Trip Report

Location: Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000

Visit Date: 7 June, 2005

Purpose of Visit: Review proposed BRAC actions with functional and garrison personnel, examine plans to accommodate gains, conduct tours of critical sites, review requirements of functions leaving the installation.

Commissioner: This is a net gaining site. No Commissioner visited the site. No Commissioner visits are planned.

Lead Analyst: C. Dean Rhody, Army Team. No other BRAC personnel were on this trip.

Major BRAC Recommendations Affecting Installation:

Gains -

- Second Recruiting Brigade from Ft Gillem closure (167 personnel)
- Aviation Technical Test Center realigned from Ft Rucker (140 personnel)
- Army Material Command realigned from Ft Belvoir (1222 Personnel)
- Missile Defense Agency from various leased space (700 personnel)

Losses -

- Ordnance, Munitions & Electronic Maintenance School realignment to Ft Lee (1442 personnel)
- Information Systems Development & Acquisition realignment to Aberdeen Proving Grounds (37 Personnel)
- Joint Program Office Robotics (Robotic Development and Acquisition) realigned to PEO GCS at Detroit Arsenal (77 personnel)
- Inventory Control Point realigned to DCS, Richmond, VA (71 personnel)

Summary of actions: Agenda attached. Conducted interviews with garrison commander, Master Planner, Chief Robotics Systems Joint Projects Office, Deputy Commandant OMEMS, and various staff personnel.

Summary of findings:

Issues not requiring clarification -

- Infrastructures shortfalls may require additional augmentation in roads (widening of one road from two- to four-lanes) and water (minor increase to treated water distribution system). Handled through implementation.

Issues requiring clarification –

- Joint Program Office Robotics (Robotic Development and Acquisition) is already a joint Army-Marine operation with Navy funding. Its mission is developing, testing, and even fielding cutting-edge robots for use in theater. Robotic devices essentially have three integrated components: the vehicle that carries the payload, the payload, and the software to make the robot work. The DOD proposal would split out the vehicle and transfer it to PEO GCS at Detroit Arsenal. Detroit Arsenal does not have the land necessary to test such devices. Additionally, the robot is usually developed as a unit. While the Redstone personnel indicated that the recommended split could work, there is no clarity on how such a split would increase military value over the present arrangement. Will require clarification from DOD on estimate of military value gained.
- OMEMS conducts training in hazardous devices with emphasis on explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). The school element that conducts the training is heavily involved in supporting the FBI Hazardous Devices Training facility, located on Redstone Arsenal. The training facility is a national resource, training both federal and state personnel. Additionally, the explosives used in the training may exceed the capacity of Ft Lee both in terms of range safety fans and noise abatement issues. No such problems exist at Redstone Arsenal. Will require clarification from DOD on intent for the location of the training and any mitigating actions required.

Other –

During his testimony before the Committee, Dr Craig College cited previous PCS experience for major RDT&E moves. He stated that only 25% of the existing workforce transferred to the new site. The local community of Huntsville has conducted previous highly successful efforts under such conditions to draw in as many of the existing workforce as possible. The actual number at Redstone in a previous BRAC move was 75% transfer. Recommend that the Commission defer any consideration of this issue unless additional information is provided.

C. Dean Rhody
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Army Team, BRAC Commission