIEFING BOOK

NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA, FL



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEDIA BRIEFING BOOK

NAVAL AIR STAION PENSACOLA, FL

- A. Media Advisory
- B. Suggested Talking Points for Installation Visit
- C. Suggested Qs & As for Installation Visit
- D. Sampling of Local Media Coverage Relating to BRAC

MEDIA ADVISORY

BRAC Commissioner Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr. (U.S. Navy, Ret.) will visit Naval Air Station Pensacola on Wednesday, June 15. We will be visiting the base throughout the morning and will hold a media availability afterwards.

The visits are closed to both the public and media.

Media Availability

Date & Time:

Wednesday, June 15 at 12:00PM (Please arrive by 11:15am)

LOCATION:

Jackson's Restaurant
400 S. Palafox Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDENCE by email to robert.mccreary@wso.whs.mil

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Please Check our website for upcoming Base Visits, Media Availabilities and Hearings Schedule: WWW.BRAC.COM

**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Naval Air Station Pensacola**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the 2005 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 Pensacola.**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the realignment of the installation could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's decision as to whether or not to suggest NAS Pensacola for realignment is military value.
 - Although the Commission is keenly aware of the human impact of the suggestion by DoD to realign NAS Pensacola, the Commission will base its decisions, as to whether or not to suggest the installation for realignment, almost entirely upon the current military value of the base.
 - The Commission will carefully consider the role that Pensacola Naval Air Station plays in the defense of the nation from the Gulf Coast region.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the possible economic, environmental, and other effects that the suggestions to realign Pensacola Naval Air Station could have and is taking these 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 full account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic impact that the installation realignment would have on the community surrounding NAS Pensacola, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The local community and the installation have developed a strong relationship based upon a social and economic synergy. The loss of roughly 1500 jobs can have a significant impact on a community. The Commission understands this and will take it into account as it delineates its final recommendation.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, by a process set forth 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 to serve as accountability to the public for the suggestion, made by DoD, to realign NAS Pensacola.
 - 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 Naval Air Station Pensacola**

Q1. If the Commission adheres to the Department of Defense's (DoD) recommendations, Pensacola will see the largest job loss of all military bases in Florida. Estimates are that 1,579 jobs will be lost in the realignment process. Understandably, this would have a large economic impact on the community. Will the Commission consider these economic ramifications in the Commission's final recommendation regarding NAS Pensacola?

A1. The factors to be included in the Commission's evaluation of the DoD's suggestions for base closures and realignments are set forth by statute. The Commission is keenly aware of the human impact of these suggestions and will take their economic effects on the region into account, while maintaining military value as its most important consideration in this evaluation.

Q2. Governor Bush has vowed to fight the current recommendations in an effort to save jobs in the Pensacola area. Will the Governor's relationship with the President aide him in his effort?

A2. 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 Naval Air Station Pensacola, but will also consider the economic, environmental and other effects that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community.

Q3. The BRAC list recommendations suggest bringing the Navy's Undersea Medical Institute to Pensacola from New London, CT. Does DoD have a larger medical role planned for Pensacola in the future?

A3. While DoD creates the military strategy for meeting changing global threats, the entire focus of the Commission is to evaluate whether or not DoD has followed the law in its suggestions to close or realign military installations across the country. The Commission will evaluate current military value of an installation, according to the process prescribed by statute.

Q4. Did damage that NAS Pensacola sustain from Hurricane Ivan play a role in the Pentagon's recommendation to move jobs?

A4. DoD is to maintain a military installation, regardless of the installation's intended future. Recent spending to ensure that the base is able to perform its current military mission will not determine whether or not the installation will be retained for future missions.

Q5. The current recommendations suggest moving the Naval Education and Training Command from Pensacola to Millington, TN. Pensacola already has the

Q5. Continued

infrastructure for the Command. Will the Commission consider this in its final recommendation?

A5. The process of evaluation, followed by the Commission, has been set forth by law. In this evaluation, military value is the most important factor to the Commission as DoD seeks to streamline our military to meet changing global threats. The Commission will consider all pertinent factors in its analysis, including the economic, environmental and other effects on the local community, as well as the community's infrastructure to support the installation.

Q6. The Department of Veterans Affairs and DoD's Joint Ambulatory Care Clinic is scheduled to open in 2007. Should Pensacola have a role with regard to the Joint Ambulatory Care Clinic, this could offset the job loss of the potential realignment. Does the Commission anticipate this role for Pensacola?

