

**BASE VISIT REPORT**

**MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, ID**

**27-MAY 2005**

**LEAD COMMISSIONER:** The Honorable James V. Hansen

**ACCOMPANYING COMMISSIONER:** N/A

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Tanya Cruz

**LIST OF ATTENDEES:**

**Mountain Home AFB**

Colonel Charles Shugg, Commander, 366<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing  
Colonel Joseph Ford, Vice Commander, 366<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing  
Colonel Robert Lemmon, Commander, 366<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group  
Colonel Helen Horn-Kingery, Commander, 366<sup>th</sup> Medical Group  
Lt. Col. Thomas Webster, Director of Staff, 366<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing  
CMSgt. Michael Sullivan, Command Chief Master Sergeant, 366<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing  
Mr. Drew Arp, Deputy Commander, 366<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron  
Mr. Nathan Rowland, Environmental Flight Chief, 366<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron  
Mr. Scott Mayberry, General Engineer, 366<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron

**Congressional Delegation**

Mr. Bob Ford, Office of Senator Mike Crapo, Aide  
Mr. Mike Tracy, Office of Senator Larry Craig, Aide  
Ms. Megan Milam, Office of Congressman Mike Simpson, Aide  
Ms. Missy Johnson, Office of Congressman Butch Otter, Aide

**State Delegation**

Colonel (Ret) Billy Richey, Office of Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Military Affairs Aide  
Mr. David Lehman, Office of Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Aide

**BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:**

The mission of the 366<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base consists of three goals:  
1) prepare Airmen and their families, professionally and personally for expeditionary operations,  
2) combine technology and innovation to maximize combat potency, and 3) foster an environment that promotes integration of all facets of wing operations.

### **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION: AF-18**

Realign Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID. Distribute the 366th Fighter Wing assigned F-15Cs (18 aircraft) to the 57th Fighter Wing, Nellis Air Force Base, NV (nine aircraft), to the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville International Airport AGS, FL (six aircraft), and to retirement (three aircraft). The 366th Fighter Wing will distribute assigned F-16 Block 52 aircraft to the 169th Fighter Wing McEntire AGS, SC (nine aircraft), the 57th Wing, Nellis Air Force Base, NV (five aircraft), and to backup inventory (four aircraft). Realign Nellis Air Force Base. The 57th Wing, Nellis Air Force Base, NV, will distribute F-16 Block 42 aircraft to the 138th Fighter Wing Tulsa International Airport AGS, OK (three aircraft), and retire the remaining F-16 Block 42 aircraft (15 aircraft). The 57th Wing also will distribute F-16 Block 32 aircraft (six aircraft) to the 144th Fighter Wing Fresno Air Terminal AGS, CA, and to retirement (one aircraft). Realign Elmendorf Air Force Base. The 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID, will receive F-15E aircraft from the 3d Wing, Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK (18 aircraft), and attrition reserve (three aircraft).

### **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:**

Military value was the predominant consideration in moving the F-15Es from Elmendorf (36) to Mountain Home (23) and F-16s to Nellis (12) and McEntire (48). Additionally, realigning the eight F-16 models and four F-16 engine types weighed in the final F-16 force structure laydown. Mountain Home currently operates several types of aircraft; this recommendation realigns Mountain Home to fly only F-15Es, streamlining operations at a location that is well suited for air-to-ground, low-level and air-to-air flight training. This recommendation also aligns common versions of F-16s and F-15Cs.

### **MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:**

During the Commission Staff visit on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005, I saw the following facilities:

- The B-1 hangars still existing on the base
- The old and new housing which has been funded in phases to replace all old housing by 2009 (of note: Senator Craig inserted \$35-40 million to help fund the new housing)
- The hospital, built in 1989, carries all specialties, a pharmacy, and possesses full mobility and decontamination capability.
- The 366<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group facility (formerly the bomber squadron facility)
- The F-15C squadron facility and hangar

All facilities reviewed appeared to be in good condition with plenty of room for growth.

