



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership

804 Park Drive • Warner Robins, Georgia 31088  
(478) 322-3367 • Fax (478) 328-1114  
E-mail: [info@robins21.org](mailto:info@robins21.org) • [www.robins21.org](http://www.robins21.org)

12 July 2005

Mr. Timothy B. MacGregor  
Senior Air Force Analyst  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202-3920

**BRAC Commission**

**JUL 15 2005**

**Received**

Tim,

Attached for your information are a background paper and a map discussing the recruiting demographics applicable to Robins AFB. In light of the testimony at the BRAC Hearing in Atlanta on 30 June 2005 by Major General Taylor (ret) relative to the recruiting demographics surrounding NAS Atlanta, we felt it important to ensure you have benefit of the facts showing the recruiting demographics relative to Robins AFB. The bottom line is that Robins AFB has recent experience supporting the move of an AF Reserve flying wing from Dobbins to Robins and the data to support the success of that move.

We were very happy to host you here in Warner Robins and share with you the great tradition of support for the DoD here in Middle Georgia.

Thank you for your continuing service to our country as you help shape our future defense posture. Also, thank you for your support of Robins Air Force Base and Middle Georgia.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Carbon".

RON CARBON

Director

[carbonr@21stcentury.mgacoxmail.com](mailto:carbonr@21stcentury.mgacoxmail.com)

Attachment:  
Background Paper

JUL 15 2005

Received

**Talking Paper  
on  
Military Georgia's Ability to Support a NAS Atlanta Reserve Flying Unit**

In testimony at the Atlanta Regional Hearing on June 30, 2005, Major General Taylor (ret) espoused to the BRAC Commissioners that NAS Atlanta should not be closed due to the demographics of Atlanta. General Taylor asserted that: realignment of the assigned units would result in an exodus of unit personnel; that the demographics of communities receiving NAS Atlanta aircraft and personnel were such that it would be difficult to recruit unit personnel; and that unit readiness may be adversely impacted due to the travel distance for "after regular hours training" opportunities.

Middle Georgia is one of the recommended receiving communities as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Marine Aviation Group, HMLA 773, and MALS 42 are recommended to move from NAS Atlanta to Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins GA. Accordingly this paper is submitted for your deliberation.

It is true that Middle Georgia does not have the population of Atlanta. Very few cities in America do. However, in 2003, the Middle Georgia community sponsored a study completed by the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center to assess the area's ability to support reserve missions. The criteria used were from the Air Force Reserve Command located at Robins AFB and the BRAC 1995 process.

In the seven county area surrounding Robins AFB (Houston, Bibb, Peach, Jones, Monroe, Crawford, and Twiggs) the total population was 356,801 (U.S. Census 2000). The recruitable age bracket for the Air Force Reserves is 17 – 34 years old. That age group comprised 25.1% of the total population (89,442 individuals) for the seven counties combined. This demographic data was then compared to the criteria used in BRAC 1995. The result is shown below.

Recruitable Age (ARC Units)		2003
<i>Percent of population of recruitable age</i>		89,442 (17 - 34 yr olds in 7-county MSA)
Green	> 20%	X 356,801 (Total Population for MSA)
Yellow	< 20% and > 10%	25.1% (percent of population of recruitable age)
Red	< 10%	

When the same methodology is applied to the newly released 2004 Census population estimates, over 5,000 additional individuals are added to the recruitable nucleus. Also:

- The recruiting area for the Air Force Reserve Command is generally a 100-mile radius surrounding Robins Air Force Base. The total 2000 population for that 100 mile recruiting area was 4,828,744 of which 28.5% or 1,372,179 individuals were between 17-34 years of age.
- It should be noted, that Robins AFB is only 126 miles south of NAS Atlanta.
- Today, the host city for Robins AFB is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in Georgia and the Warner Robins MSA is the second fastest growing in Georgia.

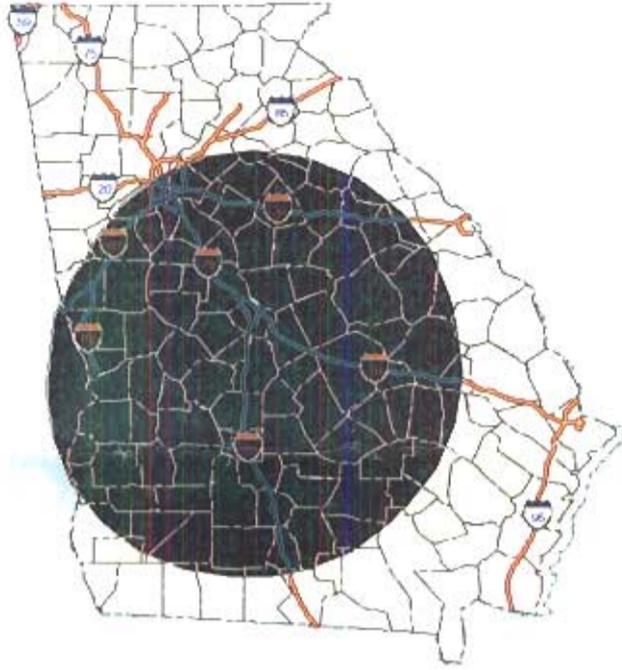
- In the Navy's BRAC Recommendation Report, part of the justification for relocating NAS Atlanta assets to the designated locations was, "this recommendation reduces excess capacity while maintaining reserve forces in regions with favorable demographics."

In the mid-90s, an F-15 Air National Guard unit was moved from Atlanta to Robins AFB. Not only was the unit moved, it simultaneously transitioned from F-15s to the B-1 aircraft. The bottom line: the B-1 unit activated on April 1 1996 and met its IOC date in December 1997 on time, following an **Excellent** Operational Readiness Inspection. The unit transitioned from the B-1 to the JSTARS mission prior to the FOC date. Clearly, unit vacancies did not deter the operational readiness of this unit which transitioned weapon systems as well as moved from Atlanta.

It should also be noted that Robins was rated 7<sup>th</sup> out of 184 installations by the Air Force regarding the ability to support SOF/CSAR type missions. While the SOF/CSAR mission is not the same as an attack helicopter mission, both operate helicopter weapon system platforms. This SOF/CSAR Mission Capability Index rating bodes well for Robins' ability to support this NAS Atlanta flying mission as compared to the military value rating of NAS Atlanta... 34<sup>th</sup> of 36\* installations evaluated by the Navy.

It is a safe assumption that with any move, military or private industry, not all personnel will follow the unit. The real question then seems to be whether the unit can operate (recruit) in the new locale. There is documented evidence that Middle Georgia can, and has, supported a Reserve unit. Robins: a mission ready base, located in a pro-defense region, with access to a recruitable population, equals success.

Submitted By:  
The Middle Georgia 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership  
Major General (Ret) Ron Smith  
478-922-3777  
smithr@21stcentury.mgacoxmail.com



DCN 4731  
Coalition Correspondence