A6. The sole purpose of the Commission is to independently and transparently evaluate the suggestions made by DoD to close or realign military installations across the country, and to ensure that all pertinent considerations have been taken into account. While the Commission will evaluate the current military value of an installation, DoD is responsible for working with a community, should a suggestion for a realignment be enacted, to ensure continued economic growth. DoD is responsible for the strategy to ensure that our troops are well-prepared to meet today's changing global threats; the Commission is only responsible for evaluating the list of suggested base closures and realignments provided by DoD.

Q7. In addition to the Navy Education and Training Command, Pensacola is slated to lose the Officer Candidate School and the Defense Finance Accounting Service. What were the criteria for moving these away from the Naval Air Station?

A7. The criteria for determining the value of a military installation has been set forth by statute. As outlined by law, 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. Part of what constitutes DoD's determination of military value is jointness, ease of mobility, and the base's strategic role with regard to today's changing global threats.

Q8. Will the Pensacola Naval Air Station play any role in the proposed arrival of the Joint Strike Fighter to Eglin AFB?

A8. While DoD is responsible for developing the strategy for meeting today's changing global threats, the Commission is solely responsible for ensuring that DoD's suggestions to close or realign various military installations, have been made in keeping with the law. The Commission will perform an independent, transparent, and thorough analysis of these suggestions, through a process set forth by law.

Q9. How can the Community make the Commission aware of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A9. The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional

A9. Continued

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.

NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA FLORIDA

National News Articles

Wynne Approves 'Re-Plan' Strategy For Joint Strike Fighter Program

Clark Defends Plans To Move Mine Warfare Command To San Diego

Closings Would Refocus East Coast Fleet; Pentagon's BRAC List Boosts Southern Bases

Local News Articles

Pensacola Will Get BRAC Panel Appeal

Job Cuts Menace Naval Bases;

The Proposed Transfer Of Several Departments Away From Two Pensacola Area Naval Bases Would Result In Thousands Of Lost Jobs.

Bush Vows To Fight Pensacola Job Cuts;

Visit To Pentagon Disheartens Officials

Pensacola Naval Air Station Targeted For Base Changes

Delegates Hunt Allies On BRAC

Escambia Short On Cash

Opinion/Editorial Articles

Many Help Make A Difference

National News Articles

Wynne Approves 'Re-Plan' Strategy For Joint Strike Fighter Program

Inside the Air Force

June 3, 2005

Pentagon acquisition chief Michael Wynne this week signed off on an acquisition decision memorandum accepting the details of a revised program plan for the Joint Strike Fighter that was implemented last fall.

According to an information paper provided by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Wynne approved the "F-35 (Joint Strike Fighter) Program Review restructured program known as the 're-plan' effort."

JSF program officials first presented the re-plan concept to the Defense Acquisition Board, which Wynne chairs, during a review meeting last October. The joint program office has been working on the new plan since that time and the fiscal year 2006 budget request now before Congress reflects the revised calendar. However, program officials had to return for another DAB review May 5 in order to receive the board's blessing on the exact details of the plan, coupled with the new aircraft design focused on weight reduction, JSF spokeswoman Kathy Crawford told Inside the Air Force June 2.

Last year, Pentagon officials restructured the JSF program, allocating an extra year to remedy weight problems discovered during systems integration and preliminary design review activity.

The weight growth left the fighter unable to meet its key performance parameters -- particularly the short-takeoff-and-vertical-landing version. The delay affected the aircraft's program schedule; initial operating capability for the conventional-takeoff-and-landing variant was moved from FY-11 to FY-13, as reflected in the re-plan. The updated JSF program calendar for next year includes a critical design review, scheduled for early 2006, and a first flight, slated for late summer 2006, according to Crawford.

During last month's DAB review, Wynne also approved an updated acquisition strategy, which was defined after the program down-selected to one contractor -- Lockheed Martin -- for the system development and demonstration phase. The program waited to obtain Wynne's approval on that strategy, however, until it could add in the details of the re-plan effort, Crawford said.

As part of its \$102.9 billion budget request for FY-06, now before Congress, the Air Force is seeking \$2.6 billion for its portion of the JSF program. This amount includes \$2.4 billion for research, development, test and evaluation activity and \$200 million to fund initial long lead items for five aircraft. JSF's customers include the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, as well as Great Britain and other international customers.

The Pentagon would like to establish a Joint Strike Fighter training site at Eglin Air Force Base, FL, that would bring together the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps personnel learning to fly and maintain the F-35, according to the Pentagon's 2005 report to the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission.

The recommendation entails moving instructor pilots and operations support personnel from Luke AFB, AZ, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, CA, and Naval Air Station Oceana, VA, to Eglin AFB. And, if approved, it also would include the relocation of maintenance technician and logistics support instructors from Sheppard AFB, TX and Naval Air Station **Pensacola**, FL, to Eglin.