During the Commissioner's visit on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005, we viewed by Blackhawk Helicopter the Mountain Home Range Complex. Mountain Home's range consists of 5.5 million acres of useable land under Military Operating Airspace (MOA) including the following MOAs: Jarbidge, ID; Owyhee, ID; Paradise East, NV; Paradise West, OR; R-3202 Saylor Creek Low, ID; R-3202 Saylor Creek High, ID; R-3204A Juniper Buttes, ID; and R-3204B Juniper Buttes, ID<sup>1</sup>, as well as approximately 2 million acres available under Saddle Military Operating Airspace. The airspace is unconstrained and minutes flying time from the installation (note: per

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<sup>1</sup> *Regulatory/Non-Regulatory Special Use Airspace Areas*, January 2005, Airspace and Rules Office of System Operations and Safety, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation.

Jim Aarnio, there are no supersonic corridors or flight operations associated with units at Mountain Home in these flight areas).

In addition, we viewed Mountain Home's 13,500 ft. runway and its ramp which can hold 150 fighter aircraft in addition to the existing 72 aircraft (note: The capacity analysis shows 71 aircraft at the location. Col. Shugg told me that the correct figure is 72—31 F-15Es, 20 F-15Cs, and 21 F-16s—and that 12 of the F-15Es are currently in Guam.). The runway and the ramp have recently been renovated at the cost of \$29 million and \$3 million.

From the helicopter, we also saw the reinforced fence, a \$3.1 million homeland defense project, which has been placed around the base's perimeter.

### **KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

There appears to be excess capacity in that there are B-1 hangars still in existence in addition to the KC-135 hangars and the fighter hangars. However, according to Col. Shugg, Wing Commander, the additional space offered by the hangars enables the base to conduct indoor maintenance and necessary aircraft modifications (to the F-15Cs and F-16CJs).

Being in a remote location, Mountain Home has not experienced any encroachment issues. There are no environmental issues that impact Mountain Home's ability to train and carry out their mission. The airspace restrictions that exist are voluntary. No airspace restrictions impact the mission capability.

### **INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED**

There were no installation concerns raised. The Wing Commander told us that it is not their role to express an opinion regarding the recommendation. He said that Mountain Home is able and prepared to execute the Secretary of Defense's realignment recommendation. He did say, however, that there is a tradeoff. While having three different types of fighter aircraft allows them to train each day how they would actually fight, having one type of aircraft produces efficiencies and saves money. Though the installation will lose some of the personnel that are part of the aircraft maintenance unit, the number of flyers will not change since they are moving from aircraft with one seat to aircraft with two seats.

### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:**

The Congressional Delegation representatives were present during the briefing portion of the Commissioner's visit. They did not voice any concerns at this time.

Col. Joseph Ford provided the Commission a booklet developed by the community which provides general information about the Mountain Home community and its growth, the Mountain Home base, and the relationship between the two entities. The booklet also provides an FY04 Economic Impact Statement of Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID and outlines the economic impacts of the recommended realignment. It states that "the economic impacts of such actions would be noticeable in a small community like Mountain Home." To highlight this point, the booklet includes, among others, the following examples:

- “The loss of 305 indirect jobs (school teachers, clerks, dental assistants, etc.) represents an estimated payroll loss of \$6,839,625 (305 x 22,425 which is the per capita income level of Elmore county according to the US Census 2002)
- Approximately 550 living units would be affected, either owned units that would be for sale or rentals that would become vacant. This would undoubtedly result in a downturn in the real estate market for the area.
- The school district would see a reduction in Impact Aid from DoD based on the specific number of children no longer enrolled here.”<sup>2</sup>

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

Commissioner Hansen reviewed this report and noted that it appeared accurate and complete. He did not request any additions or changes to this report.

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<sup>2</sup> “Mountain Home, Idaho and Mountain Home AFB One community!” booklet received May 26, 2005 from Col. Joseph Ford, Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID. Prepared by Economic Development Office, City of Mountain Home.

# DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

## BASE SUMMARY SHEET

### Mountain Home AFB, ID

#### INSTALLATION MISSION

- U.S. Air Force's air expeditionary wing and F-15C/D, F-15E, F-16CJ/D operations.

