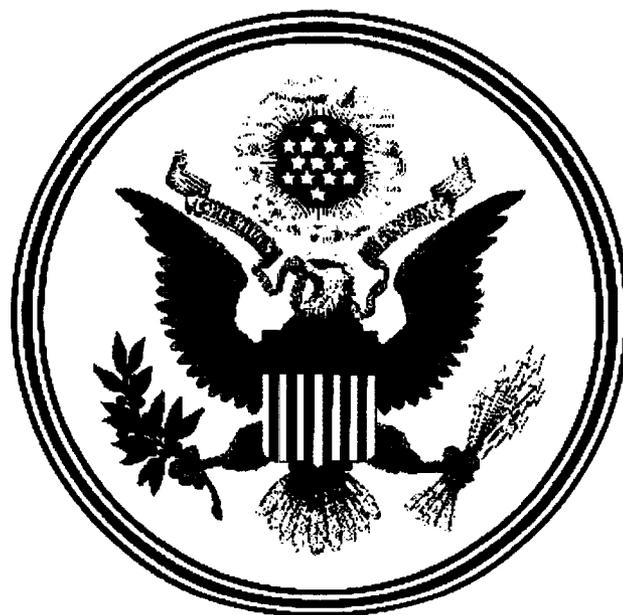


The Honorable Anthony Principi
Chairman

**DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND
REALIGNMENT COMMISSION**



**WASHINGTON, DC
OSD, GAO, OBC HEARINGS**

MONDAY JULY 18, 2005

The issues raised are a concern to us as well and, as a result, our second panel this morning will deal exclusively with the Commission's questions regarding the Air National Guard recommendations. Before introducing our witnesses allow me also to make this point. All interested parties to this issue should be aware that the Commission believes a solution is needed. To say that eliminating all of the Secretary's recommendations regarding the Air National Guard is a solution would be irresponsible. Therefore, we would urge our next panel of witnesses, and the Governors, and the TAGs, to work to a solution that serves the best interests of national security and the country. We look forward to seeing the results. We will now hear from Lieutenant General Stephen Wood, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Plans and Programs; Major General Gary Heckman, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Plans and Programs; Major General Scott Mayes, the Commander of 1st Air Force and Commander of the Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Command Region, and Lieutenant General Daniel James, Director of the Air

National Guard. The Commission looks forward to hearing your views on this important subject.

Following the testimony of our first two panels, we will hear from the Government Accountability Office's Comptroller General, the Honorable David Walker who will offer testimony on the GAO's analysis of the Defense Department's BRAC selection process. This separate view and examination of the methodology used to arrive at the decisions embodied in the Secretary's realignment or closure proposals is an important step in the Commission's process.

And finally, at 1:30 today, we look forward to hearing from Commissioners of the Overseas Basing Commission, chaired by Mr. Al Cornella. As we continue to assess the BRAC proposal's ability to support military force structure, including the 70,000 military personnel anticipated to return to our shores, the afternoon's testimony should provide important insight and additional framework for our independent assessment.

At this time I would invite all our Department of

Defense witnesses for this hearing to please 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.

The "Right Question" for Vice CNO

Admiral, as you know, the Commission is concerned about what we sense is a severe encroachment issue at NAS ~~Atlanta~~ ^{Oceana}. The Navy obviously has similar concerns.

Should we elect to further consider the matter of closing NAS Oceana during tomorrow's deliberations, would Moody AFB, Georgia meet the Navy's operational and training requirements for an East Coast Master Jet Base, once appropriate Military Construction requirements are programmed, funded and completed?

ADVISE THAT
THERE WILL BE
QUESTION FOR THE
RECORD. WOULD
APPRECIATE RAPID RESPONSE

**Questions for Chairman Principi
Base Closure and Realignment Commission**

Department of Defense Panel I

The Honorable Michael W. Wynne, Chairman of the Infrastructure
Steering Group;

General William L. Nyland, Assistant Commandant of the Marine
Corps;

General T. Michael Moseley, Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force; and

Admiral Robert F. Willard, Vice Chief of Naval Operations

July 18, 2005

1. Submarine Base New London, Connecticut has a long history of service to our nation. GAO itself has questioned the force structure assumptions in its July 1 report. Is it prudent for the department to close SUBASE New London under such uncertainty about the future force structure and given the close proximity to Electric Boat and the synergies of that location?
2. As you know many States are questioning the legality of the Air Force Air National Guard recommendations.
 - a. Was the legality of the Guard recommendation considered during your deliberation process? If so, how?
 - b. What is the Departments General Counsel's latest view of this issue?
3. The concerns about hurricanes affecting recruit training at Parris Island have surfaced on more than one occasion. What does the data show over the last 10 to 20 years that documents the number of times hurricanes have affected recruit training to the levels that prevent consolidating recruit training at a single site?
 - a. Has USMC performed any evaluations on the possibility of closing Parris Island because of hurricanes? If yes, when was this analysis performed, and what were the results and options presented to USMC?
 - b. The response to our question on consolidation of MCRD San Diego and MCRD Parris Island noted that hurricane proof barracks would need to be constructed. Are the barracks currently at Parris Island hurricane proof? Are the barracks at San Diego earthquake proof?

The DoD has said they have considered your concerns, so why do you question their analysis?

The Commission has not receive specific information that answered questions such as: 1) what is the catalyst behind bring people home w/o having their standard of living improved; 2) Are foreign government agreements and treaties in place at proposed access locations around the world; and 3) where are the bed down locations for the entire 70K planned to return including the 20K undistributed in BRAC recommendations and the additional 30K Army end strength (plus an estimated 30K dependents)?

