



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
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Chairman:
The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

Commissioners:
The Honorable James H. Bilbray
The Honorable Philip E. Coyle III
Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN (Ret.)
The Honorable James V. Hansen
General James T. Hill, USA (Ret.)
General Lloyd W. Newton, USAF (Ret.)
The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret.)

Executive Director:
Charles Battaglia

May 13, 2005

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr. (USN, Ret)
3725 Lynnfield Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Dear Commissioner Gehman:

As a way to lighten your load in your dealings with the media, I have enclosed some brief documents that might be of assistance to you. They are, of course, for you to use—or not use—at your own discretion. These documents were compiled and written to serve as an aid in keeping the media focused in the direction of the mission and goal of the BRAC Commission. The documents consist of a one-page summary of some suggested key talking points, a short Q & A piece--covering topics about which the media may question you, and a fact-sheet reviewing information recently put out by DoD regarding the BRAC process and expected results.

Please feel free to contact me at (703) 699-2962 or the Deputy Director of Communications, Robert McCreary, at (703) 699-2964, should you have any questions regarding the enclosures or if we can assist you in any way throughout the upcoming weeks.

Best Regards,

C. James Schaefer IV
Director of Communications

Enclosure

2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Suggested Talking Points

1.) 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 BRAC Commission will follow a fair and equitable process, balancing the military value of a base with the potential economic impact that the closure of that base may have on the surrounding community.

- The Commissioners will balance military value and our national security against the potential economic effects of 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.

3.) 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.
- 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.

**2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Suggested Q's & A's**

An Explanation of the BRAC Commission

Q1. What is the BRAC Commission?

A1. BRAC stands for Base Realignment and Closure, and the Commission is an independent entity, established by Congress in the FY02 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 107-107). The BRAC Commission was created to provide an objective, thorough, accurate, and non-partisan review and analysis, through a process determined by law, of the list of bases and military installations which the Department of Defense (DOD) has recommended be closed.

Q2. What is the purpose of the BRAC Commission?

A2. The BRAC Commission was established by law to provide a transparent review, open to the public, of the recommendations made by the DOD to close certain bases and military installations. The Commission is mindful of the human impact of these decisions and will serve to ensure that a full review of the facts, and full consideration of community and related interests has been made.

Q3. Can the BRAC Commission be kept non-political?

A3. The BRAC Commission is a non-partisan, independent entity that will ensure that transparency will be maintained, and public access to materials, information and hearings will be made available.

Q4. Does the BRAC Commission have a partisan staff?

A4. The Commission has made a great effort to find the very best people available. The Commission has chosen its staff based upon the individuals' qualifications, expertise, and availability to serve, regardless of the individual's political affiliation.

Q5. What is the timeline for the BRAC Commission?

A5. The timeline is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| May 13, 2005: | The BRAC Commission received the list of recommendations from the DOD. |
| September 8, 2005: | The BRAC Commission delivers its final report to the President. |
| September 23, 2005: | The President forwards the report to Congress or returns it to the Commission for further deliberations. |
| October 20, 2005: | If the report is returned to the BRAC Commission, the Commission must resubmit its report to the President. |
| November 7, 2005: | The President must transmit his approval and certification of resubmitted report to Congress. |

A5. (Continued)

Congress has 45 days from the day it receives the report from the President to enact a joint resolution to reject the report, or it becomes law. If the President fails to approve and transmit either the initial or revised Commission recommendations by the dates discussed above, it will terminate the BRAC process.

April 15, 2006: The Commission will be terminated by law.

Q6. How is the BRAC Commission funded?

A6. The Congress authorized DoD to fund BRAC operations, including the Commission, with money that was appropriated for Operations and Maintenance (O & M).

Q7. How was the BRAC Commission established and what has been its history?

A7. After difficulty, throughout the 1980s, in matching the size of our infrastructure with our strategic needs, the Congress passed The Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (P.L. 100-526, as codified at 10 U.S.C. 2687 note), which established the 1988 BRAC Round. This act authorized the Secretary of State to appoint a bi-partisan commission to suggest to the Congress a list of bases for closure or realignment. The Congress then was to vote on the list as a whole. The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-510, as amended, 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) established the 1991, 1993 and 1995 BRAC rounds, authorizing the President to appoint Base Realignment and Closure commissions, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and resulting in 97 major base closures. The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 was amended by the FY 2002 Department of Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 107-107) which authorizes the 2005 BRAC Round.

