

**BRAC 2005**  
**South Dakota Regional Hearing**  
**June 21, 2005 - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Rushmore Plaza Civic Center**  
**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Welcome, call to order, announcements, swearing in of witnesses  
 Introductory Testimony, quality of life video .....Jim McKeon, Colonel, USAF (Retired)  
 Military Value Testimony .....General John Michael Loh, USAF (Retired)  
 Military Value Testimony ..... Lt. Gen Thad Wolfe, USAF(Retired)  
 Ellsworth Task Force (ETF) Military Value Assessment ..... Jim McKeon  
 Ellsworth Task Force (ETF) Military Value Assessment ..... Pat McElgunn, Colonel USAF (Retired)  
 Quality of Life Testimony ..... Jim Shaw, Rapid City Mayor  
 Congressional Testimony ..... Tim Johnson, US Senator  
 Congressional Testimony .....John Thune, US Senator  
 Congressional Testimony ..... Stephanie Herseth, US Representative  
 Socio-Economic Testimony .....Sidney Goss, Professor  
 ETF Assessment Testimony (conclude).....Jim McKeon  
 Governor's Testimony and closing comments ..... Mike Rounds, SD Governor  
 Q & A for Commissioners  
 Adjourn

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the official BRAC website, the Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) Commission's goal "is to assist the American public, including interested stakeholders, to fully understand the open and transparent process through which work is conducted."

Congress established the 2005 BRAC Commission to ensure the integrity of the base closure and realignment process. As directed by law, the Commission reviews and analyzes the list of military installation recommendations issued May 13, 2005 by the Department of Defense (DoD). The Commission's mission is to assess whether the DoD recommendations substantially deviated from the Congressional criteria used to evaluate each military base. While giving priority to the criteria of military value, the Commission will also take into account the human impact of the base closures and will consider the possible economic, environmental, and other effects on the surrounding communities.

The Commission can also add installations to the closure or realignment list recommended to the President, but only through a process in which seven of nine Commissioners vote to do so, the Secretary of Defense is properly notified in writing 15 days prior to the proposed change, and only after at least two Commissioners physically visit the military installation in question.

The Commission will submit its findings and recommendations to the President of the United States on or before September 8, 2005.

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION PRESENT IN RAPID CITY:**

There are nine members of the BRAC Commission. Present at the June 21 meeting are:



**SAMUEL SKINNER** is the retired Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of USF Corporation, one of the nation's leading transportation and logistics companies. He also served from 1993-1998 as President of Commonwealth Edison Company and its holding company, Unicom Corporation. Prior to joining Commonwealth Edison, Mr. Skinner served as Chief of Staff to President George H.W. Bush. Prior to his White House service, he served in the President's Cabinet for nearly three years as Secretary of Transportation. As Secretary, Mr. Skinner was credited with numerous successes, including the development of the President's National Transportation Policy and the development and passage of landmark aviation and surface transportation legislation. Mr. Skinner is currently an Adjunct Professor of Management and Strategy at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He served as a member of the Illinois National Guard and the US Army reserve from 1957-68.



**PHILIP COYLE** is a Senior Advisor to the President of the Center for Defense Information and a defense consultant. Formerly, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Test and Evaluation, (1994-2001), Mr. Coyle is a recognized expert on U.S. and worldwide military research, development and testing. During the 1995 BRAC, he served as the Co-Chairman of the DoD Joint Cross-Service Group for Test and Evaluation. Prior to serving at the Pentagon, Mr. Coyle served as Laboratory Associate Director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California, and as Deputy to the Laboratory Director. During the Carter Administration, Mr. Coyle served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs in the Department of Energy. With more than 40 years of experience in testing and test-related matters, he was selected by Aviation Week magazine as one of its "Laurels" honorees for 2000, a select group of people recognized for outstanding contributions in the aerospace field.



**JAMES BILBRAY's** primary area of practice is government relations and administrative law. Former Congressman Bilbray received his B.A. in Government and Public Administration from the American University in Washington, DC in 1962, and his JD from the Washington College of Law in 1964. He is a Nevada native, and prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1987, was a Nevada State Senator, where he served as Chairman on the Taxation Committee and was a member of the Judiciary Committee. During his four terms in the US Congress, he served as Chairman of the Small Business Sub-Committee on Taxation, Tourism and Procurement. He was also a member of the Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Intelligence Committees. He joined the firm of Kummer Kaempfer Bonner & Renshaw as Of Counsel in 1996, where he specialized in dealing with local, state and federal issues. In 2001, he received an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Nevada Las Vegas for his extensive contributions to the State and U.S. government.



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

REGIONAL HEARING  
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

June 21, 2005 - 1:00 p.m.