Clark Defends Plans To Move Mine Warfare Command To San Diego

Inside the Navy

May 23, 2005

As part of the latest base-closure round, the Navy plans to relocate Mine Warfare Command from Corpus Christi, TX, to San Diego, a change that Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark believes will help the mine warfare community.

The Navy proposed moving the command and the Mobile Mine Assembly Group to the Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Center in Point Loma, CA. The service would also move its Mine Warfare Training Center from Texas to San Diego to consolidate it with the Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center there.

The naval station at Ingleside, TX, would be closed and the air base in Corpus Christi would be realigned. The command's ships, along with dedicated personnel, would be relocated from Ingleside to San Diego. Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15) and dedicated personnel, would move to the naval station in Norfolk, VA.

"The command is moving west," Clark told Inside the Navy May 17 following an appearance on Capitol Hill before the base closure commission. "The ships are going west. The airplanes are going east."

Asked whether the admiral in charge of Mine Warfare Command would be shifted to San Diego, Clark said, "Yeah. . . . They are going to link up with the ASW Command."

The command could be connected to Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk in terms of organizing, training and equipping forces, but "in terms of functionality and undersea warfare" it is headed to San Diego, he said.

MINEWARCOM, which was established in Charleston, SC, in 1975, moved to Corpus Christi in 1993. Moving the command again will work out better for the mine warfare community, said Clark.

"Well, they're going to be close to the numbered fleet commander. It will facilitate integration with all of the exercising pieces that go on," Clark explained, before a passing lawmaker drew him into another conversation.

According to a 2005 Navy report on the service's base closure and **realignment** plans, the idea is to move mine warfare surface and aviation assets to major fleet concentration areas and to reduce excess capacity. The report says Gulf Coast presence can be achieved as needed with available Navy ports at the naval air bases in Key West, FL, and **Pensacola, FL**. U.S. Coast Guard presence is expected to remain in the Gulf Coast region, according to the report.

Osprey-class minehunting ships now homeported at Ingleside are scheduled for decommissioning between fiscal years 2006 and 2008 and will not relocate, the report states.

Moving MINEWARCOM and the Mine Warfare Training Center to San Diego creates a center of excellence for undersea warfare, combining both mine warfare and anti-submarine warfare disciplines, according to the report. By removing the mine warfare community from "a location remote from" the fleet, the reorganization will better support the shift to organic mine warfare, the report argues.

The relocation of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15) to Norfolk consolidates all mine warfare aircraft in one fleet concentration area. This location "better supports" the HM-15 mission by locating them closer to the base where they would embark aboard C-5 transports for overseas employment and mine countermeasures ship and helicopter coordinated exercises, according to the report.

But lawmakers from Texas are sour on the proposed base-closure changes for their state. As the Base **Realignment** and Closure (BRAC) Commission reviews the Pentagon's recommendations in the coming months, Texas lawmakers plan to fight to keep facilities in their state open, like lawmakers from other states facing base closures.

Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and John Cornyn (R-TX) have vowed to pull Ingleside from the list of scheduled base closures. Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) is also fighting to keep Ingleside open.

"Ingleside is the only deep water port in the Gulf of Mexico and it is critical to our homeland security mission," said Hutchison during a recent visit to Corpus Christi, according to a statement released by her office. She called Ingleside the closest naval base to Mexico and Central and South America and the newest and most modern naval base in the country.

In a separate statement released May 19, Hutchison said the BRAC Commission had accepted her

request to hold two regional hearings in Texas. The first hearing will take place in Dallas on June 22 and the second in San Antonio on July 11, according to her office. In addition, the commission has agreed to send one of its members to each of the BRAC locations in Texas, according to the statement.

Ortiz has been pushing for the commission to hold a BRAC hearing in Ingleside, according to a report published in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

Closings Would Refocus East Coast Fleet; Pentagon's BRAC List Boosts Southern Bases

Navy Times

William H. McMichael and Mark Faram

May 23, 2005

Pascagoula, Miss., Ingleside, Texas, and New London/Groton, Conn., will cease to be Navy towns if the BRAC commissioners ultimately accept the Pentagon's base closure recommendations released May 13. But northeast Florida and southeast Georgia would grow into what amounts to a fleet concentration area on a par with Puget Sound.

The Pentagon also recommended shutting down the historic naval shipyard in Portsmouth, Maine, and dozens of reserve centers and recruiting district headquarters. And Navy officials apparently are setting the stage for an expected merger of the Navy's personnel and training commands into one "human resources" command, by consolidating all major personnel, training and recruiting functions at the Naval Support Activity in Mid-South Millington, Tenn.

