

BASE VISIT REPORT

**Moody Air Force Base
Valdosta, Georgia**

Tuesday June 28, 2005

LEAD COMMISSIONER: None

ACCOMPANYING COMMISSIONER: None

COMMISSION STAFF:

Mr. Ray S. Carroll, Jr., Senior Analyst, Joint Issues Team
Mr. Tim MacGregor, Senior Analyst, Air Force Team

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

Requested from the Command

BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:

Moody Air Force Base is home to the 347th Rescue Wing. The mission of the Wing is to organize, train and employ a combat-ready, HC-130 and HH-60 rescue wing consisting of approximately 4,054 military and civilian personnel. The wing executes worldwide peacetime and combat search and rescue (CSAR) operations in support of humanitarian and U.S. national security interests, and in support of the global war on terrorism (GWOT). The 347th Rescue Wing is the Air Force's only active-duty combat search and rescue wing. On Oct 1, 2003, the 347th RQW was realigned from ACC to AFSOC in an effort to bring all CSAR assets under the same command.

Moody also hosts and supports Air Education and Training Command's (AETC) 479th Flying Training Group and Air Combat Command's (ACC) 820th Security Forces Group. The 479th Flying Training Group consists of four operational training squadrons. The 49th and 435th Flying Training Squadrons operate the newly upgraded T-38C aircraft, and the 3rd Flying Training Squadron, which activated on April 3, 2001, operates the T-6A "Texan II" aircraft. The Group conducts initial Joint Primary Aircraft Training (JPATS) and Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) for the Air Force's newest generation of aviators. The 39th Flying Training Squadron, part of the Air Force Reserve Command, was activated on April 2, 2001, under the 479th FTG, and provides reserve instructor pilots to augment their active duty counterparts.

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Title of Item: Base Visit Report

Installation or Community: Moody AFB

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:

Education and Training - 14

Realign Moody Air Force Base, GA, as follows:

- Relocate the Primary Phase of Fixed-wing Pilot Training to Columbus Air Force Base, MS, Laughlin Air Force Base, TX, and Vance Air Force Base, OK;
- Relocate Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Training for Pilots to Columbus Air Force Base, MS, Laughlin Air Force Base, TX, Randolph Air Force Base, TX, Sheppard Air Force Base, TX, and Vance Air Force Base, OK;
- Relocate Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Training for Weapons Systems Officers to Columbus Air Force Base, MS, Laughlin Air Force Base, TX, Sheppard Air Force Base, TX, and Vance Air Force Base, OK; and
- Relocate Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals Training for Instructor Pilots to Randolph Air Force Base, TX.

**Air Force – 6: Eielson Air Force Base, AK, Moody Air Force Base, GA,
and Shaw Air Force Base, SC**

Realign Eielson Air Force Base, AK.

- The 354th Fighter Wing's assigned A-10 aircraft will be distributed to
 - o The 917th Wing Barksdale Air Force Base, LA (three aircraft);
 - o To a new active duty unit at Moody Air Force Base, GA (12 aircraft);
 - o And to backup inventory (three aircraft).
- The 354th Fighter Wing's F-16 aircraft will be distributed to
 - o The 57th Wing, Nellis Air Force Base, NV (18 aircraft).
- The Air National Guard Tanker unit and rescue alert detachment will remain as tenant on Eielson.

Realign Moody Air Force Base, GA.

- Relocate base-level ALQ-184 intermediate maintenance to Shaw Air Force Base, SC, establishing a Centralized Intermediate Repair Facility (CIRF) at Shaw Air Force Base, SC for ALQ-184 pods.

Realign Shaw Air Force Base, SC.

- Relocate base-level TF-34 engine intermediate maintenance to Moody Air Force Base, establishing a CIRF at Moody Air Force Base for TF-34 engines.

Air Force – 35: Realign Pope Air Force Base, NC, Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, PA, and Yeager Air Guard Station, WV

Realign Pope Air Force Base (Air Force Base), NC.

- Distribute the 43d Airlift Wing's C-130E aircraft (25 aircraft) to:
 - o The 314th Airlift Wing, Little Rock Air Force Base, AR;
- Realign the 23d Fighter Group's A-10 aircraft (36 aircraft)
 - o to Moody Air Force Base, GA;
- Transfer real property accountability to the Army; disestablish the 43rd Medical Group and establish a medical squadron.
- At Little Rock Air Force Base, AR,
 - o Realign eight C-130E aircraft to backup inventory;
 - o Retire 27 C-130Es;
 - o Realign:
 - One C-130J aircraft to the 143d Airlift Wing (ANG), Quonset State Airport Air Guard Station, RI;
 - Two C-130Js to the 146th Airlift Wing (ANG), Channel Islands Air Guard Station, CA; and
 - Transfer four C-130Js from the 314th Airlift Wing (AD) to the 189th Airlift Wing (ANG), Little Rock Air Force Base.

Realign Yeager Airport Air Guard Station (AGS), WV, by

- Realigning eight C-130H aircraft to Pope/Fort Bragg to form a 16 aircraft Air Force Reserve/active duty associate unit, and
- Relocating flying-related expeditionary combat support (ECS) to Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport/Shepherd Field AGS (aerial port and fire fighters).

