

*C. James Schaefer IV*  
*Director of Communications*

**DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND  
REALIGNMENT COMMISSION**



**MEDIA BRIEFING BOOK**  
HILL AIR FORCE BASE, UT



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## MEDIA BRIEFING BOOK

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, UT

- 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 Commissioners General Lloyd Newton ( USAF Ret. ), former US Congressman James V. Hansen, and Phillip Coyle will visit Hill Air Force Base on Monday, June 6. 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:**

**Monday, June 6 at 2:30PM ( Please arrive by 1:45PM)**

**LOCATION:**

**Davis Conference Center  
1651 North 700 West**

**PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE by email to [robert.mccreary@wso.whs.mil](mailto:robert.mccreary@wso.whs.mil)**



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission**  
***Suggested Talking Points for Salt Lake Regional Hearing***  
***Hill Air Force Base, Utah***

- 1. While a variety of factors are taken into consideration by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) in its evaluation of the suggestions made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close or realign bases, of these factors, military value is the most important.**
  - While the community impact of a decision to close or realign a military installation is important to the Commissioners, the purpose of this round of BRAC is to strengthen and enable our troops to perform their duties of keeping the United States secure and military value will, by far, outweigh any other consideration.
  - The Commission recognizes the overall accomplishments of Hill Air Force Base personnel and will take into full account the contributions the base has made to our country's defense.
  
- 2. The Congress established the BRAC Commission to provide an independent evaluation of the suggestions made by DoD in regards to base closure and realignment as DoD seeks to conform the U.S. military to fit with modern strategies to meet changing global threats.**
  - The process followed by the BRAC Commission, as well as the factors which the Commission will take into account, have been distinctly outlined by law.
  - The purviews of DoD and the Commission are different as the Commission serves only as an independent evaluator, not as a creator of military strategies.
  - The past contributions of Hill Air Force Base will be taken into full account by the Commission as it evaluates the military value of the base and how it plays into the military strategy created by DoD. The process is complex, as the factors being considered are extremely intermingled.
  
- 3. The Commission was established by the Congress to provide accountability to the public for the decisions to close or realign a military installation, and welcomes community input as an important factor in its decision-making process.**
  - The Commission is completely transparent, and all documents, with the exception of those sensitive to national security, are and will continue to be made available for public access through both the Commission's website, [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov), and the BRAC library.
  - While military value is the most important consideration, the Commission is also aware of the human impact that the decision to close or realign a base would have on a community and will take the economic, environmental, and other effects into account in its analysis of the recommendations put forth by DoD.
  - Community input is encouraged and welcomed.



**2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
Suggested Q's & A's  
Regional Hearing  
Salt Lake City, Utah**

**Hill Air Force Base, Utah**

***Installation Specific Questions-General***

**Q1. Under the current recommendation's released by the Pentagon, Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico is slated for closure and there is some concern that the result of the decision regarding Cannon AFB will have an effect on the decision regarding Hill AFB. Does the Commission anticipate that the recommendation regarding Cannon will stand?**

**A1.** While the Commission cannot comment as to whether or not it will suggest a base for closure or realignment, you can be assured that the Commission will make a full and transparent evaluation, as prescribed by law, before it comes to its conclusions.

***Installation Specific Questions-Strategic***

**Q2. Under the Pentagon's recommendations, Hill AFB would retain 24 F-16 fighter aircraft. Are the proposed changes at Hill AFB in accordance with certain strategic transformations sought by the Department of Defense?**

**A2.** This is a question pertaining to the overall strategic direction of the U.S. military and would best be directed to the Department of Defense (DoD). DoD is evaluating how each military installation fits into the defense strategy to meet changing global threats. While DoD evaluates how our forces may be best prepared to meet changing global threats, the task of the Commission is to ensure that the suggestions made by DoD to close or realign bases, were made in accordance with the process outlined by law.

**Q3. If the Pentagon's recommendations stand, Hill AFB will experience a union between the 388<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (an Active duty component) and the 419<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (a Reserve component). This merger is drastic change from previous structures. Is this a fundamental strategic change in fighter wing composition sought by the Department of Defense?**

**A3.** Although DoD is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the U.S. military, the Congress established the BRAC Commission to independently evaluate the suggestions the DoD has made to close or realign a base, and to ensure that all necessary factors in the decision were taken into account, as prescribed by law. DoD has sought jointness, efficiency, and ease of mobility as it has formulated its recommendations. The Commission will place military value as its most important consideration in the evaluation of a military installation.

**Q4. Recently, Hill AFB received strong rankings across the board relative to other U.S. Air Force bases in various locations around the world. Will this high-ranking translate to increased fighter work for Hill AFB in the future? Does the Commission anticipate that Hill AFB will receive increased responsibility for weapons systems for the F-22 or the F-35 Strike Fighter?**

**A4.** Military value is the most important factor in the Commission's decisions. While DoD is working to make our military more efficient and effective, paying close attention to jointness and ease of troop mobility, the task of the Commission is to ensure that these complex factors have been properly taken into account, through the process determined by law, in the evaluation of the military value of a base and suggestion to close or realign that base.

*Installation Specific Questions-Political*

**Q5. Recently, Commissioner Hansen recused himself from voting with regard to Hill AFB. However, he has retained his authority to vote with regard to Cannon AFB in New Mexico. Is there a potential conflict of interest in this?**

**A5.** The Commission is a non-political, non-partisan entity, established by Congress. As such, the Commissioners are expected to exercise their authority solely based on the criteria prescribed by law. Additionally, the Commission will remain completely transparent as it conducts its research and analysis of the various military installations.

*Installation Specific Questions-Economic*

**Q6. Does the Commission take into account the economic impact that the closure or realignment of a military installation has on the community surrounding that installation?**

**A6.** In concert with many other factors, the Commission will take into account the economic effects of the Pentagon's recommendations on the local community, and while military value is the foremost important factor, the Commission is aware of the human impact had by the closure or realignment of a base.

**Q7. Estimates state that 50,000 jobs are linked to the base. Does the Commission understand this?**

**A7.** While economic effects are taken into account by the Commission, the most important factor in its evaluation is the military value of a base and whether DoD followed the process prescribed by law in formulating its suggestions. The Congress established the Commission, in part, to ensure that all pertinent factors, relating to the closure or realignment of a base, have been taken into account, and that the community has a chance to give input.

**Q8. The Air Force recently awarded the construction of a maintenance depot for the F-22 fighter at Hill AFB. Does this signal the arrival of the F-22 fighter at Hill AFB? More importantly, does this suggest that Hill AFB is on a long-term plan for the Department of Defense?**

**A8.** DoD determines the strategy to ensure that our military is prepared to meet modern global threats, while the Commission ensures that the process of research and analysis has been performed according to law. Previous monetary allocations for base-maintenance and changes are not an indication of the future of the base.

**Q9. Dugway, one of the nation's premier military research and testing facilities, will increase its role in defense dramatically. However, it will be funded through the Department of Homeland Security. Is this a potential future trend for certain facilities or a work-around for future BRAC rounds?**

**A9.** The Congress established the Commission to provide an independent evaluation, according to certain criteria prescribed by law, of the suggestions put forth by the Department of Defense. Installations funded through other Federal government agencies, as well as issues regarding future appropriations, are outside of the purview of the Commission.