Rushmore Plaza Civic Center

# MEDIA KIT



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

REGIONAL HEARING  
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

JUNE 21, 2005 1:00PM

Rushmore Plaza - Civic Center

HEARING AGENDA

- I. Opening Statement by Chairman Samuel Skinner
- II. State Testimony – South Dakota (*approx 120 mins*)
- III. State Testimony – Wyoming (*approx 5 mins*)
- IV. Closing Statement by Chairman Samuel Skinner

Chairman's  
Opening Statement

Regional Hearing  
of the  
2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
for

South Dakota, Wyoming

1:00 pm  
June 21, 2005

Rapid City, South Dakota

We committed to the Congress, to the President, and to the American people, that our deliberations and decisions will be open and transparent – and that our decisions will be based on the criteria set forth in statute.

We continue to examine the proposed recommendations set forth by the Secretary of Defense on May 13th and measure them against the criteria for military value set forth in law, especially the need for surge manning and for homeland security. But be assured, we are not conducting this review as an exercise in sterile cost-accounting. This commission is committed to conducting a clear-eyed reality check that we know will not only shape our military capabilities for decades to come, but will also have profound effects on our communities and on the people who bring our communities to life.

We also committed that our deliberations and decisions would be devoid of politics and that the people and communities affected by the BRAC proposals would have, through our site visits and public hearings, a chance to provide us with direct input on the substance of the proposals and the methodology and assumptions behind them.

To avoid the appearance of lack of impartiality and enhance the public's confidence in the BRAC process, four of our nine commissioners have recused themselves from participating in deliberation and voting on matters directly relating to installations in

their home states. Those commissioners continue, however, to attend regional hearings even if unable to deliberate and vote on all of the installations discussed at the hearings. Their direct exposure to as much information and as many concerned citizens as possible is vitally important to the completion of our task of open, fair, and comprehensive consideration of the eight final selection criteria, force-structure plan, and worldwide infrastructure inventory.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the thousands of involved citizens who have already contacted the Commission and shared with us their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions about the base closure and realignment proposals. Unfortunately, the volume of correspondence we have received makes it impossible for us to respond directly to each one of you in the short time with which the Commission must complete its mission. But, we want everyone to know -- the public inputs we receive are appreciated and taken into consideration as a part of our review process. And while everyone in this room will not have an opportunity to speak, every piece of correspondence received by the commission will be made part of our permanent public record, as appropriate.

Today we will hear testimony from the states of South Dakota and Wyoming. Each state's elected delegation has been allotted a block of time determined by the overall impact of the Department of Defense's closure and realignment recommendation

on their states. The delegation members have worked closely with their communities to develop agendas that I am certain will provide information and insight that will make up a valuable part of our review. We would greatly appreciate it if you would adhere to your time limits, every voice today is important.

I now request our witnesses to stand for the administration of the oath required by the Base Closure and Realignment statute. The oath will be administered by Dan Cowhig, the Commission's Designated Federal Officer.

Chairman's  
Closing Statement

Regional Hearing  
of the  
2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
for

South Dakota, Wyoming

1:00 pm  
June 21, 2005

Rapid City, South Dakota

This concludes the Rapid City Regional Hearing of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. I want to thank all the witnesses who testified today. You have brought us very thoughtful and valuable information. I assure you, your statements will be given careful consideration by the commission members as we reach our decisions.

I also want to thank all the elected officials and community members who have assisted us during our base visits and in preparation for this hearing. In particular, I would like to thank Senator Johnson and his staff for their assistance in obtaining and setting up this fine site.

Finally, I would like to thank the citizens of the communities represented here today that have supported the members of our Armed Services for so many years, making them feel welcome and valued in your towns. It is that spirit that makes America great.

This hearing is closed.



2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
 2521 Jefferson Davis Highway  
 Arlington, Virginia 22202  
 Telephone: (703) 699-2950

## Biographies of the Nine BRAC Commissioners

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### The Honorable Anthony J. Principi – Chairman



Recently served as Vice President of Pfizer Corporation and is a decorated Vietnam War veteran. Mr. Principi was nominated to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs by President George W. Bush on December 29, 2000, and was confirmed by the Senate on January 23, 2001. He once served as a Republican chief counsel for the Senate Armed Services Committee and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. He also has been a top official with defense contractor Lockheed Martin. Mr. Principi is a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, and first saw active duty aboard the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy. He later commanded a River Patrol Unit in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. Mr. Principi earned his law degree from Seton Hall University in 1975 and was assigned to the Navy's Judge Advocate General Corps in San Diego, California. In 1980, he was transferred to Washington as a legislative counsel for the Department of the Navy.

### The Honorable James H. Bilbray



Primary area of practice is government relations and administrative law. Former Congressman Bilbray received his B.A. in Government and Public Administration from the American University in Washington, DC in 1962, and his JD from the Washington College of Law in 1964. He is a Nevada native, and prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1987, was a Nevada State Senator, where he served as Chairman on the Taxation Committee and was a member of the Judiciary Committee. During his four terms in the US Congress, he served as Chairman of the Small Business Sub-Committee on Taxation, Tourism and Procurement. He was also a member of the Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Intelligence Committees. He joined the firm of Kummer Kaempfer Bonner & Renshaw as Of Counsel in 1996, where he specialized in dealing with local, state and federal issues. In 2001, he received an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Nevada Las Vegas for his extensive contributions to the State and U.S. government.