The list, awaited with trepidation in communities fearing the loss of bases and their economic benefit, includes 54 large and small Navy bases and 46 small facilities. If fully implemented, the Navy estimates annual savings of \$1.5 billion.

"The payoff [for sailors] in the long run is the place where they will be stationed - where they will live - will be a place that has everything they want," said a senior Navy official who briefed reporters at the Pentagon May 13. "They will be close to the ship, close to maintenance and close to training opportunities, so that when they're not deployed, they will have the opportunity to do everything in one place."

Recommended for outright closure on the long-awaited list are the naval stations at Pascagoula and Ingleside. According to an internal Navy document obtained by Navy Times that details the Navy's recommendations, Pascagoula's two frigates would be moved to Mayport, Fla., while the cruiser Thomas S. Gates is slated for decommissioning. Along with the Navy's plan to decommission all of its mine hunter coastal ships, all of Ingleside's mine countermeasures ships and Mine Warfare Command would be moved to San Diego.

The Pentagon also would shut down New London Submarine Base, the Navy's first, built in 1868 and a submarine base since 1915, and move its 16 attack submarines to the much newer facility at Kings Bay, Ga. - 40-odd miles from the Navy activities in Jacksonville, Fla., and Mayport - and to Norfolk Naval Station, Va. The move would colocate attack and ballistic missile submarines at Kings Bay, a first for the Navy. To be determined: how many subs each base would get.

"I did not, in my wildest imagination, think we would get closed," said John Markowicz, a retired naval officer and president of the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region in New London,

Conn., which had been tracking the BRAC process for local municipalities. "We had been led to believe by the Navy that we would be realigned and lose 400 to 500 military and civilian positions, but that was all."

Markowicz said he thought the cost of relocating all the submarines and commands would be too great and not give the Navy enough savings to justify the move.

"We are not giving up this fight," Markowicz said.

Another historic closure would take place in Portsmouth, Maine, where the naval shipyard has been in continuous operation since 1800 and now focuses on nuclear submarine overhaul. The region would lose 4,510 jobs, most of them civilian positions, and the Ship Depot Repair Function would be split up and transferred to Norfolk, Puget Sound and Pearl Harbor.

Other major bases recommended for closure are Atlanta Naval Air Station and NAS Willow Grove, Pa.

If the Millington merger takes place, the Navy would be the first military service to totally integrate its manpower and personnel functions with its training and education counterparts. As a result, the service also is recommending closure of the New Orleans Naval Support Activity and moving the Enlisted Placement Management Center and Naval Reserve Personnel Center to Millington. Naval Reserve Recruiting Command, which recently merged with its Millington-based active counterpart, would relocate to the base near Memphis as well.

The Naval Reserve's headquarters also would leave New Orleans for Norfolk, where it would be located with Fleet Forces Command.

Pensacola would lose 2,161 military and civilian positions, the bulk of them if Naval Education and Training Command is moved to Millington, as now recommended. Officer Training Command, which includes all officer candidate schools, would move to Newport Naval Station, R.I., and merge with the Officer Training Center. But **Pensacola** would gain 679 positions with the relocation of the Naval Undersea Medical Institute from New London and Undergraduate Navigator Training from Randolph Air Base, Texas.

The Jacksonville-Mayport-Kings Bay area would grow substantially. In addition to the New London submarines and the Pascagoula frigates, Jacksonville would gain Patrol Wing 5 and its P-3 maritime patrol aircraft squadron from Brunswick Naval Air Station, Maine, which is being realigned.

Gains, losses

Major changes for naval installations on the 2005 base closure and **realignment** list.

Closures

. Submarine Base New London, Conn., losing 7,096 military, 952 civilians.

. Naval Air Station Atlanta, losing 1,274 military, 156 civilians.

- . Naval Supply Corps School Athens, Ga., losing 389 military, 108 civilians.
- . Naval Support Activity New Orleans, losing 1,997 military, 652 civilians.
- . Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, Maine, losing 201 military, 4,032 civilians.
- . Naval Station Pascagoula, Miss., losing 844 military, 112 civilians.
- . Naval Air Station Willow Grove, Pa., losing 865 military, 362 civilians.
- . Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, losing 1,901 military, 260 civilians.

Realignments

- . Naval Medical Center San Diego, losing 1,596 military, 33 civilians.
- . Naval Air Station **Pensacola**, Fla., losing 302 military, 1,180 civilians.
- . Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill., losing 1,989 military, 23 civilians.
- . Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine, losing 2,317 military, 61 civilians.
- . Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, losing 926 military, 89 civilians.