**Q10. Recently, the Utah Defense Alliance announced that it intended to submit a \$5.6 million purchase order for machinery to make Utah's military installations more attractive to defense planners. Will this decision influence the Commission?**

**A10.** The Commission will perform a careful, methodical, and transparent analysis of all factors relating to the closure or realignment of a base, while considering military value to be the most important of the factors. All factors to be considered, as well as the completely open and transparent process by which they are to be researched and evaluated, have been determined by statute.



## Hill Air Force Base Utah

### National Articles

**Utah tapped, not slammed in Pentagon base restructuring**

### Local Articles

Deadline for BRAC has Utahns scrambling

Hill's High Score Heartens Boosters

Governor Goes All Out for Cannon

Hill Not Out of the Woods Yet

A Day of Relief in Utah

A 'Banner Day' for Hill

Utah's bases flying high ; Mostly intact: Some Hill jobs aside; Pentagon spares the state's installations; Base boosters hope to gain jobs

### Editorial Articles

Earning Our Keep; Hill Air Force Base Don't Assume Politics Always Prevails

### National Articles

**Utah tapped, not slammed in Pentagon base restructuring**

Gannet News Service Inc.

Dennis Camire

May 14, 2005

WASHINGTON -- The Deseret Chemical Depot would close, costing 248 military and civilian jobs, under Pentagon recommendations announced Friday to close and realign military bases around the country.

An additional 198 jobs would be lost under force changes at Fort Douglas and Hill Air Force Base.

But those are the only hits for Utah under the Pentagon's recommendations for shuttering 33 major bases and realigning 29 more to save \$50 billion over the next two decades and modernize the military to fight terrorism and other threats.

In light of their previous concern about Hill being closed, the state's congressional delegation felt good about how the state fared.

"Overall, this is a good day for Utah," said Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah. "I congratulate the military and civilian personnel working at Utah's military facilities. They saved Hill by telling its story and helping the Air Force understand Hill's valuable contributions to the country's military efforts."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said that overall, the recommendations were good news.

We have suffered some losses today, but this has definitely been a net positive for Utah," Hatch

said. "All told, it's one of the most positive outcomes we could have imagined."

Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, said that the way the nation positions itself to protect the country has to evolve.

"The men and women at Hill have shown they can adapt to this modern military environment and I think that is the main reason the Pentagon wants to keep Hill AFB up and running," he said.

The Pentagon recommended that Deseret be closed because there is no additional chemical demilitarization work slated to go there after it completes the current workload in 2008. It also called for the transfer of its storage facilities to nearby Tooele Army Depot.

Matheson said the closure was not surprising.

"Losing jobs is never easy but I'm sure Tooele County will go to work on a plan for future economic opportunity in the area," he said.

The realignment proposed for Hill would cause the base to lose six F-16 aircraft already scheduled to retire within 10 years and gain six newer-model F-16s. The base would also lose positions in its civilian personnel office.

The Pentagon also recommended the disassembly of the 96th Regional Readiness Command at Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City as part of a wider transformation of the Army Reserves. The fort would get a newly created logistics unit, but would still end up short 53 jobs.

The Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, plan proposes consolidating about 387 reserve and National Guard installations into about 125, many to be located at or near active-duty bases. Changes to Reserve installations comprise the majority of the Pentagon's recommendations.

The Guard and reserves make up about 40 percent of the roughly 138,000 U.S. troops in Iraq struggling to quell an unexpectedly tenacious insurgency.

"Iraq clearly shows the active-duty forces cannot function without significant help from the Guard and reserves," said defense analyst Chris Hellman. "The Pentagon clearly wants to see the Guard and reserves more fully integrated into the active-duty forces."

The Pentagon's recommendations now go to a president-appointed commission. The nine-member panel will spend the summer holding hearings and making any necessary changes to the list before sending it to President Bush by Sept. 8.

This round -- the first since 1995 -- would close more major bases than any previous round. It would directly cause a net loss of about 18,000 civilian jobs, a relatively small amount compared with past rounds. That's in part because many of the about 180 installation closures involve tiny reserve centers that employ relatively few civilians.

---

### Local Articles

#### **Deadline for BRAC has Utahns scrambling**

*They'd like more time to prepare report about Hill*

Deseret Morning News

By Leigh Dethman

May 31, 2005

HILL AIR FORCE BASE — Developing a game plan for the Base Realignment and Closure Commission isn't easy.

There are just too many variables, too many reports and too little time.

As an expected June 6 public hearing with BRAC commissioners looms, the Utah Defense Alliance and members of the state's congressional delegation are busy preparing closing arguments in the case of Hill Air Force Base vs. base closure and realignment.

At the hearing, Hill backers will most likely tout the base's strengths, as well as pinpoint other possible missions that can be accommodated at Hill.

"A lot of it is not that we can't tell you, we just haven't zeroed in on it," said Rick Mayfield, executive director of the Utah Defense Alliance. "There are opportunities that we're still working on, a strategy on what to do and what to go after."

The delegation is trying to buy more time by possibly moving the June meeting to July.

Moving the date would accommodate the delegation's congressional voting duties and give Utah's installations a chance to see what other bases are pitching to BRAC.

Changing the date is unlikely, since the commission already changed the expected public hearing to June 6 from June 7. The hearing's time and place haven't been announced yet. Commissioners are expected to visit Hill before the public hearing.

Utah leaders are specifically interested in the plans of an Air Force base in New Mexico. Cannon Air Force Base is slated for closure, but base supporters there will not stand down without a fight, said Vickie McCall, president of the Utah Defense Alliance.

Hill stands to gain from Cannon's loss: The Pentagon recommended at least six of Cannon's F-16s be shipped to Hill. But if Cannon supporters can convince BRAC commissioners to remove the base from the closure list, Hill could be in trouble. Commissioners are expected to visit Cannon nearly three weeks after touring Hill.

"In fact, if Cannon stays open and they can make a case, they will probably come after our F-16s because they are going to claim they are the F-16 fighter base, and if they stay open, they have to justify their presence by expanding their mission and the number of aircraft they have, so we could be very vulnerable to Cannon," McCall said.

But that will only happen if BRAC changes the Pentagon's proposal. In four previous BRAC rounds starting in 1988, commissioners have accepted 85 percent of the Pentagon's recommendations for closure or consolidation.

If Cannon does close and the commission doesn't drastically change the Pentagon's recommendations, Hill's two fighter wings will unite.

The merger is a test case for the Pentagon's Future Total Force plan. Reserves from the 419th Fighter Wing would merge with the active-duty 388th Fighter Wing. This type of union is new for fighter units, said Col. Gary Batinich, commander of the 419th Fighter Wing, a reserve unit. Five other fighter units are also trying out similar unions.

"We're trying to be better, more efficient and more capable to meet what we perceive as the future threat," Batinich said. "The whole idea with transformation is we're moving the Air Force away from the Cold War threat. We're transforming it to be leaner and meaner and more efficient."

Key to this transformation is consolidating fighter wings, each with 24 aircraft in its fleet. BRAC commissioners will play an important role in achieving this goal.

The Pentagon recommended that 15 of the F-16s currently assigned to the 419th be shipped to other units in Florida and Texas. By adding the six fighter jets from Cannon, the new 388th Fighter Wing would be at the Pentagon's goal of 24 aircraft per wing, Batinich said.