Therefore, in total, there are approximately 50K military and perhaps as many dependents unaccounted for, nearly 130K people to take care of. This is not insignificant.

Where is the funding for the implementation of the IGPBS and how long will, it take? Is there an overseas BRAC-like account setup in the Department of Defense?

We could not ascertain a satisfactory answered from DoD. Much of their response is “it is covered and buried in the Service budgets” which is why we are concerned. We do not think it appropriate for the Service to take it “out of hide” at a time when they are prosecuting two wars, resetting equipment losses, implementing IGPBS, and trying to transform, just to name a few of the ongoing initiatives.

Perhaps Congress can get DoD to tease out the funding request covering this area in the Present’s Budget Request and FYDP because we could not. It appears that significant shortfalls await the Congress and once begun it will be more than difficult to redirect.

The DoD’s implementation plan has no transparency, (either within the current budget request or planned budgets), to help ascertain how much these moves will costs. Frankly, it may actually become a PAGO (pay as you go) issue as the agreements of today become the commitments of tomorrow – a bill awaiting future Congresses and taxpayers. They deserve to know the anticipated costs.

One of the fundamental areas you mention is strategic lift, what is the concern there?

The major concern is the Department of Defense’s willingness to accept the risk of returning forces without having a plan in place or commitment as to what is needed to get them back into particular areas of the world.

Some may say, we never have enough lift and make do. That is not acceptable in today’s world. The Mobility Capability Study originally due out in March, now August and more than likely with the QDR in September is not complete. So the only thing we know is that we were short lift capabilities from the last MCS of 2000 (prior to 9/11) so are we

accepting to much risk in bringing back troops before having the capability to return them to needed theaters of operations?

This strategic and inter theater lift shortfall may put our nation at serious risk and should be accepted or rejected with full disclosure. Making decisions so monumental to our national security should not happen based upon the evaluation of one Department.

What makes up your \$20B estimate vs DoD's \$12B?

Our estimates are based on the present value of the total incremental cost to implement the facilities and ranges portion of the strategy. We estimated the initial (construction, renovation, & alteration) and operating costs, at each overseas base, of achieving the realignment of the overseas basing structure. This allowed us to investigate the impact by the types of bases and by regional areas of responsibility. The OBC used data collected from the FYDP, interviews, and other source documents. This resulted in an estimate which was as high as \$19.6 B, and includes costs for operating and maintaining the new construction.

BRAC – OBC Hearing:

Your Commission sites timing and synchronization as a major concern. Can you expand on what you found and your major concerns?

Our recommendations suggest slowing down and reordering the planned moves back to the U.S. Bases. The concern here is the affect upon the troops, their families, and our national security. Two things are paramount: 1) Do we have the ability to employ troops from CONUS as effectively as from certain overseas locations; and 2) Are we giving our troops and their families' quality places to live and work when they return?

The Commission suggested to the President & Congress that until things are readied for our troops at receiving locations back home we should not move them out of good conditions overseas. In short, we should not disadvantage the service member and their families by these actions.

How does the Commission suggest addressing the concerns over bring troops back to bases in CONUS that need housing and training facilities?

It will take a concerted effort to allocate additional Military Construction funding from within the Department of Defense's budget and the Congress to ensure that we as a Nation do not recreate the cheaper and infamous "temporary facilities" of WWII that are still part of the military landscape some 50 years later.

If the Congress and the Department sign up to temporary facilities as an acceptable method of bedding down the troops than there should be a limitation to ensure these temporary facilities are made permanent within say, a five year period.

Perhaps a legislative restriction is in order one that would place limits on funding for new facilities until a percentage of temporary facilities acquired, constructed, or leased are made permanent. Some temporary facilities are leased at extremely high annual O&M costs, hidden from the normal construction requests and significantly affect other readiness priorities.

Your Report mentions adverse impacts. What do you foresee occurring?

Recruitment and Retention dropping off. As some are fond of saying, you enlist the soldier and reenlist the family. The Commission believes there is a direct correlation between what we ask of our military and what their families are willing to accept. If we do not take great care in how and what our troops and their families have when they return, then we run the risk of declining retention rates. I believe we are seeing some of that now but that is just the tip of the iceberg.

It is important to note that this issue affects more than just on-base facilities, there is the availability of housing, schools, child care, etc that communities must prepare for that are major factors still unaccounted for in the restationing plans.

DoD, Panel Set Date To Discuss Overseas Troop Relocation

Congress Daily
Megan Scully
July 14, 2005

Defense Department policy officials and the independent Overseas Base Commission will meet July 18 to discuss the cost of moving 70,000 troops from installations in Europe, the Korean peninsula and elsewhere. Cost figures for the massive relocation vary widely -- from the \$4 billion the Pentagon plans to budget through FY11 to as much as \$25 billion estimated by some department officials. The meeting was set late Wednesday night in response to a June 30 memo from the commission to Pentagon policy chief Douglas Feith requesting more information on the cost of the move and how the Pentagon intends to budget and pay for it over the next several years.

In addition to cost figures, the memo asks for more details about how domestic bases will handle the influx of troops from overseas, as well as any agreements with other countries to host new overseas installations. "We are looking forward to that information," a commission official said. "We asked for quite a bit." Commissioners will use the information to complete their report, due Aug. 15 to Congress and the White House. The commission released an interim report in May, expressing concerns that the Bush administration was moving too quickly and making overseas basing decisions before it completed a list of major studies, including the sweeping Quadrennial Defense Review.

The Pentagon meeting falls just hours before the overseas commission is scheduled to testify on Capitol Hill before the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, which is evaluating Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendation to shutter more than 33 major domestic installations and close or restructure hundreds of others.

Has this meeting taken place