

Base Visit Report
Fort Eustis, VA 23604
25 May, 2005

Lead commissioner: Mr. Anthony J. Principi
Accompanying commissioner: GEN (Ret) Lloyd W. Newton

Commission staff: Dean Rhody (Lead – Army Team)
Gary Dinsick (Army Team Chief)
James Durso (Joint Issues Team)

List of Attendees:

1. Patrice Harris - Hampton Roads Staffer, Senator Allen's Office
2. Mayor Joe Frank City of Newport News
3. Dave Dixon Executive Director, VA Commission on Military Bases
4. George Foresman, Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness
5. Cord Sterling, Senator Warner's Office
6. Neil Morgan, Assistant City Manager of Newport News
7. MG Brian Geehan, Commanding General, Fort Eustis
8. COL Curt Zargon, CG's Chief of Staff
9. COL Ronnie Ellis, Garrison Commander, Fort Eustis
10. COL Mike Dooley, Assistant Commandant, Transportation School
11. COL Conway Eilers, Assistant Commandant, USAALS
12. Mignon S. Moore, Deputy to Garrison Commander, Fort Eustis
13. Melody Hicks, RMO US Army Garrison, Fort Eustis
14. Cindy Your, PAO, US Army Garrison, Fort Eustis
15. Ken Gross, BRAC Implementation Team Leader, US Army Garrison, Fort Eustis
16. Mark Jones, Deputy to Assistant Commandant, USAALS
17. John Race, TEA, SDDC
18. Keith Morrow, SDDC Ops
19. COL Mallette, Chief of Staff, HQ SDDC
20. Mose McWhorter, CASCOM Rep

Installation mission: The U.S. Army Transportation Center, Fort Eustis, is the Transportation Corps Training Center, providing training in road, rail, marine, amphibian operations and other modes of transportation.

Fort Story, a major sub-installation of Fort Eustis, is located at Cape Henry, at the juncture of the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It is the prime location and training environment for both Army amphibious operations and Joint Logistics-Over-the-Shore (LOTS) training events. Special Operations forces make extensive use of the installation for training purposes, also.

Fort Eustis is home to the 7th Transportation Group (Composite).

Secretary of Defense Recommendations and justifications:

The Army intends to transform Fort Eustis by:

- Relocating TRADOC Headquarters, IMA Regional Headquarters, the Army Contracting Agency Northern Region, and NETCOM Regional Headquarters to Fort Eustis.
- Creating a Combat Service Support Center of Excellence (consolidation of the Ordnance, Quartermaster, Transportation Centers and Schools) at Fort Lee.
- Consolidating Aviation Logistics training (currently at Ft Eustis) with the Aviation Center and School at Fort Rucker.
- Consolidating Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (currently at Ft Eustis) with Air Force Air Mobility Command Headquarters and Transportation Command Headquarters at Scott Air Force Base.
- Executing several other realignments not involving unit transfer or disestablishment.

Installation gains

What: TRADOC HQs from Fort Monroe, VA.

Why: This move enables the closure of Fort Monroe -- this supports the Army objective of developing a portfolio of multi-functional installations matched to Army requirements, while eliminating excess capacity. It allows the Army to move administrative headquarters to multi-purpose, higher value installations that provide the Army more flexibility to accept new missions. This relocation maintains vital links between TRADOC HQs and Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) HQs by placing them within easy commuting distance of each other.

What: Installation Management Agency (IMA) NE Headquarters, US Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM) NE Headquarters, and the Army Contracting Agency (ACA) Northern Region from Fort Monroe, VA.

Why: These moves enable the closure of Fort Monroe. The relocation of IMA and NETCOM HQ consolidates the Northeastern and Southeastern regions of these two commands into one Eastern Region at Fort Eustis. The ACA Northern Region is relocated from Fort Monroe to Fort Eustis with its two largest customers (TRADOC and IMA).

What: IMA Southeastern Region Headquarters and the NETCOM Southeastern Region Headquarters from Fort McPherson, GA.