"We want to be something stronger, more combat capable," said Col. Robert Beletic, 388th Fighter Wing commander. "Obviously the whole purpose is to make our military more efficient . . . and we will be better stewards of our nation's taxpayer dollars."

The merger is expected to take place in the next year and a half. Both Beletic and Batinich said young pilots and mechanics from the 388th will benefit from the experience of the reserves of 419th.

"We actually had people accept airplanes here into this unit, and they were crew chiefs until the plane went to the boneyard, until it was retired," Batinich said. "That's pretty unique. If something goes wrong, they've seen it all before. We have a lot more experience."

---

### **Hill's high score heartens boosters**

Deseret Morning News

Leigh Dethman and Lee Davidson

May 22, 2005

It seems **Hill Air Force Base's** chances weren't so bad after all.

After months of doom and gloom in preparation for the release of the Pentagon's list of proposed bases up for **realignment** or closure, an Air Force Base **Realignment** and Closure report shows Hill didn't have much to worry about.

The base ranked first in two of the eight categories the Air Force used to rank military value among its 154 facilities nationwide.

A computer-assisted analysis of Pentagon data by the Deseret Morning News shows that Hill's combined average score for all eight categories was 10th-highest among air bases. The Pentagon did not provide an overall military value score.

Still, by any Pentagon measurement, Hill was ranked with the elite among air bases for military value, and far higher than the 10 Air Force bases that were proposed for closure nationwide.

But it is Hill's ranking among bases' ability to host fighter missions that really has base backers excited. Hill ranked 14th out of 154 Air Force facilities.

"This is the best news of all," said Vickie McCall, president of the Utah

Defense Alliance. "We didn't anticipate we would be that highly ranked."

The high ranking could mean more fighter work for Hill in the future, such as weapons systems for the F-22 or the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, McCall said.

The Pentagon evaluated all 154 Air Force facilities and their ability to host eight missions: fighter, bomber, tanker, airlift, special operations/combat search and rescue, command and control/covert operations, unmanned aerial vehicles and space operations.

Each mission was evaluated by a number of criteria, including cost, growth potential, quality of ranges and encroachment.

The Utah Test and Training Range likely boosted Hill's ranking in the fighter mission category, McCall said.

The range includes some 12,574 square miles of airspace, where F-16 pilots can train in air-to-air combat in a geographical match of the places U.S. troops are fighting today -- Iraq and Afghanistan.

"That is the most prime piece of real estate in the world," said Col. Gary Batanich, commander of Hill's 419th Fighter Wing. "It's priceless."

Current BRAC commissioner and former Utah Congressman Jim Hansen said the range is an asset the state can use to bring in more workload.

"The Utah Test and Training Range has a great potential for future aircraft, like the Joint Strike Fighter and the F-22," Hansen said in a recent BRAC commission meeting. Earlier this week, Hansen and three other commissioners recused themselves from decisions involving bases in states with which they are associated.

The Pentagon's rankings caught some by surprise.

Hill, a base known for its F-16s, was ranked No. 1 in military value to host a tanker mission. Oklahoma's Tinker Air Force Base, an air logistics center known for its tanker maintenance, came in fourth behind Hill.

"We don't have tankers, that's why I'm wondering if, in fact, it could be an error," McCall said. "What do they mean by that capacity to do tanker workload? That's not our mission."

Before the Pentagon's list of proposed bases to be realigned or closed was released, Utah Defense Alliance touted Hill's capacity to grow and accept new missions.

When asked if that possibility could have played a role in Hill's ranking in the tanker category, McCall said, "I don't know; we need to get into that."

Other rankings peg Hill at 16th in ability to host special operations/combat search and rescue, 17th in both unmanned aerial vehicles and bombers, 26th in bombers and 40th in the ability to host space operations among the 154 Air Force installations nationwide.

Base officials and McCall said it's too early to decipher what the rankings mean.

"Before we start jumping in and defending numbers, I think we have to have a clear understanding of what they are and what they mean and go from there," McCall said. "So I'm not ready to comment and say, 'Gosh this is this, we were number 4, 14, 1 or whatever.' Like I say, there is a huge question mark there when it says tankers. We don't know what that means, and

they certainly didn't give us tankers in the BRAC **realignment**."

More information could be released when BRAC commissioners visit Salt Lake City on June 7 for a public hearing.

"The regional hearings will provide the primary means for communities to educate the commissioners and their staff on their disagreements with the DoD base recommendations," said former Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi, chairman of the commission.

BRAC commissioners have until Sept. 8 to send their recommendations on base closures and **realignments** to the president for his consideration.

---

### **Hansen recuses self from vote on Hill, says closure is unlikely**

The Salt Lake Tribune

Matthew D. LaPlante and Robert Gehrke

May 21, 2005

**Hill Air Force Base's** biggest advocate on a federal commission reviewing military base closures has recused himself from voting on matters directly involving Utah's military installations.

But Jim Hansen doesn't feel the commission will vote on his home state's bases anyway -- a sign that the former U.S. representative believes Beehive State installations are safe from a direct attack.

A vote of the full commission is required to add any installations to the Defense Department's recommended closure list, released last week.

"I doubt there will be a vote on Hill or any other base," Hansen said in an interview Friday.

Hansen does, however, plan to be the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission's representative on a visit to Hill next week. He will follow that with a visit to Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, which under the Pentagon's plan would lose upwards of 650 positions.

Representatives from the southwest Idaho community likely will be among those at a June 7 hearing in Salt Lake City, scheduled so that communities adversely affected by the Pentagon's plan can "educate the Commissioners and their staff on their disagreements with the Department of Defense base recommendations," Commission Chairman Anthony Principi said in a statement Thursday.

The regional hearing is among 16 scheduled to be held in June and July. The commission has until Sept. 8 to report its findings and suggestions to President Bush.

Rep. Rob Bishop said he was disappointed by the June 7 date, saying he had anticipated a meeting in mid-July.

"That's extremely tight for our staff to try to get everything ready," Bishop said.

Hansen's recusal does not necessarily prevent him from casting ballots that could indirectly affect Utah.

Bishop noted that some commissioners had questioned why New Mexico's Cannon Air Force Base should be closed.

Under the Pentagon's plan, six of Cannon's F-16 fighter jets would go to flying units at Hill, which in exchange would release some of its older jets to another base.

"If they take the 30s from Hill and don't bring the 40s we could really be in big trouble," said Bishop, referring to the jets by their numerical production block identifier. "Here once again is where Jim Hansen is going to play a key role in ensuring we're treated fairly."

---

### **Governor Goes All Out For Cannon**

Miguel Navrot Journal Staff Writer

Albuquerque Journal

May 18, 2005

#### **State Fighting To Keep Base Open Despite Kirtland Gains**

Plans to assign three jet fighters now based at Cannon Air Force Base to the state Air National Guard are of little consolation to state officials, who vow to fight to keep Cannon open.

Under the Pentagon base-closing and **realignment** plan unveiled last week, three of the 60 F-16 Falcon fighter jets assigned to Cannon would transfer to the 150th Fighter Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base.

The 150th, nicknamed the "Tacos," deployed with some of its 15 jets last summer for a 30-day rotation to Iraq. Roughly 1,000 airmen are assigned to the 150th.

Gov. Bill Richardson said Tuesday he hasn't spoken with National Guard officials about the additional aircraft for the 150th.

"Look, our strategy is clear," Richardson said. "We want to preserve Cannon 100 percent, and we're not going to compromise, even through Kirtland has done very well."