Gains

- . Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Calif., gaining 154 military, 2,315 civilians.
- . Naval Station San Diego, gaining 1,084 military, 84 civilians.
- . Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., gaining 1,902 military, 65 civilians.
- . Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga., gaining 3,245 military, 102 civilians.
- . National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Md., gaining 982 military, 936 civilians.
- . Naval Air Station New Orleans, gaining 1,407 military, 446 civilians.
- . Naval Support Activity Mid-South, Tenn., gaining 372 military, 601 civilians.
- . Naval Shipyard Norfolk, Va., gaining 177 military, 1,774 civilians.
- . Naval Station Norfolk, Va., gaining 3,447 military, losing 729 civilians.
- . Naval Support Activity Norfolk, Va., gaining 567 military, 205 civilians.
- . Naval Station Bremerton, Wash., gaining 1,401 civilians.

Local News Articles

Pensacola Will Get BRAC Panel Appeal

Gannett News Service

LARRY WHEELER

May 26, 2005

WASHINGTON -- **Pensacola** base boosters will get their day before a national base-closing panel in July, Florida lawmakers and their staffs confirmed Wednesday.

The nine-member Base **Realignment** and Closing (BRAC) Commission will meet in New Orleans on July 12 to hear presentations from community groups representing bases in Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The 1,579 jobs the Defense Department wants to shift out of Naval Air Station **Pensacola** and Saufley Field in Escambia County are expected to dominate the Sunshine State's allotted time.

BRAC staff recently informed Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Melbourne, that, as the state's senior senator, he is responsible for coordinating Florida's presentation to the commission.

"We're going to work with state officials to develop a schedule," said Bryan Gulley, a spokesman for Nelson.

Gulley added that Nelson would work closely with the Governor's Advisory Council on BRAC in the coming days.

NAS **Pensacola** would see the biggest job loss of all military bases in Florida if the Pentagon's base **realignment** proposal, unveiled May 13, becomes reality. Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Corry Station were not on the list of bases the Pentagon wants to close or reorganize.

Florida officials don't yet know how much time they will have to address the commission, which has scheduled 16 regional hearings.

The New Orleans hearing will be attended by some but not all of the commissioners.

The purpose of the hearings is to give communities whose military bases have been recommended for closure or reorganization by the Pentagon a chance to tell the commission that they disagree with those recommendations.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Chumuckla, expects **Pensacola** representatives will be given a significant block of Florida's time since the community has more jobs at stake than any other in the state, said Dan McFaul, Miller's chief of staff.

Overall, Florida bases would gain 2,796 military and civilian jobs, according to an analysis by the non-partisan Northeast-Midwest Institute.

Miller will work with Nelson to present a compelling case to the commission, McFaul said.

To get a base removed from the Pentagon's list of bases targeted for closure or restructuring, community officials must convince the commission that the Navy violated base closure and **realignment** criteria in recommending the jobs be moved elsewhere.

Pensacola officials could also try to convince commissioners that other Defense Department recommendations were wrong, in an attempt to steer additional work to the region's military installations.

**Job Cuts Menace Naval Bases;
The Proposed Transfer Of Several Departments Away From Two Pensacola Area
Naval Bases Would Result In Thousands Of Lost Jobs.**

The Miami Herald
May 24, 2005

A group of local officials and other boosters came away from a visit to the Pentagon disheartened about their chances of preventing two **Pensacola** area Navy bases from losing 1,579 jobs, mostly well-paying civilian positions.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has proposed various moves to the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission that would result in the net loss for **Pensacola** Naval Air Station and Saufley Field.

The 50-member **Pensacola** group last week asked Pentagon officials about the odds of saving those jobs.

"They said there is hope, but not much," said Escambia County School Superintendent Jim Paul.

That won't stop the Military Regional Oversight Committee from appealing the proposal to the BRAC Commission at a July 12 hearing in New Orleans.

"I may not agree with the loss, but I understand why they made those decisions," said Escambia County Commissioner Marie Young.

Military officials told the delegation that moving the Naval Education and Training Command, headed by a three-star admiral, to Millington, Tenn., would eliminate redundancies through a merger with the Bureau of Naval Personnel already based there.

"It's hard to overcome that," said Gulf Breeze Mayor Lane Gilchrist.

"They're not going to change their minds easily."

The Navy also wants to move education and training support personnel at Saufley to Millington and its Officer Candidate School from the naval air station to Rhode Island.

A military accounting and payroll office at **Pensacola** also would be closed.

Yet another move would send about 400 technicians and mechanics from **Pensacola** to nearby Eglin Air Force Base as part of a training program for the new Joint Strike Fighter, which will be used by the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

While **Pensacola** will be the biggest net loser in Florida, Eglin would be the state's biggest gainer with 2,218 positions, including the addition of an Army Special Forces group.