Why: The IMA and NETCOM HQs are moved to Ft. Eustis because they consolidate the Northeastern and Southeastern regions of these two commands into one Eastern Region. These moves enable the closure of Fort McPherson.

Losing Activities

What: The Aviation Logistics School to Fort Rucker, AL.

Why: Consolidates Aviation logistics training with the Aviation Center and School at a single location; fosters consistency, standardization and training proficiency and reducing the total number of Military Occupational Skills (MOS) training locations (reducing the TRADOC footprint). This provides the same or a better level of training at reduced costs.

What: The Transportation Center and School to Fort Lee, VA.

Why: Enables the consolidation of Combat Service Support (CSS) training and doctrine development at a single installation, which promotes training effectiveness and functional efficiencies. This consolidation advances the Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN) model, currently in place at Fort Leonard Wood, which consolidates the Military Police, Engineer, and Chemical Centers and Schools. This move improves the MANSCEN concept by consolidating functionally related Branch Centers & Schools. With the planned addition of the Air Force's Transportation Management training at Fort Lee, it creates opportunities for Joint curriculum development and training.

What: The Army Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) to Scott Air Force Base, IL.

Why: This relocation consolidates SDDC with Air Force Air Mobility Command Headquarters and Transportation Command Headquarters at Scott Air Force Base. This consolidation of TRANSCOM and Service components will collocate activities with common functions and facilitates large-scale transformation, and reduces personnel to realize long-term savings.

What: Realign Fort Eustis, VA, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at the Fort Eustis Medical Facility; converting the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Why: The Department of the Army will rely on the civilian medical network for inpatient services at this installation. This recommendation supports strategies of reducing excess capacity and locating military medical personnel to activities with a more diverse workload, providing them with enhanced opportunities to maintain their medical skills currency to meet COCOM requirements. Additionally, a robust network with available inpatient capacity of Joint Accreditation of Hospital Organizations and/or Medicare accredited civilian/VA hospitals is located within 40 miles.

What: Mobilization processing functions to Ft Bragg, NC.

Why: This relocation realigns a lower threshold mobilization site to an existing large capacity site and enables the transformation into Joint Pre-Deployment/Mobilization Platform at Fort Bragg. This action is expected to have the long term effect of creating a pre-deployment/ mobilization center of excellence, leveraging economies of scale, reducing costs, and improving service to mobilized service members.

Main facilities reviewed

Commissioners visited 3rd Port, Aviation Logistics School training facilities, Transportation School training facilities, and the Installation Headquarters Building. During the motor tour, the commissioners were shown, but did not visit, 7th Group

barracks, motor pools, and command facilities. Additionally, the commissioners were given a tour of the cantonment area to include housing, support facilities, and grounds.

Key issues identified:

- Relocation of watercraft, cargo specialist, and rail training to Ft Lee may not be possible. Watercraft training cannot be conducted at Ft Lee. Relocation of major training infrastructure does not appear to be costed in the COBRA model.
- Relocation of Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) to Scott AFB. The co-location of the SDDC activities at Ft Eustis vs Scott AFB may score higher for maximizing military value.
- Definition of joint basing/installation management transfer to Air Force and Navy of Ft Eustis and Ft Story, respectively. Costs and savings associated with this proposal may be incorrect if the base concept is poorly defined.
- Capital investment calculations did not provide for transfer and leaseback option and may overstate investment costs. Local city government has committed to transfer and leaseback for TRADOC Headquarters and for other needed infrastructure.
- Capital investment may be incorrectly calculated by allowing for the availability of excess space to meet the needs of incoming activities.
- Capital investment requirements may be incorrect if the location of the TRADOC Headquarters building is Fort Story, not Ft Eustis.
- Manpower savings may be incorrectly calculated by leaving out manpower increases in base operations related to gaining actions.

Community concerns raised: Community concerns mirror the key issues for training relocation, investment costs, and the relocation of SDDC. Commissioner Regional hearing has not yet been held for Ft Eustis.

Requests for staff as a result of the visit: Staff will conduct analysis and assessments as a result of the visit. The Army Basing Study (TABS) comments will be requested.

C. Dean Rhody
Senior Analyst
Army Team, BRAC