**Realignment** plans offer mixed fortunes in New Mexico.

While the Air Force wants Cannon closed by 2011, Kirtland expects to grow by roughly 200 more jobs under **realignment** plans. That employment number could double to 400 with three new fighter jets for the 150th, Kirtland officials said last week.

State National Guard officials referred questions to Kirtland, where the 150th makes its home.

Kirtland commander Col. Henry Andrews said Tuesday that closure recommendations "are based on the need to conserve resources and improve operational efficiency through fleet consolidation."

Gov. Richardson said his office's "total focus" is convincing five of nine commissioners handling the massive base closure to keep Cannon operating.

"You can't play halfway," Richardson said, decrying any compromise. "You have to go all out."

The governor has met with three of the nine members of the Base **Realignment** and Closure commission, he said, but declined to reveal which ones.

Also Tuesday, the Pentagon continued to withhold details of the rationale behind its closure decisions.

Ten volumes of documents had initially been expected Monday, but the Defense Department is still deleting classified information from the paperwork, said spokesman Glenn Flood.

The military now hopes the paperwork will be ready by the end of the week, Flood said.

Advocates around the state want to review the Pentagon's paperwork, hoping to find errors in its decisions.

Delays, in turn, have caused some frustration.

"Clovis and communities across the country deserve to know how the Pentagon formulated its recommendations as soon as possible," Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said in a statement.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., said he wished the Pentagon would be more forthcoming, "... but the fact is we are already working as a delegation to collect all the facts we will need to help us make a persuasive case."

The Pentagon's closure proposal first needs to be approved by the commission reviewing its findings, then by President Bush and finally by Congress.

Clovis could potentially be the hardest hit of any Air Force town in the nation -- losing an estimated 20 percent of its work force, or 4,780 direct and indirect jobs generated by the base. The closing would save the federal government an estimated \$2.7 billion over 20 years.

But other cities may also suffer.

Friday's announcement would remove most of the Army Research Laboratory's activities from White Sands Missile Range, about 175 jobs. Base advocates say the research laboratory handles several research programs and multi-year contracts valued at roughly \$250 million.

Sherman McCorkle of the state Military Base Planning Commission said relocating the Army Research Laboratory could strip tens of millions of dollars from the Las Cruces economy.

No precise figure was known Tuesday. "That's what we want to try to get our arms around," McCorkle said.

The Army Research Laboratory currently at White Sands would relocate to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland under the Pentagon's plans.

Where jets would go

The closure of Cannon Air Force Base, home to four squadrons of F-16 Falcon fighter jets, would scatter its assigned aircraft to other flying units around the nation.

Locations receiving Cannon's F-16s would include:

- \* Nine jets to Andrews Air Force Base, Md.
- \* Seven jets to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.
- \* Six jets to **Hill Air Force Base**, Utah
- \* Three jets to Dane-Truax Air Guard Station, Wis.
- \* Three jets to Joe Foss Air Guard Station, S.D.
- \* Three jets to Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Twenty-nine remaining F-16s assigned to Cannon would become backups.

-- Source: U.S. Air Force

---

### **Hill not out of the woods yet**

Deseret Morning News  
Leigh Dethman  
May 17, 2005

Round one is over, but the fight remains.

**Hill Air Force Base** escaped the Pentagon's list of base closures and **realignments** with relatively little damage -- a proposed **realignment** could cause a net loss of 145 jobs. But Hill isn't safe yet. The Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission could add Utah's largest employer to the final list, due out in September.

Hill could avoid a potential blow by teaming up with Dugway Proving Ground to serve as key bases for homeland security.

"We're putting a strategy together, trying to decide how Utah can play in homeland security," said Vickie McCall, president of the Utah Defense Alliance. "We think that's going to be really big."

Dugway didn't make Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's list. Utah's congressional delegation believes Dugway's mission will increase dramatically but that it will be funded through the Department of Homeland Security.

Ron Carbon, executive director of the 21st Century Partnership, said Hill and Dugway are perfect partners: Hill can provide the overhead structure and "the oversight to keep Dugway running," while Dugway continues work as the nation's premier military research and testing facility.

The Utah Test and Training Range separates the two military installations, and both could use that premier piece of land, Carbon said.

"Both of those are out there, and they are assets that are here in the United States," said Carbon, who leads a group lobbying to save Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. "The (Department of Defense) can control them, and there are very little restrictions in their use."

Rumsfeld on Monday defended his recommendation to close 33 major domestic bases and realign hundreds of others.

"Some asked why we're proposing any base closures during a time of war," Rumsfeld told the BRAC commission. "The answer is the changes are essential in helping us win the conflict."

Rumsfeld proposed closing 180 military installations from Maine to Hawaii, including 33 major bases.

Utah escaped Rumsfeld's list relatively unscathed.

"We are basically being held harmless," Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. said.

Now it's up to former Utah congressman Jim Hansen and the BRAC commission. Hansen is one of nine commissioners who will review Rumsfeld's recommendations and ultimately decide which bases go and which bases stay.

This is the fifth round of military base closings, and in all five rounds Hill survived. Since 1988, the base has practically skated through the base closure process, with no major job losses. And during the 1995 round, the base flourished, adding more than 2,000 jobs.

Hansen told Rumsfeld Monday he expects this will be the last round of military base closures.

"I'm convinced this is your last bite of the apple," said Hansen, adding that the proposed closures and **realignments** would bring "a lot of pain for a lot of people."

"Certainly, it's the last bite of the apple during my watch," said Rumsfeld, who then added that the ever-changing needs of the military could cause another base-closure round in the future. "I would think it may happen again."

Hansen told the Deseret Morning News last week that he expects the commission to approve 60 percent to 70 percent of Rumsfeld's recommendations.

In past base-closure rounds, the commission approved about 85 percent of the defense secretary's recommendations.

"We will not rubber-stamp this list," Hansen said Friday, the day Rumsfeld's proposed list of base **realignments** and closures was released. "I guarantee there will be changes. If people think that it came from Mount Sinai and it's going to be in cement, it's not."

Huntsman said he is not at all worried about Hill's chances of being added to the BRAC list. "I'm not concerned at all about it being reversed," Huntsman said. "I think the BRAC commission is constructed in a way that it would almost have to be an impossibility."

To remove a base from the list takes only a simple majority on the commission. However, to add a base, seven out of the nine commissioners must vote in unison.

Hansen said Utah should not get too comfortable. Things happen. Changes are made. And just as in 1995, when Hill didn't make the initial BRAC list but was added by commissioners a few weeks later, Hill could still be at risk.

Commissioners later decided to keep Hill open but shut down two other Air Force air logistics centers during the '95 base-closure round.

"You gotta realize, contrary to what I've read in a few places, the commission does have a heck of a lot of clout. We can add or take away," Hansen told the Deseret Morning News. "There will be some changes in probably most of these bases; they may be miniscule and they may be large." Contributing: Associated Press.

---

### **A day of relief in Utah**

Deseret Morning News editorial  
May, 14 2005

To say the people of Utah heaved a sigh of relief Friday would be an understatement. They apparently sighed hard enough to blow a week's worth of rain clouds out of the state.

**Hill Air Force Base** has survived.

At least, it has survived the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, which issued its list of recommended closures early in the day Friday. The political process, of course, has yet to begin. And anything can happen once it does. Ultimately, Congress and the president must make the final decision on which bases close and which remain.