#### DoD RECOMMENDATION

- Realign Mountain Home AFB, ID by distributing aircraft from the 366<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing as follows:
  - 9 F-15Cs to the 57<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Nellis AFB, NV
  - 6 F-15Cs to the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Jacksonville IAP AGS, FL
  - 3 F-15Cs to retirement
  - 9 F-16 Block 52s to the 169<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, McEntire AGS, SC
  - 5 F-16 Block 52s to the 57<sup>th</sup> Wing, Nellis AFB, NV
  - 4 F-16 Block 52s to backup inventory
  - Total aircraft = 36
- Realign Elmendorf AFB, AK by distributing aircraft from the 3d Wing as follows:
  - 18 F-15Es to the 366<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Mountain Home AFB, ID
  - 3 F-15Es to attrition reserve
  - Total aircraft =21

#### DoD JUSTIFICATION

- Military value was the predominant consideration in moving the F-15Es from Elmendorf (36) to Mountain Home (23) and F-16s to Nellis (12) and McEntire (48)
- Streamlines Mountain Home's aircraft operations to fly only F-15Es since its location is well suited for air-to-ground, low-level and air-to-air flight training.
- This recommendation also aligns common versions of F-16s and F-15Cs.

#### COST CONSIDERATIONS DEVELOPED BY DoD

- One-Time Costs: \$ 74.2 million
- Net Savings (Cost) during Implementation: \$21.2 million
- Annual Recurring Savings: \$37.8 million
- Return on Investment Year: 2005 (Immediate)
- Net Present Value over 20 Years: \$389.0 million

**MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS OF THIS RECOMMENDATION (EXCLUDES CONTRACTORS)**

	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Students</u>
<b>Baseline</b>	4,312	524	
Reductions			
Realignments	(498)	(30)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,814</b>	<b>494</b>	

**MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS OF ALL RECOMMENDATIONS AFFECTING THIS INSTALLATION (INCLUDES STUDENTS)**

	<u>Out</u>		<u>In</u>		<u>Net Gain (Loss)</u>	
	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>
This recommendation	(1,195)	(53)	697	23	(498)	(30)
Other recommendations	(40)	(1)			(40)	(1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1,235)</b>	<b>(54)</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>(538)</b>	<b>(31)</b>

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- Nellis Air Force Base is in a National Ambient Air Quality Standards nonattainment area for carbon monoxide (serious), particulate matter (PM10, serious), and ozone (8-hr, subpart 1). A preliminary assessment indicates that nonconformity determination may be required to verify that positive conformity can be achieved. Costs to mitigate this potential impact have been included in the payback calculation and this is not expected to be an impediment to the implementation of this recommendation.
- There are also potential impacts air quality; cultural, archeological, or tribal resources; land use constraints or sensitive resource areas; noise; threatened and endangered species or critical habitat; waste management; water resources; and wetlands that may need to be considered during the implementation of this recommendation. There are no anticipated impacts to dredging; or marine mammals, resources, or sanctuaries.
- Impacts of costs include \$1.89 million in costs for environmental compliance and waste management. These costs were included in the payback calculation. There are no anticipated impacts to the costs of environmental restoration. The aggregate environmental impact of all recommended BRAC actions affecting the installations in this recommendation have been reviewed. There are no known environmental impediments to the implementation of this recommendation.

**REPRESENTATION**

Governor: Dirk Kempthorne (R)  
 Senators: Larry Craig (R)  
               Michael D. Crapo (R)  
 Representative: Mike Simpson (R)

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

### **This Recommendation**

- Potential Employment Loss: 833 jobs (528 direct and 305 indirect)
- MSA Job Base: 14,441 jobs
- Percentage: 5.8 percent decrease

### **Other Recommendation**

- Potential Employment Loss: 65 jobs (41 direct and 24 indirect)
- MSA Job Base: 14,441 jobs
- Percentage: 0.45 percent decrease

### **Cumulative**

- Potential Employment Loss: 898 jobs (569 direct and 329 indirect)
- MSA Job Base: 14,441 jobs
- Percentage: 6.2 percent decrease

## **MILITARY ISSUES**

## **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ISSUES**

## **ITEMS OF SPECIAL EMPHASIS**

Tanya Cruz/Air Force/23 May 2005