Close Pittsburgh International Airport (IAP) Air Reserve Station (ARS), PA,

- Relocate 911th Airlift Wing's (AFRC) eight C-130H aircraft to Pope/Fort Bragg to form a 16 aircraft Air Force Reserve/active duty associate unit.
- Relocate AFRC operations and maintenance manpower to Pope/Fort Bragg.
- Relocate flight related ECS (aeromedical squadron) to Youngstown-Warren Regional APT ARS.
- Relocate all remaining Pittsburgh ECS and headquarters manpower to Offutt Air Force Base, NE.
- Air National Guard units at Pittsburgh are unaffected.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:

(E&T – 14) 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 a faculty and staff that brings a “Train as we fight; jointly” national perspective to the learning process.

(AF – 6) Eielson’s (11) military value is high because of its close proximity to valuable airspace and ranges. Eielson is, however, an expensive base to operate and improve (build). The Air Force recommends realigning Eielson, but keeping the base open in a “warm” status using the resident Air National Guard units and a portion of the infrastructure to continue operating the base for USAF/Joint/Combined exercises. The Air Force distributes the F-16s to Nellis (13) a base with high military value, and the A-10s to Moody (11-SOF/CSAR), which also ranks high in military value. The CIRFs at Moody and Shaw compliment force structure moves and anticipate these bases as workload centers for these commodities.

(AF – 35) Downsizing Pope Air Force Base takes advantage of mission-specific consolidation opportunities to reduce operational costs, maintenance costs and the manpower footprint. The smaller manpower footprint facilitates transfer of the installation to the Army. Active duty C-130s and A-10s will move to Little Rock (17-airlift) and Moody (11-SOF/CSAR) respectively, to consolidate force structure at those two bases and enable Army recommendations at Pope. At Little Rock, older aircraft are retired or converted to back-up inventory and J-model C-130s are aligned under the Air National Guard. Little Rock grows to become the single major active duty C-130 unit, streamlining maintenance and operation of this aging weapon system at Pope, the synergistic, multi-service relationship will continue between Army airborne and Air Force airlift forces with the creation of an active duty/Reserve associate unit. The C-130 unit remains as an Army tenant on an expanded Ft. Bragg. With the disestablishment of the 43rd Medical Group, the AF will maintain the required manpower to provide primary care, flight and occupational medicine to support the Air Force active duty military members. The Army will maintain the required manpower necessary to provide primary care, flight and occupational medicine to support the Army active duty military members. The Army will provide ancillary and specialty medical services for all assigned Army and Air Force military members (lab, x-ray, pharmacy, etc).

The major command's capacity briefing reported Pittsburgh ARS land constraints prevented the installation from hosting more than 10 C-130 aircraft and Yeager AGS cannot support more than eight C-130s. Careful analysis of mission capability indicates that it is more appropriate to robust the proposed airlift mission at Fort Bragg to an optimal 16 aircraft C-130 squadron, which provides greater military value and offers unique opportunities for Jointness.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:

Various facilities during driving tour:

- Wing headquarters for briefings and senior staff Q&A
- Community support (Base Exchange, Commissary)
- Family housing and dormitories
- Flightline areas, including ramps, hangars and maintenance facilities
- Industrial and flying operations facilities

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

With respect to E&T Recommendation 14, command officials provided the following information.

- The primary benefit of conducting Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) at Moody AFB is the lack of encroachment from the local community. The entire airspace around the base is controlled by military air traffic controllers and is ideal for training new pilots.
- The downside of conducting UPT at Moody is the TDY required of the students. Students complete their initial training at Moody and then transfer to their base of assignment. If implemented, the DOD recommendation would relocate UPT to the bases where the pilots will be assigned thus eliminating the TDY to Moody for initial training.
- Command officials believe that it makes sense to relocate UPT to the bases where the pilots will be assigned.
- Due to limited on-base unaccompanied officer housing, the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) students are housed in off base leased apartments, paid for by Air Education and Training Command.
- Metal aircraft shelters (awning-style) encompassing large portions of the parking ramp were that built to protect the T-6s and T-38s and are not big enough to protect fighter-type aircraft. They would need to be removed when the training aircraft depart. Cost is estimated at several million dollars.

With respect to Air Force Recommendations 6 and 35, command officials provided the following information.

- Moody was built to accommodate A-10 and F-16 aircraft, and has the facilities and capacity to handle 3 A-10 squadrons. Airspace capacity is not a problem at Moody even with A-10s and C-130s using the same space.
- The installation once housed five 18 PAA F-16 squadrons.
- AICUZ Noise footprint used for analysis is still based on F-16 noise patterns, though the A-10 will be much quieter. Community interaction with the base, vis-à-vis encroachment into noise sensitive areas, is therefore conservative.
- Training opportunities for A-10 crews assigned to Moody are viewed by command officials as excellent. Moody is at the hub of the locations where A-10 crews now train – Fort Stewart, Fort Bragg, Fort Benning, and the ranges in Florida. Also, local ranges available in the Moody area are considered good for A-10 training.
- Local officials have told Moody officials that the communities around the base can accommodate and support an additional 15,000 military personnel.

- Moody AFB has limited on-base family housing (~300 units). Approximately 350 more are slated to be built under privatized housing projects, though approximately 95 have been identified for demolition. Total projected Military Family Housing at Moody is ~555 units.
 - As noted above, unaccompanied personnel housing is limited as well, therefore certain student pilots are housed in leased apartments off base

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED

- The timing of the inbound A-10s and personnel must be carefully deconflicted and timed with the outbound T-6 and T-38 moves.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:

None

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:

None