It's hard to forget what happened a decade ago when Hill survived a similar process only to be put in jeopardy when President Clinton, worried about base closures in politically powerful California and Texas, came up with the idea of "privatizing in place," which would have kept those bases open and operating as private facilities that contract with the government. It also would have removed much of the need for Hill.

But this is a new era. President Clinton, who ultimately failed to get his plan approved, no longer is in office. Representatives from states that are recommended to lose bases are likely to raise a lot of noise, but chances seem good that these recommendations will be approved.

That's more than good -- it's remarkable, given Utah's size and lack of clout. The recommendations would keep Hill, Dugway Proving Ground and the Tooele Army Depot alive. Only the Deseret Chemical Depot, the home to a chemical weapons destruction facility, was recommended for closure. But it already was scheduled to close once the weapons are all destroyed.

Much has been made of Hill's importance to the local economy, including its contribution of about \$4 billion annually and about 24,000 jobs. But perhaps just as important as this is its

psychological role. When the 388th Fighter Wing and the 4th and 421st Tactical Fighter Squadrons are deployed to hot spots around the world, it gives Utahns a sense of pride; a feeling that we all are contributing in some way to the cause of freedom.

On Friday, politicians were praising the workers at Hill for making the base efficient and necessary. The people, meanwhile, were looking to their political leaders with thanks for getting the word out -- leaders that include former Rep. Jim Hansen, who is a member of the closure commission. There are plenty of well-deserved plaudits to go around.

But the next few months will demand the best political skills of Utah's delegation to make sure the final vote in Congress reflects this recommendation.

---

### **A 'banner day' for Hill**

Deseret Morning News

Jerry D. Spangler and Leigh Dethman

May 14, 2005

WASHINGTON -- Hundreds of communities across the nation mourned Black Friday, but in Utah the general feeling was one of relief.

Elsewhere, military installations learned the Department of Defense was recommending they be closed or downsized. But **Hill Air Force Base**, Utah's largest employer with more than 50,000 direct and indirect jobs, was largely spared by the Department of Defense, and cuts to other Utah bases were either small or were expected.

"Any time you lose even some jobs, you cannot be completely happy," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, but he nevertheless called it a "banner day."

Before closures or downsizings can take effect, the Defense Department's proposal must be approved or changed by a federal base-closing commission by Sept. 8, and then approved by Congress and President Bush in a process that will run into the fall.

The Pentagon proposes shutting about 180 military installations from Maine to Hawaii, including 33 major bases, triggering the first round of base closures in a decade -- and an intense struggle to save facilities viewed as the economic lifeblood of local communities.

Overall, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said his plan, which affects workers at 775 military bases, would save \$48.8 billion over 20 years while making the military more mobile and better suited for the global effort against terrorism.

Rumsfeld's proposal calls for a net loss of 26,187 military and civilian jobs, including personnel who would be moved home from overseas. Deseret Morning News graphic Utah bases and facilities Requires Adobe Acrobat.

The closures and downsizings would occur over six years, still subject to consideration by a commission that will look at the recommendations, starting in 2006. The only Utah base slated for closure is Deseret Chemical Depot, the site of the chemical weapons incinerator that was

scheduled to be shut down in 2012 anyway.

"Our current arrangements, designed for the Cold War, must give way to the new demands of the war against extremism and other evolving 21st-century challenges," Rumsfeld said in a written statement. Major closures

Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. said Friday's events mark a beginning of potential economic growth in northern Utah.

"I hope that we wake up 20 years from now and see that we have a true center of excellence as it relates to aerospace design and engineering in northern Utah," he said. "But we all knew that the anchor for that possibility would be maintaining **Hill Air Force Base**, which gladly we got word on today."

By Hatch's count, when all the **realignments** and closures are considered, Utah will lose only about 145 total jobs.

Officially, the military puts the number of lost Utah jobs at 446.

"It was a great day for the state of Utah and all of America," said Vicki McCall, with the Utah Defense Alliance, who was in Washington, D.C., for Friday's announcement.

Folks in such states as Connecticut and Maine would disagree. They are among states that will lose thousands of jobs if the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission approves the Defense Department's recommended list.

Among the major closures were Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico, which would lose more than 2,700 jobs; the Naval Station in Ingleside, Texas, costing more than 2,100 jobs; and Fort McPherson in Georgia, costing nearly 4,200 jobs.

Hill actually could benefit from Cannon's closure. Under the recommendation, the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill would add six Block 40 F-16s from the Cannon fleet. Educating the brass

Utah's congressional delegation has been worried for months that Hill would again be on the Defense Department's closure list, just as it was 10 years ago when it took a massive lobbying effort in Utah and Washington to persuade BRAC to drop Hill from the list.

This time around, Utah officials and the delegation have been courting the nation's top military brass, "educating" them about Hill's importance to the military and touting its efficient work force.

"We did not have to gild the lily. We did not have to talk about things that weren't really there," said Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah.

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

That leaves a net loss of 145 jobs at Hill, which has more than 23,000 civilian and military employees.

Hill also loses six of its older Block 30 F-16 fighter jets and the support personnel that go with them. But it gets six new Block 40 F-16s.

And that, the delegation agrees, is great news because the Air Force is signaling that Hill is no longer a facility for older, obsolete aircraft but will be on the cutting edge for state-of-the-art fighters. The Air Force has already announced a maintenance depot for the new FA-22 fighter, and the delegation is optimistic the new F-35 joint strike fighter will find a home there as well.

"The Air Force is viewing Hill as a long-term center for F-16s," Bennett said. "And that makes it easier for us to move forward with a plan to recruit private contractors. It says Hill is stable and they can make capital investments in Hill, knowing it is going to be here for a long, long time." An efficient work force

The Utah Legislature appropriated \$5.6 million to facilitate efforts to expand Hill's economic viability.

That, coupled with the Air Force vote of confidence, has the delegation giddy that the reduction in jobs at Hill is a momentary blip and that employment -- and the scope of missions at Hill -- will increase dramatically.

"It's a really bizarre feeling," said Rep. Rob Bishop, whose 1st Congressional District includes **Hill Air Force Base**, Dugway Proving Ground, Tooele Army Depot and Deseret Chemical Depot. "I feel like a kid at Christmas who opens his gifts and really likes them, and now I want more."

Added Bennett, "we will look back on 2005, 2006 and 2007 and the number of jobs that grew. Hill is lean and powerful and poised to grow."

The job of selling **Hill Air Force Base** has been ongoing since the last round of base closures almost a decade ago.

But in making the announcement, the delegation was quick to point out that it was the quality of Utah workers -- and their high efficiency scores-- that made the difference.

"They've been going through hell not knowing whether they have a job," McCall said. "Everything they do has value. Anytime you see someone in uniform or a civilian going to work on the base, you pat them on the back and say 'thank you' for whatever role they have to play."

In an Air Force ranking of its 154 air bases around the world, Hill ranked 14th best, according to Bennett's office.

"The quality work force, they are the ones that won the day for us," Bishop said.

Hatch agreed, saying the quality and efficiency of the work force is far better today than it was 10 years ago, and that made all the difference. "The work force pulled us through in every way," he said. Utah's surprises

Rep. Chris Cannon, R-Utah, who was in Utah and did not attend Friday's announcement, said the Pentagon's announcement validated what the delegation has been saying for years -- that Hill is too important to be considered for closure.

