

**BASE VISIT REPORT**

**Sheppard Air Force Base, TX**

**Monday, June 20, 2005**

**LEAD COMMISSIONER:** None. Commissioner Hill was scheduled for this base visit; however, his plane was delayed and he could not make it to this base visit. We proceeded with the briefing as planned.

**ACCOMPANYING COMMISSIONER:** None

**COMMISSION STAFF:**

Mr. Syd Carroll, Senior Analyst

Ms. Lesia Mandzia, Senior Analyst \*

**LIST OF ATTENDEES:**

**BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:**

- 82TRW Mission Statement – “Global Training to Sustain Warfighter Capability”
- 80FTW Mission Statement – “Provide Combat Airpower by Producing Top Quality Fighter Pilots for the NATO Alliance”

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:**

**Three recommendations:**

1. Realign Sheppard AFB, TX, by relocating to Eglin AFB, FL, a sufficient number of front-line and instructor-qualified maintenance technicians and logistics support personnel to stand up the Air Force’s portion of the JSF Initial Joint Training Site hereby established at Eglin AFB, FL.
2. Realign Moody AFB, GA by relocating: Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Training for Pilots and Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Training for Weapons Systems Officers to Sheppard AFB, TX.
3. Realign Sheppard AFB, TX, by relocating basic and specialty enlisted medical training to Fort Sam Houston.

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:**

**DOD RECOMMENDATION 1**

Library Routing Slip 2005 BRAC Commission Materials  
Title of Item: Base Visit Report  
Installation or Community: Sheppard AFB  
Source: Commission General  
Certified Material? yes  no   
Analyst / Provider: Lesia Mandzia Date Received: 7/29/05

- Realign Sheppard AFB, TX, by relocating to Eglin AFB, FL, a sufficient number of front-line and instructor-qualified maintenance technicians and logistics support personnel to stand up the Air Force's portion of the JSF Initial Joint Training Site hereby established at Eglin AFB, FL.

#### **DOD JUSTIFICATION**

- This recommendation establishes Eglin AFB, FL as an Initial Joint Training Site that teaches entry-level aviators and maintenance technicians how to safely operate and maintain the new Joint Strike Fighter aircraft. The Department is scheduled to take delivery of the F-35 beginning in 2008. This joint basing arrangement will allow the Interservice Training Review Organization (ITRO) process to establish a DoD baseline program in a consolidated/joint school with curricula that permits services latitude to preserve service-unique culture and a faculty and staff that brings a "Train as we fight; jointly" national perspective to the learning process.

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#### **DOD RECOMMENDATION 2**

- Realign Moody AFB, GA by relocating: a) Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Training for Pilots and b) Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Training for Weapons Systems Officers to Sheppard AFB, TX.

#### **DOD JUSTIFICATION**

- This recommendation will realign and consolidate USAF's primary phase of undergraduate flight training functions to reduce excess/unused basing capacity to eliminate redundancy, enhance jointness for UNT/Naval Flight Officer (NFO) training, reduce excess capacity, and improve military value. The basing arrangement that flows from this recommendation will allow the Inter-service Training Review Organization (ITRO) process to establish a DoD baseline program in UNT/NFO with curricula that permit services latitude to preserve service-unique culture and faculty and staff that brings a "Train as we fight; jointly" national perspective to the learning process.

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#### **DOD RECOMMENDATION 3**

- Realign Sheppard AFB, TX, by relocating basic and specialty enlisted medical training to Fort Sam Houston. (Note: this recommendation also realigns basic and specialty enlisted medical training at Naval Station Great Lakes, IL, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA, and Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA to Fort Sam Houston.)

#### **DOD JUSTIFICATION**

- To transform legacy medical infrastructure into a modernized joint operational medicine platform. This recommendation reduces excess capacity within the San Antonio Multi-

Service Market (MSM: two or more facilities co-located geographically with “shared” beneficiary population) while maintaining the level of care for the beneficiaries, enhancing opportunities for provider currency, and maintaining surge capacity.

- Co-locating all (except Aerospace Medicine) medical basic and specialty enlisted training at Fort Sam Houston, TX, with the potential of transitioning to a joint training effort, will result in reduced infrastructure and excess system capacity, while capitalizing on the synergy of the co-location of similar training conducted by each of the three Services.
- The development of a joint training center will result in standardized training for medical enlisted specialties enhancing interoperability and joint deployability.
- Co-location of medical enlisted training with related military clinical activities of the San Antonio Regional Medical Center at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX, provides synergistic opportunities to bring clinical insight into the training environment, realtime. As a result, both the healthcare delivery and training experiences are exponentially enhanced.

### **MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:**

882<sup>nd</sup> Training Group and 80<sup>th</sup> Flying Wing facilities

### **KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

- For relocating basic and specialty enlisted medical training to Fort Sam Houston -
  1. It is unclear what number of students versus others such as civilian instructors are affected by this recommendation.
  2. If the enlisted medical training is moved to Fort Sam Houston, will there be opportunity for clinical training at the new San Antonio Regional Medical Center or will students have to travel to another location to obtain that training?
  3. How will the Air Force specific programs be dealt with – will they remain Air Force programs or will they be combined with like programs?

### **INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED**

Relocating basic and specialty enlisted medical training to Fort Sam Houston –

It is unclear what exact courses will be relocated to Fort Sam Houston. Sheppard has some programs that enlisted and officers take. Additionally, the recommendation was silent on officer and readiness courses.

Until Sheppard finds out what exact courses are affected by the recommendation it is hard to predict what number of individuals will be affected by the recommendation.

Air Force staff are also concerned about the different training philosophy's (i.e. Air Force V. Navy v. Army).

-Development of the Joint Strike Fighter Test Site at Eglin AFB –

-Relocation of pilot Training to Sheppard AFB –

No issues raised by the installation.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:**

**REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:** None