Bush Vows To Fight Pensacola Job Cuts; Visit To Pentagon Disheartens Officials

The Tallahassee Democrat
May 24, 2005

Gov. Jeb Bush said Monday that he will fight to prevent two **Pensacola** area Navy bases from losing 1,579 jobs, mostly well-paying civilian positions, although local officials were disheartened after a visit to the Pentagon last week.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has proposed various moves to the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission that would result in the net loss for **Pensacola** Naval Air Station and Saufley Field.

Bush met with military boosters in **Pensacola** to begin developing a strategy to save the jobs here.

"We're going to fight," Bush told reporters. "I think we have a great case here in Florida."

He cited state legislation passed to support military families, Florida's cutting-edge efforts to prevent development from encroaching on bases, a solid workforce and an attractive quality of life.

Bush's visit here follows a trip to the Pentagon by 50 **Pensacola** boosters who asked about the odds of keeping the jobs.

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While **Pensacola** will be the biggest net loser in Florida, Eglin would be the state's biggest gainer with 2,218 positions, including the addition of an Army Special Forces group.

Pensacola Naval Air Station Targeted For Base Changes

Pensacola News Journal (Florida)

May 23, 2005

The Base **Realignment** and Closure list released in May by the Department of Defense delivered bad news for **Pensacola** Naval Air Station. If the cutbacks turn into a reality this fall, **Pensacola** will take the largest hit among the state's military installations, losing 1,579 jobs.

Whiting Field Naval Air Station near Milton as well as Corry Station in **Pensacola** were spared by BRAC.

Eglin Air Force Base near Fort Walton Beach was the state's biggest winner, standing to add 2,218 jobs.

Only 15 percent of the recommended changes were altered by the BRAC Commission in 1995, the most recent round in the Department of Defense's efforts to reorganize its base structure to more efficiently and effectively support forces, increase operational readiness and facilitate new ways of doing business.

The **Pensacola** losses would include 302 armed forces employees and 1,180 civilian positions, according to Defense Department documents. Ninety-seven contractor positions also would be lost.

Those jobs pay an average of about \$50,000 a year, estimates economist Rick Harper, director of the Haas Center For Business Research and Economic Development at the University of West Florida.

The job cuts could result in an estimated \$150 million spending loss each year. That doesn't include the income of the employees' spouses if families move out of the area.

If those families have children who also move, the financial hit soon could reach area schools.

Enrollment figures are tallied in the fall and spring. Increases in student enrollment from the fall count means growth dollars for the districts. A decrease in enrollment means dollars are taken away from school districts.

Political clout also is affected. Losing the Naval Education and Training Command to Tennessee would be a big hit.

At the top of the command is a three-star admiral - the only active admiral in Northwest Florida.

The command's Navy Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center at Saufley Field could be moved to Millington, Tenn.

Also on the list is Officer Candidate School, which could return to Newport, R.I., and the Defense Finance Accounting Service, which faces nationwide consolidation.

The Haas Center said the job losses from BRAC could be countered by several potential gains.

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Pentagon's Joint Ambulatory Care Clinic is scheduled to open in 2007 and could bring as many as 350 jobs to the area.

Local leaders say after BRAC, they plan to concentrate on making **Pensacola** the destination for military medical research, despite the loss of the Naval Aeromedical Research Laboratory to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

The BRAC list recommendations include bringing the Navy's Undersea Medical Institute to **Pensacola** from New London, Conn.

Damage that **Pensacola** NAS sustained from Hurricane Ivan played no role in the Pentagon's recommendation to move jobs, officials said. Physical damage is not on the list of criteria the Pentagon was allowed to use in deciding where to cut and where to add.

The BRAC Commission is scheduled to forward its report on the recommendations to the president by Sept. 8. The list still must be approved by the BRAC Commission, Congress and President Bush.

GRAPHIC: File photo for the **Pensacola** Business Journal; **Pensacola** Naval Air Station would lost 1,579 jobs if the Base **Realignment** and Closure recommendations are approved. However, the plan does call for bringing the Navy's Undersea Medical Institute to **Pensacola** from New London, Conn.

Delegates Hunt Allies On BRAC

Pensacola News Journal (Florida)

Nicole Lozare

May 20, 2005

WASHINGTON -- Two federal lawmakers on Thursday tried to rally a **Pensacola** Bay Area delegation concerned about recommended job cuts at local military bases, but they offered little hope that the positions can be saved.

U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Chumuckla, encouraged the 50-member group of community leaders to celebrate that the Pentagon did not recommend closing any Florida bases when it announced its Base **Realignment** and Closure list last week.

"You don't know why they didn't close some of these bases -- for example, Saufley Field," he said. "Other missions may be coming to the base."