"I'm gratified to see that today's decision echoes that belief," he said in a prepared statement. "I want to thank the civilian and military workers that made our bases in Utah effective and viable. Our nation needs a military that can face challenges unimagined just a few decades ago, and Utah is going to be a vital part of that defense."

There were some surprises, the delegation said. They had pretty much resigned themselves to losing Tooele Army Depot or seeing its already diminished mission drastically reduced. Instead, TAD will likely see its role expanded as it absorbs the weapons "igloos" at Deseret as part of its conventional weapons-storage capabilities.

Malcolm Walden, BRAC transition coordinator at TAD, said unlike many others he was relatively confident the tiny depot would remain off the closure list.

What convinced Rumsfeld to keep TAD is probably "the fact that we were the Western depot, and you need to have one in the West," Walden said. "We are geographically well positioned, and I think it paid off for us. That was one of the things that I was counting on; that's why I felt optimistic and it came through."

A **realignment** at an Army Reserve regional command center at Fort Douglas caught the delegation off-guard. **Realignment** at the historic fort will result in 53 lost jobs.

Fort Douglas will also most likely be recast as one of six newly designated deployable war-fighting units, meaning that rather than serving an administrative function the base's personnel could end up serving anywhere in the world, Maj. Gen. Peter Cooke said Friday.

The closure of Deseret, which results in a loss of 186 military positions and 62 civilian ones, is seen as a positive turn of events. Not only was closure something that was anticipated over the coming years, but the earlier closure means that chemical weapons at other sites will not be shipped to Utah for disposal. Pivotal Dugway

What's not on the Pentagon's list is any changes to Dugway, one of the nation's premier military research and testing facilities. The delegation believes Dugway's mission will increase dramatically but that it will be funded through the Department of Homeland Security -- a change that takes it off the BRAC radar screen.

Former Utah Congressman Jim Hansen, one of nine BRAC commissioners, agreed that good things are coming to Dugway.

"If this were the business world, I'd buy stock in Dugway if I could," Hansen said.

Hansen and the eight other members of BRAC will now visit every base on Rumsfeld's list. The commission has until Sept. 8 to submit its final BRAC list to the president.

Home-state delegations will no doubt be lobbying intensely as the commission deliberates.

"There will be plenty of kicking and screaming and shouting to get (BRAC) to change the recommendations," Hatch said. "But I think the recommendations are likely to stick."

In four previous rounds of closures starting in 1988, commissions have accepted 85 percent of the Pentagon's recommendations for closure or consolidation.

And for the first time, Utah officials are breathing easy at the prospect.

"Friday the 13th was not such an unlucky day for Utah after all," said Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah. Contributing: David Hinckley.

**Utah's bases flying high ; Mostly intact: Some Hill jobs aside; Pentagon spares the state's installations; Base boosters hope to gain jobs**

The Salt Lake Tribune

Matthew D. LaPlante and Robert Gehrke

May 14, 2005

Utah's military base boosters wasted no time Friday taking advantage of their success.

Soon after learning the state's major military installations had survived a new round of base closures mostly intact, they were plotting to bring in new work from bases slated for shutdown.

Under the Pentagon's recommendations, released Friday morning, Utah would lose fewer than 200 jobs.

Members of the citizens' group Utah Defense Alliance say that puts the Beehive State in perfect position to gain employment overall. They have already pinpointed more than 4,000 jobs that may be brought to Utah and are hoping to bring more as the Pentagon repositions the playing field.

"We've identified all the jobs and we know exactly where they are at," said the group's president, Vickie McCall.

The closure list did include one Utah installation: Tooele's Deseret Chemical Depot. However, that operation, which employs about 1,500 people, already had been slated for closure by 2008 following the destruction of its stockpile of chemical munitions.

Overall, the Defense Department on Friday announced its intention to close more than 180 installations, though less than a fifth of those are considered "major bases" and only 14 were facilities employing more than 1,000 workers.

Many of the closures were Reserve complexes, recruiting centers and regional administrative offices employing less than 50 workers. Those missions are expected to be consolidated on larger bases, such as **Hill Air Force Base**, which currently employs more than 23,500 workers. Utah's Reserve center -- Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City -- is slated to lose 53 employees in the **realignment**.

Though the Pentagon's list is not the final word on base **realignment** -- a nine-member commission has four months to review it -- observers expect larger installations will immediately rush to pick up scores of yet-unassigned missions of smaller closing bases.

Within hours of the announcement, Utah Defense Alliance officials said they intended to submit a \$ 5.6 million purchase order for machinery to make Utah's military installations more attractive to defense planners. The money comes from an appropriation by the state Legislature.

The alliance believes the machinery will help Hill win additional work -- perhaps up to 700 jobs -

- relinquished in past base closure rounds.

Alliance Director Rick Mayfield said his group will wait some time, however, before scavenging for missions from bases most recently slated for closure.

"We don't want to make political enemies," he said. "The dust needs time to settle."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld estimated adherence to the list would result in a 5 percent to 11 percent reduction in excess capacity. The Pentagon's list proposes the closure of 33 of the 425 major bases in the country -- about 8 percent.

That's substantially less than the 25 percent reduction he was proposing just months earlier.

Rumsfeld said in 2003 that he expected this round would be "the mother of all" base closures.

Many base communities were startled into action by such claims. In Oklahoma, for instance, voters agreed to purchase a \$ 50 million bond to pay to move homes that were considered to be encroaching on an installation's flight path.

Utah Rep. Rob Bishop said the impetus for Rumsfeld's doomsday projections wasn't important to him.

"I don't know if 25 percent is a bait and switch," Bishop said shortly after learning of Utah's status on the list. "I don't care, I'm so happy."

Indeed, glee seemed to be the order of the day.

"It is a banner day for the state of Utah," Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. said. "It could have been just the reverse. We could have been talking about the loss of tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars into our economy. Instead, we're talking about not only holding the status quo with some very, very important military assets, but indeed building upon those."

State Rep. Stuart Adams, a Republican from Layton who represents the Hill area, credited the workforce at the base as the reason it avoided a major loss.

"We think we have the most educated, some of the hardest-working people with the greatest work ethic of any spot in the nation, probably any spot in the world," Adams said. "And if thanks were to be given, it's to those workers at **Hill Air Force base.**"

Former U.S. Rep. Jim Hansen, now a member of the commission that will study the Pentagon proposal and can make alterations, said he also was pleased to see Utah escaping any major losses. But the former Hill advocate noted past military recommendations have been altered dramatically by the panel. He cautioned that the list released Friday wasn't in any way final.

"Go celebrate," Hansen said, "but the other side of the coin is, it will change. I will guarantee that. . . . Don't put too much stock in what you got today."

-----

Tribune reporter Thomas Burr contributed to this report.

### **Hill Air Force Base**

23,715 employees

Losses: 13 military and 447 civilian jobs

Gains: 291 military and 24 civilian jobs

Total immediate impact: 145 lost jobs

Hill was expected to survive -- supporters noted that redundancies that existed in the Air Force's maintenance depot system in the 1990s have since been reduced or eliminated. As expected, most jobs were left untouched, though the shuffling of some F-16 fighter jets, maintenance responsibilities for infrared targeted systems, and depot duties for some Navy aircraft engines initially will result in a net loss for the Ogden base. However, supporters expect up to 4,000 new jobs "when the dust settles."