Q8. How many closures resulted from the past four rounds of BRAC?

A8. In 1988, 16 major installations were closed; in 1991, 26 major installations were closed; in 1993, 28 major installations were closed; and in 1995, 27 major installations were closed. This resulted in a total closure of 97 major installations out of 495 military installations.

Information about the Factors Contributing to, and the Process of, Base Closure**Q9. What Criteria will the Commission use in making its decisions?**

A9. The statute establishes the criteria. As outlined by the statute, the Commission will place a priority on military value, while also taking into consideration the economic and other effects that the closure or realignment of a base would have on the community surrounding that base. Information that is gathered in the analysis of a base, with the exception of information that is sensitive to national security, will be made accessible to the public.

Q10. What factors contribute to the decision to close or realign a base?

A10. The first and most important factor is military value. After that, the economic effect on the surrounding community, the extent and cost of potential future savings, the

A10. (Continued)

ability of the community's infrastructure to support the base, and the environmental impact of the closure of the base will be considered.

The Commissioners will be sensitive to the needs in the community and will weigh those needs against the military value of the base.

Q11. How will encroachment issues affect the decision-making process?

A11. Encroachment of non-base construction--such as a freeway being built at the end of a military runway, creating a hazard--will be factored into the decision-making process if it hinders a military installation from performing its mission. The law requires the analysis of whether the local community will be able to handle both the existing and potential infrastructure of the base.

Q12. How will environmental costs be factored in the decision?

A12. The DOD has the responsibility to maintain appropriate environmental conditions of a base, whether or not it is a candidate for closing. The law requires that the costs of the environmental restoration of a base that is closed, be factored into the decision of whether or not to actually close the base.

Q13. How much weight will the Commission give to DoD's original proposal?

A13. As prescribed by law, the Commission will review the proposed list against the criteria set forth in statute by the Congress.

Q14. Are there a specific number of bases that will be closed?

A14. There is no specific number of bases and military installations that must be closed; however, the BRAC list does have a specific number of bases recommended for closure or realignment. The BRAC Commission will use criteria, set forth by law, to evaluate and analyze the military value of the bases suggested for closure by the DOD, as well as the impact their closure will have on the community, before forwarding its recommendations on to the President.

Q15. Can bases be added to the list?

A15. The BRAC Commission has the authority to add to the Secretary of Defense's BRAC list if a series of legal requirements are followed. First, the BRAC Commission must notify the Secretary of Defense of its intent to possibly add installations to the list, giving the Secretary 15 days to respond with an explanation of why those military installations were not on the original list submitted to the Commission.

Secondly, the Commissioners must vote in a public session after receiving the Secretary's response to add installations to the BRAC Commission's list, and publish their proposed additions in the *Federal Register* at least 45 days before 08 September 2005. At least two Commissioners must visit the proposed sites and conduct public hearings. Finally, if seven (7) of the nine (9) Commissioners vote in favor of the proposed additions, then those sites may be added to the Commission's list for further consideration by the President.

A15. (Continued)

If no proposed additions are made to the original BRAC list submitted by the Secretary of Defense, then a simple majority of the Commissioners may either approve or disapprove the recommendations made by the Secretary.

Q16. Is military construction currently taking place on a base an indicator that the base will not be closed?

A16. No. Military construction may take place on a base regardless of the base's intended future.

Q17. Does how a base "scored" during a prior BRAC Commission's analysis affect the 2005 BRAC Commission's analysis?

A17. How a base scored in a previous BRAC analysis has no impact on how it will score in the 2005 BRAC Commission's analysis. Information will be objectively and methodically gathered and analyzed in order to support the Commission's final recommendations.

Q18. Is a governor's permission required to close a National Guard base in his state?

