

DCN: 12108

## **2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission Suggested Talking Points**

***1. The Congress established the 2005 BRAC Commission to ensure the integrity of the base closure and realignment process. As directed by law, the Commission will provide an independent assessment of the list of suggestions created by DoD.***

- The BRAC Commission is autonomous from DoD and all other entities.
- The actions of the Commission are controlled by statute, and the recommendations of the Commission are submitted to the President for approval.
- The BRAC Commission is non-partisan and is made up of both highly-qualified Democrats and Republicans. The Commission will seek a consensus while drawing on each Commissioner's individual views, background, and experience.
- The BRAC Commission will conduct an objective, non-partisan, and quantitative analysis.
- The purpose of the BRAC Commission is to ensure that DoD does not deviate from requirements prescribed by law.

***2. The recommendations provided by the Department of Defense are extremely complex and interrelated, requiring the utmost attention to detail and in-depth analysis.***

- For the first time, the Secretary of Defense has submitted recommendations from a joint cross-service-oriented, rather than a specific-service-oriented, perspective.
- Many recommendations, received from the Secretary of Defense, contain multiple actions, impacting different services and installations.
- The Commission must analyze individually each of the numerous integrated impacts on both the military value and the community.

***3. The BRAC Commission will follow a fair and equitable process, to assess the military value of a base and the potential economic impact that the closure of that base may have on the surrounding community.***

- The Commissioners will place military value and our national security as priorities while still taking into account the potential economic effects if base closures.
- The Commission is mindful of the potential human impact that the closure of a base may have on the surrounding community.
- The Commissioners will have the responsibility to ensure that all interests have been fairly considered.

***4. The BRAC Commission's process is transparent by nature and the Commission seeks public input into the decision-making process.***

- The BRAC Commission wants to ensure that those who will be impacted by the decisions are a part of the process.
- The Commission will hold approximately 15 regional hearings in various parts of the country in order to encourage public involvement and input into the Commission's decision-making process.
- The Commission's decision will be driven by an objective analysis of facts.
- All materials received and created by the BRAC Commission, with the exception of those sensitive to national security, will be publicly available on the Commission's website: [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov).
- A library containing all documents which have been either created by or submitted to the BRAC Commission, with the exception of documents sensitive to national security, will be open to the public.