### **Tooele Army Depot**

550 employees

Losses: none

Gains: none

Total Immediate Impact: None

Rep. Rob Bishop called Tooele's untouched status "a nice little surprise for us." The base had served as the maintenance center for much of the Army's wheeled vehicles until 1993, when that mission was moved. Redundancy -- Tooele was one of several Army munitions depots -- was thought to be a weakness. However, with the closing of more than a half-dozen other munitions centers and Army depots -- and the impending closure of next-door neighbor Deseret Chemical Depot -- Tooele looks in good shape to earn additional jobs.

### **Fort Douglas**

269 employees

Losses: 15 military and 38 civilian jobs

Gains: none

Total Immediate Impact: 53 lost jobs

About 6,500 reservists of the 96th Regional Readiness Command call Fort Douglas headquarters. By 2008, that will change. Under the Department of Defense's suggestions, the Army Reserve's 10-region command system will be centralized into four regions. Though Fort Douglas appears as if it will continue to be the drilling center for more than 2,500 reservists, it will no longer carry the initials HQ -- that designation will belong to Wisconsin's Fort McCoy.

**GRAPHIC:** Jump Page A6: Col. Joseph Sokol, vice commander of the 75th Base Wing at Hill Air Force Base, addresses reporters at a news conference Friday after the Department of Defense announced the decision on the nationwide closures of military bases. Utah's major military

installations survived a new round of closures mostly intact. Under the Pentagon's recommendations, released Friday morning, Utah would lose less than 200 jobs.

---

### Editorial Articles

#### **Earning our keep ; Hill Air Force Base:Don't assume that politics always prevails**

Salt Lake Tribune

May 17, 2005

The recommendations on which military bases to close, reduce or reconfigure were made by politicians. So it would be disingenuous to be surprised that politics may have figured in the process.

But just in case anybody is feeling patronized by the Pentagon's recommendation to maintain **Hill Air Force Base** and other military installations in this reddest of the red states, consider the case of South Dakota.

Ellsworth Air Force Base is the second-largest employer in that small-population state, and the relative ability of then-Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle and Republican challenger John Thune to preserve the base was a major issue in the last election.

Thune won, in part on the promises made by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist to pull out all the stops to protect the base. All the stops were apparently not enough.

Friday the Pentagon recommended that Ellsworth be closed. Its B-1 bomber fleet will, if the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission goes along, be consolidated with birds of its feather at Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene, Texas.

Even though Texas, the president's home state, was the winner in that equation, the fact that Thune's status as a giant-killer wasn't enough to rescue Ellsworth from Donald Rumsfeld's ax suggests that mission and effectiveness at least held their own against political considerations.

In other words, Hill AFB can be seen to have earned its own preservation, not simply to have benefited from Utah's Republican-heavy status.

Whatever the reasons -- Utah's strong work ethic, an experienced and well-trained work force, able leadership or simply a mission that suits the desire for a lighter, faster-moving military -- Hill's primary mission of maintaining the nation's fleet of F-16 fighter jets was determined to be not only necessary but well-done.

The economic devastation that would have resulted from a recommendation to close or reduce Hill was therefore avoided, we may allow ourselves to believe, in part because of the area's skilled work force. A reason, if ever there was one, to stress the modernization of the state's educational system so that when this exercise happens again -- and it will happen again -- the result might be the same.

**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Monday, June 06, 2005

## **Backers to make final plea today as BRAC tours HAFB**

*Briefing could put base in a position to gain more jobs*

**By Leigh Dethman**

Deseret Morning News

Utah's decades-long courtship with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission may finally be over.

In fact, today's soiree may just be a formality.

Hill Air Force Base backers will plead their case once and for all today, when BRAC commissioners are expected to take a tour of the state's largest military installation.

The state's local and federal leaders and the Utah Defense Alliance have guarded Utah's military installations from the threat of closure since the BRAC commission's inception in 1988.

Hill escaped the four previous BRAC rounds with little damage, and the Pentagon's recommendation this year proposed a net loss of 145 jobs at the base.

"Apocalypse was closure; anything short of that is a success from our standpoint," said Vickie McCall, president of the Utah Defense Alliance. "We did not lose the jobs that we really had concern over, and we're very, very thankful to be in the position that we're in."

Now Hill is in a position to gain more jobs.

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, said he plans to show BRAC commissioners just how strong the base is by showing off several locations on the base. Commissioners Jim Hansen, the former Utah congressman; Lloyd "Fig" Newton, a retired Air Force general; and Philip Coyle are expected to tour the base, Hill spokeswoman Marilu Trainor said.

After a morning briefing with Hill staff, commissioners are expected to take a stroll through both the Ogden Air Logistics Center's F-16 and A-10 maintenance lines as well as the landing gear facility, Trainor said.

The commissioners are also expected to meet with leadership from the active-duty 388th Fighter Wing as well as the reserve 419th Fighter Wing. Both wings could possibly be affected by the Pentagon's recommendations to the BRAC commission.

"We are supporting the commission's request and are prepared to explain the missions of the Ogden

Air Logistics Center, the 388th and 419th Fighter Wings and our other associate organizations," said Maj. Gen. Kevin J. Sullivan, Hill's senior military leader and commander of the Ogden ALC. "We will address any issues or questions the commissioners may ask and clarify any information they need about the data submitted earlier by Hill's organizations."

The Pentagon ranked the base 14th out of 154 Air Force facilities in the ability to host fighter missions.

Bishop said Hill backers' strategy Monday is to reinforce the Pentagon's recommendations to the BRAC commission.

"I think the military really saw the value that we have here, and it was clear in what we could be receiving," Bishop said. "The only thing we could do is actually add programs here."

After touring the base, BRAC commissioners will meet at a Layton steakhouse for lunch with Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr., members of the Utah Defense Alliance, local legislative leaders and Utah's congressional delegation.

"We want to show them what the BRAC report outlined, but in addition we would like to leave them with a better understanding of what our vision for Hill is in the future and that we are capable of taking on new workload," McCall said. "We are a complex military installation. There are opportunities for more joint work."

Bishop said the range is so valuable that it could lure the Department of Defense to award Hill new aircraft like the F-35 or the F-22, "a plane we desperately need," the congressman told the Deseret Morning News.

Originally, BRAC commissioners were scheduled for a short, morning tour of the base. After the tour, BRAC commissioners were supposed to head to Salt Lake City for a regional hearing.

The tight time schedule didn't allow a flyover of the test and training range. But the hearing was later canceled, allowing commissioners to see much more of Hill than originally planned.

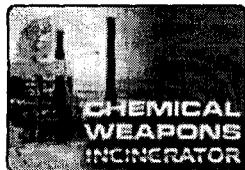
"After careful consideration and consultation with the Utah delegation, it was decided that an extended visit with key representatives of the community and a tour of the base would be a superior alternative," to a regional public hearing, BRAC commission chairman Anthony Principi said.

---

*E-mail: [ldethman@desnews.com](mailto:ldethman@desnews.com)*

---

© 2005 Deseret News Publishing Company



## Base Closure Commission Members Visit Utah Monday

Jun. 5, 2005

*John Hollenhorst Reporting*

As the battle heats up over closure of military bases, some interesting proposals are floating around in Utah. Among the ideas: turn one base into an oil refinery or make it a destination for chemical weapons from out-of-state.

