

**BASE VISIT REPORT****NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA, FL.****15 JUNE 2005****COMMISSIONER:**

- Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN, Ret.

**COMMISSION STAFF:**

- Joe Barrett (Lead Analyst)
- Syd Carroll (JC-S Team)
- Carol Schmidt (JC-S Team)
- Marilyn Wasleski (IA Team)

**LIST OF ATTENDEES:**

- Vice Admiral Kevin Moran, Commander, Naval Education and Training Command (NETC)
- Captain John Pruitt, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL
- Captain Peter Frano, Prospective Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL
- Captain Charlie Coe, Commanding Officer, Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT)
- Captain Paula Ricketts, Commanding Officer, Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC)
- Commander Mark Miller, Commanding Officer, Officer Training Command Pensacola (OTCP)
- Ms. Shirley McConnell, Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service Pensacola (DFAS)
- Mr. Larry Hauser, Site Director, DFAS Saufley Field
- Mr. James Ward, Executive Director, SPAWAR Systems Center, Charleston, SC
- Captain Donna Murdoch, Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory
- Captain Gary Dye, Chief of Staff, NETC
- Mr. Alan Snyder
- Mr. Ken Daniels
- Ms. Michele McNair
- Mr. Trey McDonald
- Mr. Scott Holmes
- Vice Admiral Jack Fetterman, USN, Ret.

**BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:**

- Naval Air Station Pensacola's mission is the support of operational and training missions of the tenants assigned. Located in Florida's panhandle, NAS Pensacola is the host installation to tenants whose primary mission is training and education, including Naval Education and Training Command; Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training; Naval Aviation Schools Command; Marine Aviation Training Support Group; Officer Training Command Pensacola; Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center, Saufley Field; Commander, Training Wing Six.
- The installation is home base to Navy's Blue Angels and the National Museum of Naval Aviation and provides services to DFAS Pensacola; DFAS Saufley Field; SPAWAR Detachment Pensacola; Center for Information Dominance, Corry Station; Naval Operational medicine Institute; and Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory.
- Commanding Officer, NAS Pensacola is double-hatted as Regional Commander, Navy Region Gulf Coast, whose mission is to provide shore installation services to and improve training mission execution and fleet readiness to NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, Corry Station, Saufley Field, and Bronson Field.

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:**

- **Navy Recommendations**

- ***(DoN-12)***: Realign Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL by relocating Officer Training Command Pensacola, FL to Naval Station Newport, RI and consolidating with Officer Training Command Newport, RI.
- ***(DoN-35)***: Realign Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, by consolidating Navy Region Gulf Coast, with Navy Region Southeast at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL.
- ***(DoN-10)***: Close Naval Submarine Base New London, CT. Relocate Naval Undersea Medical Institute Groton, CT to Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, and Fort Sam Houston, TX.

- **Joint Cross-Service Group Recommendations**

- ***(H&SA-17)***: Realign Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, by relocating Navy Education and Training Command to Naval Support Activity Millington, TN.
- ***(H&SA-22)***: Realign Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL, and Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, by relocating the correctional function of each to Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC, and consolidating them with the correctional function already at Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC, to form a single Level II Southeastern Joint Regional Correctional Facility.
- ***(H&SA-37)***: *Close the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) sites at Rock Island IL; Pensacola Saufley Field, FL; Norfolk Naval Station, VA; Lawton, OK;*

*Pensacola Naval Air Station, FL; Omaha, NE; Dayton, OH; St. Louis, MO; San Antonio, TX; San Diego, CA; Pacific Ford Island, HI; Patuxent River, MD; Limestone, ME; Charleston, SC; Orlando, FL; Rome, NY; Lexington, KY; Kansas City, MO; Seaside, CA; San Bernardino, CA; and Oakland, CA. Relocate and consolidate business, corporate and administrative functions to the Defense Supply Center-Columbus, OH, the Buckley Air Force Base Annex, Denver, CO, or the MG Emmett J. Bean Federal Center, Indianapolis, IN.*