Eglin Air Force Base was the big winner in Miller's district, standing to gain 2,218 job. But the BRAC list targets **Pensacola** Naval Air Station and Saufley Field for 1,579 job cuts among

military and civilian personnel.

Under the **realignment** plan, the Naval Education and Training Command, the Officer Training Center and the Naval Aero-Medical Research Laboratory would move from **Pensacola**. The **Pensacola** branch of the Defense Finance Accounting Service would close.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Melbourne, told the group that he has spoken to two of the nine BRAC Commission members about **Pensacola's** plight.

"I know (retired Navy) Admiral Harold Gehman and (retired Army) General James Hill very well," he said. "I've already made the argument to General Hill that it is more logical to keep the Naval Education and Training Command in **Pensacola** than move it to Millington, Tennessee. Just look at the infrastructure we already have at **Pensacola**."

A member of Nelson's staff also announced that two members of the BRAC Commission most likely will visit the **Pensacola** area soon to study firsthand the recommended cuts.

The local delegation moves on today to the Pentagon to meet with Navy officials to emphasize members' opposition to the BRAC recommendations for **Pensacola**.

But retired Navy Vice Adm. Jack Fetterman, a member of the delegation, believes that "few at the Pentagon will talk about BRAC."

Military officials usually are instructed to refrain from discussing BRAC until final decisions are made, Fetterman said. That might not occur until next spring.

Nevertheless, he said, this week's trip by local leaders provides a good way to keep **Pensacola** in the minds of decision-makers.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy B.J. Penn said he will speak generally about the BRAC process at today's meeting. He also said the **Pensacola** delegation should understand that the process is nonpolitical and data-driven.

The delegation's meetings Thursday at the Cannon House Office Building near the Capitol were not what some members expected.

"The focus shifted away from BRAC," said **Pensacola** City Council member P.C. Wu, who is most worried about the projected job losses compounding area economic problems after Hurricane Ivan.

"I was a little disappointed that we didn't talk more about it."

U.S. Rep. Joel Hefley, R-Colo., told the group that Northwest Florida's wide expanse of controlled airspace -- 18,700 square miles -- most likely helped keep its bases open.

Hefley, who chairs the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, also told the group that he believes this year's round of BRAC should have been postponed.

"It's wrong to do BRAC in the middle of a war," he said. "They should have put it off a couple of years."

Hefley said there have been several unsuccessful attempts to pass an amendment to postpone the BRAC process.

Some members of the Military Regional Oversight Committee, which lobbies to protect local bases, are part of the delegation. The committee is brainstorming this week to frame its arguments to keep the **Pensacola** jobs.

The committee is expected to finalize its rebuttal to the BRAC recommendations by June 1, Fetterman said.

The group will have a chance to state its case before the BRAC Commission at a June 30 regional meeting in Atlanta.

Each community is allowed 45 minutes, but Fetterman said he expects a majority of that time will be used by Gov. Jeb Bush and U.S. senators and congressmen representing Northwest Florida. The committee is likely to have only about 20 minutes, Fetterman said.

Escambia Short On Cash

Pensacola News Journal (Florida)

Brett Norman

May 19, 2005

Escambia County's funding of nonprofit agencies and pay raises for its 2,500 employees next year might become another casualty of Hurricane Ivan, County Administrator George Touart said Wednesday.

Touart is scheduling a meeting with Gov. Jeb Bush during the governor's visit to **Pensacola** on Monday in a last-ditch effort to convince the state to offset a projected \$4.8 million shortfall in property taxes lost to the storm's devastation.

Absent a commitment from the governor, Touart said he will send a letter to the more than 20 nonprofit groups that depend on \$2 million annually from the county's general fund, warning that they likely will have to find some or all of that money elsewhere.

"It's going to be very tough on a lot of people," said Susan Senkarik, director of community impact for Escambia County United Way.

United Way distributes about \$148,000 of its county funds to agencies such as the Salvation Army, ARC Gateway and the Boys & Girls Club.

"All of them will end up having to restructure and re-evaluate how their services are delivered," Senkarik said.

Finding the \$3.5 million necessary to give county employees a 3 percent raise was his top priority, but locating those funds is far from certain, Touart said.

"They've worked tireless hours after this hurricane, and -- with the cost of living shooting up like it is -- I just can't stand not to" give the raises, he said. "But this is the position we've been put in."

The county's funding crunch came into focus with the May 6 close of the 2005 legislative session, which allocated \$5.5 million to Escambia County, well short of the estimated \$10.3 million loss

in property-tax revenue.

The difference -- \$4.8 million -- is only 3 percent of the county's \$158 million general fund budget, but the county relies almost exclusively on increased property values each year to fund budgets that grow with rising insurance costs and employee raises, Touart said.