It's all about saving jobs, according to those in the fray, and tomorrow is an important day in the process. Three members of BRAC, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, will tour Hill Air Force Base. Then they'll be lobbied by our state's Governor and two U.S. Senators.

Hill Air Force Base seems secure. The Pentagon recommended only minor changes. Employment should stay relatively stable. But Hill's future is intertwined with controversial recommendations elsewhere, such as proposed closure of Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico.

Vickie McCall, Pres., Utah Defense Alliance: "Their F-16's are supposed to come to Hill. If they don't come to Hill, and we lose our reserve planes, then we'd also probably lose the reserve wing. Now that's 400 or 500 people."

As a member of the B.R.A.C. commission, former Utah Congressman Jim Hansen will be looking out for Hill's interests. But he's required to recuse himself on Utah-specific issues.

Jim Hansen, B.R.A.C. Commissioner: "I can pontificate all I want. It's that I can't vote."

In Tooele County, BRAC will consider the Pentagon proposal to close the Deseret Chemical Depot. That would be in a few years, after its nerve-gas incinerator finishes burning chemical weapons stored in Utah. Local residents hope jobs will be saved.

Valerie Hadfield, Tooele Resident: "If they've got families they've got to support, they've got to have a job."

Calvert Priest, Tooele Resident: "Need to cut back where we can, but closing all these bases makes it hard on the communities that have grown up around the bases."

Congressman Rob Bishop has suggested turning the incinerator into an oil refinery. It's controversial with some.

Valerie Hadfield: "Well, we've got enough chemicals around here."

But for real controversy, how about importing chemical weapons to keep the incinerator busy, such as mustard agents stored in Colorado.

Jim Hansen, B.R.A.C. Commissioner: "(It would) be eleven trainloads from Pueblo to Salt Lake. I'm not the guy that makes the decisions. If the state of Utah doesn't want to do it, that's their privilege, even though I think they just kissed off 600 million dollars for nothing predicated on science, only predicated on emotion."

Jason Groenewold, Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah: "I think it's a dumb idea. I mean we've already had nearly half the nation's stockpile of chemical weapons here. And why do you want to take the risk of transporting these dangerous weapons through our communities just to add to our overall burden?"

The BRAC commission recommendations will go to the President in September. It's a quick time-lime; Congress should take final action by the end of the year.



## Commissioners to visit Hill today

**Monday, June 6, 2005**

**By Lisa Roskelley**

Standard-Examiner Davis Bureau  
[lroskelley@standard.net](mailto:lroskelley@standard.net)

### Daylong site tour in lieu of public hearing

HILL AIR FORCE BASE -- Phillip Coyle, expert on military research, development and testing. Jim Hansen, former Utah congressman. Lloyd "Fig" Newton, retired Air Force general.

This is the short list of Base Realignment and Closure commissioners expected to be touring Hill Air Force Base today.

But the list has changed often, and it may do so again.

It could just be Hansen -- despite the fact that he has recused himself of voting on any Utah military installation. Or it could be a mix of any of the other nine commissioners -- including Chairman Anthony Principi, who was rumored early on to take part in the base visit.

In BRAC, nothing is in stone until it's under way.

Example: The daylong tour of Hill is being done in lieu of a shorter site visit and an afternoon of public comments at the previously planned regional hearing in Salt Lake City.

The hearing was canceled last week when Utah officials and the congressional delegation asked the commission to skip the formalities for a better look at the installations.

Still, the tour is still up in the air, according to some unofficial versions of the commission itinerary, depending on which one is drawn from the hat.

"The itinerary is a work in progress," said Rick Mayfield, executive director of the Utah Defense Alliance.

"We're trying to get the maximum benefit from the site visit."

Officials were originally expecting to provide a full day of sights and information, but it now appears the visit may wrap up around 1 p.m. with a lunch.

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, commented on the change Sunday night.

"I think it's good, because they didn't have to come at all," he said. "They didn't

FEATURED ADVERTISEMENT

*For Your Kitchen*

**TRY A COOKING CLASS ON US!**

You'll learn something new AND eat it, too!

**NEWGATE MALL**  
(Outside entrance next to Dillon's)

**866-1111**

[www.fykitchen.com](http://www.fykitchen.com)

CLICK HERE

have to put on the full-blown show. I would rather give a shorter presentation to these three than a formal presentation to the full commission. We just want to tell them that DoD did the right thing."

The commissioners are expected to arrive at Hill around 7:30 a.m. on a transport plane. A rough itinerary includes a briefing with key commanders and congressional leaders and a tour of the strategic missile and integration center. Then a windshield tour -- not getting out of the vehicle -- is expected for the northeast section including the munition igloos and the C-130 hangar.

Also in the tentative schedule is to highlight the base's major workload -- F-16s, landing gear and A-10s, the composite workload and the two fighter wings.

Local leaders, Mayfield and other members of the Utah Defense Alliance -- the group that has been primarily involved in the BRAC process protecting Utah's military installations -- are expected to join the visiting commissioners for a catered lunch in Layton.

"The actual details are in the hands of (Maj.) Gen. (Kevin) Sullivan and base leadership," Mayfield said.

A helicopter tour of the Utah Test and Training Range now seems unlikely to happen.

There has also been talk of time being set aside for commissioners to talk with the press.

Images and text copyright © 2005 by Ogden Publishing Corporation. Reproduction or reuse prohibited without written consent.

DCN: 12204

**Trainor Marilu Civ OO-ALC/PA**

---

**From:** Leigh Dethman [ldethman@desnews.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2005 2:58 PM  
**To:** Marilu.Trainor@HILL.af.mil  
**Subject:** Media Alert for BRAC Press Conference on Monday

**\*\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\*\***

**BRAC Commission to Tour Hill Air Force Base  
and the Utah Test and Training Range  
on Monday, June 6th**

<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Vicki McCall, President</b>	<b>Rick Mayfield, Executive Director</b>
	<b>Utah Defense Alliance</b>	<b>Utah Defense Alliance</b>
	<b>(801) 726-9928</b>	<b>(801) 580-0454</b>

**WHAT:** Utah Defense Alliance invites the media to attend a press availability with members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC); Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr.; Senators Orrin Hatch and Bob Bennett; Congressman Rob Bishop, and representatives of the Utah Defense Alliance.

**WHEN:** The press conference will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2005, following a site visit with BRAC officials.

**WHERE:** The press conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Express,  
1695 Woodland Park Drive in Layton, Utah. The telephone  
number is (801) 773-3773. **Directions: I-15 to Exit 335. Turn east onto Antelope Drive. At  
the second traffic light, turn south onto Woodland Park Drive.**

**DETAILS:** The press availability will allow members of the media the opportunity to  
speak with BRAC commissioners and elected officials about Hill Air Force Base and the Utah Test  
and Training Range.

# # #

---

Michele Swaner, APR

Associate Director of Public Relations

R&R Partners Inc.

837 East South Temple

Salt Lake City Utah 84102

Tel: 801-746-5928

Fax: 801-531-6880

Email: [mswaner@rrpartners.com](mailto:mswaner@rrpartners.com)

Web: <http://www.rrpartners.com>

---

--

Leigh Dethman  
Military Reporter  
Deseret Morning News  
801-237-2102 office  
801-361-1084 cell

"It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper."

--Jerry Seinfeld