- **(Tech-9):** Realign Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, by relocating the Space Warfare Systems Center Charleston, SC, detachment Pensacola, FL, to Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC.
- **(E&T-10):** (Joint Strike Fighter Initial Joint Training Site) Realign Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, by relocating to Eglin Air Force Base, FL, a sufficient number of front-line and instructor-qualified maintenance technicians and logistics support personnel to stand up the Department of the Navy's portion of the JSF Initial Joint Training Site hereby established at Eglin Air Force Base, FL.
- **(E&T-14):** (Undergraduate Pilot and Navigator Training) Realign Randolph Air Force Base, TX, by relocating Undergraduate Navigator Training to Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL.
- **(Med-15):** (Joint Centers of Excellence for Chemical, Biological, and Medical Research and Development and Acquisition) Realign Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, by relocating the Naval Aeromedical Research Laboratory to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

#### **MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:**

- Windshield Tour of CNATT; DFAS/SPAWAR (Bldg 603); OTCP Buildings 626, 601/602, 633, 2683, 3677, 3828; NAMRL Buildings 1953, 1811, 3229, 3226, 3233; Brig (Building 3873); NETC Buildings 628, 480.

#### **KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

- **Department of Navy Recommendation # 12:**
  - The officer Training Command mission is to develop civilians, enlisted and newly commissioned personnel morally, mentally and physically and imbues them with the highest ideas of honor, courage and commitment, in order to prepare graduates for service in the fleet as Naval Officers. The relocation of OTC training to Newport, RI consolidates the OTC training and creates a Training Center of Excellence by maximizing the efficient use of DON Training Facilities and Billets.
  - The three training schools at OTC Pensacola to be relocated are
    - Officer Candidate School-12 week course

- Limited Duty Officer/Chief Warrant Officer indoctrination School-5 week course
  - Direct Commission Officer Indoctrination School-2 week course
- 29 officers, 28 enlisted and 14 civilian positions have been identified to relocated to Newport, RI
- Newport has sufficient capacity to support OTC Pensacola schoolhouses, however, about \$2 million in rehab construction costs will be required to upgrade one facility.
- OTC Pensacola and Newport have fifteen common training curriculums. Pensacola offers five curriculums that Newport does not, which will transfer-Engineering, Naval Seamanship, Navigation, Small Arms Familiarization and Small Arms Qualifications.
- **H&SA Recommendation # 17: NETC and NETPDTC**
  - Community does not support the proposed relocation to Millington.
- **H&SA Recommendation # 22: Corrections**
  - Brig personnel work for Naval Air Station Commanding Officer. After realignment and relocation of corrections function to Charleston, if there continues to be a pretrial confinement requirement in the region, the facility can accommodate detainees but personnel to staff the facility will be “out of hide.” On average, there are 15 detainees a month in the Pensacola Brig.
  - Facility accepts detainees/prisoners from a multi-state area (currently housing prisoners from Gulfport, MS and Ingleside, TX, in addition to Pensacola area) and from other services, including Coast Guard (currently housing two local Marines). The facility has a limited capability of housing female prisoners but does not have manpower authorizations for Brig female staff.
  - Correctional Custody Unit (CCU) is collocated with, but is a separate entity from, the Brig. Representative stated that presently the installation intends to retain the CCU.
  - There is a large student population in the Pensacola area.
- **Medical Recommendation # 15:**
  - The Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory (NAMRL) conducts research, development, testing and evaluation in aerospace medicine and related sciences to enhance the health, safety and operational readiness of the Navy, Marine Corps, and other military personnel.
  - Research areas include: spatial orientation, motion adaptation, biomedical sciences, and aviation selection.
  - The value of NAMRL to the tri-service areomedical research lies in its ability to utilize its unique one of a kind device to support both spatial orientation and biomedical research. The Human Device and the Coriolis Acceleration Platform

would not be considered portable. This is only one of two devices in existence, Sweden has the other with a replacement cost of \$12 million.