A18. The BRAC Commission is aware of certain legal restrictions that may apply in this matter, but while this issue is being resolved, the Commission will proceed with fulfilling its statutory duties.

Q19. What has been the effect on communities after base-closures enacted after previous BRAC Commissions?

A19. According to information provided by DoD, base closures have been shown to have a quite positive effect on surrounding local economies--in some instances--despite the initial economic impact. An important thing to keep in mind is the importance of the participation of the local community in development efforts.

Q20. If the list of bases suggested by DoD for closure and realignment becomes final, how long will the process of closure and realignment take?

A20. It must be completed within six years of the day that the list becomes law.

Q21. Must a base remain vacant during its closure until the environmental cleanup has been finished?

A21. In some cases the property could be leased while undergoing environmental cleanup in preparation for transfer. Other options may also be considered.

Q22. Will data relating to the BRAC Commission's process be made available to the public?

A22. The Commission's process is completely open and transparent. The public will have the opportunity to review all the BRAC data which has been provided to the Commission, including that by the DoD and other sources, as well as all documents created by the BRAC Commission with the exception of documents which are sensitive to national security. The public is also encouraged to provide suggestions to the Commission, participate in hearings, and make the Commission aware of its concerns.

A22. (Continued)

All of the data upon which the Commission's decisions will be made, apart from data sensitive to national security, will be made available on the BRAC Commission's website, which is: www.brac.gov. Additionally, the Commission's BRAC library will contain all documents, materials, hearing transcripts, and other information which either came to the Commission or were produced by the Commission, excluding items sensitive to national security. Information regarding the location of the library TBD.

Q23. Can the general public access the historical information about previous BRAC rounds?

A23. According to DoD, the Office of the Secretary of Defense maintains the documentation used by the previous BRAC Commissions at 1745 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Crystal Square 4, Ste .105, Arlington, VA. The information is open to the public; however, due to security requirements for building access, the DOD has requested that persons requesting access call their office at 703-602-3207, before arriving to ensure a government representative is present. There is a copier available.

Q24. How can communities provide input into the decision-making process?

A24. In the interest of keeping the BRAC process fair and objective, the BRAC Commission intends to hold approximately 15 public hearings in various parts of the country, and solicit public involvement in the process. The contact information for the BRAC Commission is as follows:

2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 699-2950

Q25. What is the BRAC Commission's website?

A25. It is www.brac.gov. This website is entirely separate from, and independent of, DoD's BRAC website, which is at www.defenselink.mil/brac.

Quick Facts from the Department of Defense Regarding 2005 BRAC

- **DoD estimates that, over the next 20 years, the 2005 BRAC round will create a net savings of approximately \$50 billion.**
- **After 20 years, annual savings are expected to be \$5.5 billion per year.**
- **33 major bases have been recommended for closure and 29 have been recommended for realignment.**
- **There are 49 major installations that DoD has recommended gain more than 400 personnel.**
- **Of those 33 bases recommended for closure, 14 are major Army bases, 9 are major Navy bases, and 10 are Air Force installations.**
- **Realignment is defined by the loss of 400 people from a military installation.**
- **Of the 29 military installations recommended for realignment, 5 are from the Army, 11 are from the Navy, and 10 are from the Air Force. (Information on the remaining three to be provided.)**
- **The major Army installations that have been recommended to gain personnel are: Fort Belvoir, VA; Fort Jackson, SC; Fort Sam Houston, TX; Fort Still, OK; Fort Benning, GA; and Fort Bragg, NC.**
- **The major Navy installations recommended to gain personnel are: Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL; Naval Station Norfolk, VA; Naval Station Newport, RI; Marine Corps Logistics Base Quantico, VA; and Naval Station Bremerton, WA.**
- **The major Air Force installations recommended to gain personnel are: Little Rock Air Force Base, AR; Peterson Air Force Base, CO; Scott Air Force Base, IL; Andrews Air Force Base, MD; and Shaw Air Force Base, SC.**
- **Jointness—the services working together—was a key factor in DoD's evaluation of military value and DoD estimates that cross-service groups will generate \$2.9 billion of the predicted \$5.5 billion annual savings.**

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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.
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