### The Honorable Philip Coyle



Philip Coyle is a Senior Advisor to the President of the Center for Defense Information and a defense consultant. Formerly, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Test and Evaluation, (1994-2001), Mr. Coyle is a recognized expert on U.S. and worldwide military research, development and testing. During the 1995 BRAC, he served as the Co-Chairman of the DoD Joint Cross-Service Group for Test and Evaluation. Prior to serving at the Pentagon, Mr. Coyle served as Laboratory Associate Director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California, and as Deputy to the Laboratory Director. During the Carter Administration, Mr. Coyle served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs in the Department of Energy. With more than 40 years of experience in testing and test-related matters, he was selected by Aviation Week magazine as one of its "Laurels" honorees for 2000, a select group of people recognized for outstanding contributions in the aerospace field.

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### The Honorable James V. Hansen



Former US Representative from Utah, Congressman Hansen was elected to the 97th Congress and to the 10 succeeding terms ( January 3, 1981 to January 3, 2003 ). Congressman Hansen did not seek re-election to the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress in 2002. During the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress, he served as Chairman on the Standards and Official Conduct Committee. During the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, he served as Chairman of the Committee of Resources. He served in the United States Navy from 1951 to 1955. He also served as a member of the Farmington, Utah City Council from 1960 to 1972. He then was elected to the Utah State House of Representatives from 1973 to 1980 and served as Speaker of the House, 1979 - 1980.

### General James T. Hill (USA, Ret)



Former Commander of the United States Southern Command. General Hill previously served as the Commanding General, I Corps and Ft Lewis. He is from El Paso, Texas, and was commissioned into the infantry following graduation from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, in 1968. He also graduated from the Command and General Staff College and the National War College. In addition, he holds a Master's degree in Personnel Management from Central Michigan University. General Hill's other key assignments include: Commanding General 25th Infantry Division and Deputy Commander United States Forces UN Mission Haiti.

### Admiral Harold W. ( Hal ) Gehman, Jr., (USN, Ret)



Retired after 35 years of service on active duty in the U.S. Navy in October 2000, with his last assignment as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic and as the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, one of the five U.S. Unified Commands. Immediately after retiring, Admiral Gehman served as Co-Chairman of the Department of Defense review of the terrorist attack on the USS Cole. In 2003, he served as Chairman of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering and received a commission in the Navy from the NROTC program. He served at all levels of leadership and command before being promoted to four-star Admiral in 1996. He became the 29<sup>th</sup> Vice Chief of Naval Operations in September 1996. As Vice Chief, he was a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, formulated the Navy's \$70 billion budget, and developed and implemented policies governing the Navy's 375,000 personnel.



## Biographies of the Nine BRAC Commissioners

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### General Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton (USAF, Ret)



Currently serves as Executive Vice President of Pratt & Whitney, Military Engines. Former Commander of Air Education and Training Command, headquartered at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. He was responsible for the recruiting, training and education of Air Force personnel. His command included Air Force Recruiting Service, two numbered air forces and Air University. He was also commander of three wings and an air division and held numerous staff positions. From 1993 to 1995, he was Director of Operations, J-3, U.S. Special Operations Command. General Newton is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours in the T-37, T-38, F-4, F-15, C-12 and F-117 stealth fighter. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in aviation education from Tennessee State University and a Master of Arts degree in public administration from George Washington University.

### The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner



Mr. Skinner is the retired Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of USF Corporation, one of the nation's leading transportation and logistics companies. He also served from 1993-1998 as President of Commonwealth Edison Company and its holding company, Unicom Corporation. Prior to joining Commonwealth Edison, Mr. Skinner served as Chief of Staff to President George H.W. Bush. Prior to his White House service, he served in the President's Cabinet for nearly three years as Secretary of Transportation. As Secretary, Mr. Skinner was credited with numerous successes, including the development of the President's National Transportation Policy and the development and passage of landmark aviation and surface transportation legislation. Mr. Skinner is currently an Adjunct Professor of Management and Strategy at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He served as a member of the Illinois National Guard and the United States Army reserve from 1957-1968.

### Brigadier General Sue E. Turner (USAF, Ret.)



General Turner retired in 1995, following 30 years active duty. Her key assignments included: Director, Nursing Services, Office of the USAF Surgeon General; Chief Nurse, Wilford Hall Medical Center; and the Medical Inspection Team, USAF Inspector General. General Turner joined the Air Force Nurse Corps in 1965 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Incarnate Word College and a Master of Science in nursing from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She also completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, and National Security Management. In recent years, she has served on the American Battle Monuments Commission and the Board of Directors of a large credit union.