- These devices are supported by a 12,000 sq. ft. engineering prototype facility with both engineering and technical expertise.
- NAMRL is a reimbursable command and have to compete for research funding.
- If the relocation stands the projects must be maintained throughout the move.
- The NAMRL human capital breakdown is as follows;
  - Civilians – 3 Admin, 7 Technical and 2 Scientists
  - Military – 11 Officers, 11 Enlisted
  - Contractor – & Admin, 2 Technical, and 5 Scientists
- The scientific personnel whether military, civilian or contractor are experts with multiple years of experience and not easily replaced.
- There are several risks to NAMRL capabilities in moving the Laboratory.
  - The spatial orientation devices are critical to the tri-service scientific community. They are not duplicated any where else. A risk verses cost assessment must be made when deciding which devices to move or replace.
  - A loss of human capital will result in a loss of capabilities if the scientists do not relocate.
  - Loosing Fleet connectivity and response to the requirements process, which must be maintained throughout the move
  - Loss of funding from projects during the move process to maintain laboratory, workforce and capabilities.

● **Education and Training Recommendation # 14:**

- The Air Force and Navy have been jointly involved in navigator training since the early 1990s, and until 1997 all navigator training was conducted at Pensacola NAS. In 1998 the Air Force moved navigation training for “heavy aircraft” to Randolph AFB. The purpose of the BRAC recommendation is to re-consolidate the training.
- The 10% excess airspace capacity at Pensacola for navigator training cited in the BRAC material is viewed as being an understatement of the actual capacity available for increased navigator training. According to Pensacola NAS training school officials, the issue at Pensacola is management of available airspace rather than the amount of airspace available.
- Pensacola NAS expects to receive a new model trainer aircraft in the 2009 time frame. MILCON money will be needed prior to then for new hangers for these planes. Now, however, officials are unable to price the MILCON requirement since all the decisions have not been made on the replacement aircraft type.

● **Education and Training Recommendation # 10:**



### DFAS Saufley Field

- DFAS Saufley Field provides information technology, functional management and program management services to DFAS and non-DFAS customers. While these services are performed at other DFAS locations, what is unique about the Saufley Field site are the customers for which these services are performed and the knowledge associated with servicing those customers. As a result careful planning is crucial to the successful transfer of these missions, according to the site director.
- The site directors' concern is that it is easy to train 3 to 4 new personnel each year, but with so few people expected to move, it will involve a major training effort. He feels it could take up to three years to get personnel fully up to speed on the workload. He said that the rules are easy to learn, it is the exceptions that are difficult. He even stated that it could take 4-5 years to truly understand the systems.
- Only 10% of the Saufley Field personnel are eligible for full retirement and 37 % for early retirement. Their attrition rate is only 1.3% per year.
- While there currently no excess capacity at the site they currently occupy, as stated above, if missions are moved out of the area per BRAC, additional facilities would be available.
- The site meets DoD Force Protection standards.
- Their unit cost for services is \$65 per hour; while they are required to charge \$72.99/hr in order to subsidize higher cost sites.
- The site director raised a concern about the workload that is currently scheduled to be transferred from the VA. They will be taking over paying all VA personnel. He said that staff have been working with the VA for almost 2 years in preparation for this transfer as there are many unique systems at each of the VA hospitals. The staff at Saufley Field have just and are learning these systems. If these people do not move, the question is how long will it take others to learn the systems and what will happen to the service? He says this could be a problem. This is also true for the legacy systems they maintain. Even if documentation exists on how to maintain the systems, if the people maintaining the systems do not move, this could be a problem for DFAS in the short run. In the long run, time can overcome the problem.
- Another example of transiting issues is when they took of the time and attendance for their Army customers. It took a year for the work to transition and another year for staff to become proficient on the system. However, he did state that they do have systems that will be easy to transfer.

### INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED

- NAMRL concerns are listed in the key issues identified section above under Medical.

- The concerns raised by the DFAS site directors are listed in the key issues identified section above under DFAS.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:**

- The community expressed concerns that the cost savings associated with the realignments out of Pensacola are overstated.
- The community concerns with the DFAS closure are as follows:
  - Delay closure for 5 years to ensure continuation of non-redundant, critical pay services. This will assure knowledgeable workforce to support technology driven requirements in region and allows seamless transfer of DFAS work to one of the three national centers. Lessons impact of transitioning one of the region's largest technology based employees. Creates more retirement eligible employees –50% of the employees are within 10 years of retirement.

**REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:**

- None.