The problem is a one-time crisis brought on by the hurricane that should be alleviated by next year as the tax rolls increase with reconstruction and new growth, he said.

But this year, the fate of nonprofit funding and employee raises will rest largely on whether the governor can tap discretionary funds to help, and whether the county is reimbursed for its 5 percent share of hurricane cleanup costs, estimated at \$10 million, Touart said.

Fearing the worst, Touart has asked the county's constitutional officers to prepare three budgets:

One based on the same funding of the current fiscal year, meaning no raises.

A second that includes employee raises.

A third that is appropriate to a normal budget year.

"We'll only know which we have to go with after the governor's visit next week," Touart said.

Also pending, however, is Escambia County Property Appraiser Chris Jones' final assessment. An initial estimate to local officials is due June 1. The final submission is due July 1, two weeks ahead of the county's July 15 deadline for submitting a balanced budget.

As county employees and nonprofit leaders wait for the financial picture to come into focus, they are hoping for the best with a combination of understanding and apprehension.

The nonprofits are especially vulnerable because so much of their funding depends on matching funds based partly on the county's contribution, said Jeff Nall, spokesman for the Council on Aging of West Florida Inc.

The council received \$68,000 of county funds distributed last year by United Way. Each dollar the agency raises locally can bring up to 10 times that amount in matching state and federal funds, Nall said. Taking that money away could have terrible consequences, both for the people receiving the agency's services and for taxpayers down the road.

"There are 800 people who get our services to stay in their homes and out of nursing homes," he said. "If 25 percent of those 800 had to go into nursing homes, that would cost taxpayers \$8.2 million per year."

The **Pensacola** Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, which received \$637,000 last year, is the largest recipient of county funds among those outside agencies.

"We're aware that our funding is all or part at-risk, and we're working with the county to see how we can address that," said Mike Frey, the chamber's economic development director.

"Recovering from the hurricane is hard enough, and now it looks like we're potentially facing some major job losses coming from the (Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission process),"

Frey said.

With the battle for relief from the Legislature concluded, Touart said his only recourse is an appeal to the governor.

"Jeb Bush feels our pain in Escambia County. He's told me that," Touart said. "I just want to talk to the governor and see if he can pull a rabbit out of the hat one more time for us."

Opinion/Editorial Articles

Many Help Make A Difference

Pensacola News Journal (Florida)

Debbie Ritchie

May 23, 2005

I've been looking forward to bringing you this "Business Behind the Scenes" edition for months. There are many people in our area who go above and beyond to make our community a better place to live and work. Oftentimes, the leaders of an effort are called upon to be the spokesman or spokeswoman to be out front and in the public view. However, there are many others outside the spotlight working just as hard, sometimes even harder, to make something positive happen. This issue of the Business Journal is intended to recognize some of them.

We contacted some of the high- profile business leaders in the **Pensacola** Bay Area to assist us in identifying our first group of unsung heroes. They provided us with an excellent list of nominees. I want to thank all those who helped by providing their recommendations. I would also especially like to thank those who were able to attend a meeting to review the list and select our group - the spotlight begins on page 26.

This issue has several other articles that I hope you will find interesting and informative. Phyllis Pooley once again provides tremendous insight into business issues on pages 6 and 43. We also have provided you with an update on the changes to occur with the implementation of the increase in the state's minimum wage.

The big economic news to impact our area in recent days involves the news that the BRAC (Base **Realignment** and Closure) process will result in a loss of 1,579 out of 11,500 military and civilian jobs at **Pensacola** Naval Air Station if the Pentagon's BRAC list is adopted. Also, the Navy Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center at Saufley Field could be moved. The good news, however, is that to date Whiting Field Naval Air Station near Milton and Corry Station in **Pensacola** were not cut, and Eglin Air Force Base near Fort Walton Beach may gain 2,218 jobs. Political and economic leaders are promising to do what they can to reverse or mitigate our losses.

Finally, I want to let you know that in our July edition, we will review our group of "40 Under 40" emerging leaders selected last year. We've kept up with them as best we can, and now we're eager to report back to you what they've been up to and what they have accomplished over the past year. This past year certainly brought on changes and challenges to those living and working in the **Pensacola** Bay Area.

Since the "40 Under 40" project was published over a year ago, I've been contacted by businesspeople wanting to know when we would be selecting our next group of emerging leaders

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younger than 40. We are planning to do this again.

But we hoped that the "40 Under 40" initiative would not only recognize those with the potential to lead our community in the years ahead but also to encourage them to step forward and assume even greater leadership responsibility. Stay tuned as we reintroduce them to you one year later.

Until next time ...