(Revised 10/17/03)

DRAFT
DoD
BRAC 2005 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Should communities perceive military construction (MilCon) as an indicator of whether their installations will be realigned or closed?

A: The presence or absence of funding for military construction is not an indication of military service intentions or future recommendations to the SECDEF under BRAC. The Department funds its military construction based on its current highest priority requirements recognizing that it may make investments in installations that are ultimately selected for closure or realignment.

Q: Will encroachment issues at military bases factor into the decision-making process?

A: In accordance with the requirements of the BRAC statute, the Department will base all of its recommendations upon approved selection criteria that reflect military value as the primary consideration. The law further requires that the selection criteria address the ability of both existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions and personnel. To the extent that encroachment limits an installation in fulfilling its mission requirements, it will be factored into military value. The proposed selection criteria must be made available for public review not later than Dec 31, 2003, and finalized by Feb 16, 2004.

Q: There have been concerns and questions about environmental costs. Will environmental costs be factors in recommending a base for realignment or closure?

A: In accordance with the requirements of the BRAC statute, the Department will base all its recommendations upon approved selection criteria that reflect military value as the primary consideration. The law further requires that the selection criteria address the impact of costs related to environmental restoration as well as waste management and environmental compliance. The proposed selection criteria must be made available for public review not later than Dec 31, 2003 and finalized by Feb 16, 2004.

Q: What were the closure results of the last four rounds of BRAC (88, 91, 93 and 95) from the total available to the number selected for BRAC action?

A: The four prior rounds of BRAC resulted in recommendations to close 97 out of 495 major domestic installations. BRAC 88 – closed16 major installations; BRAC 91 – closed 26 major installations; BRAC 93 – closed 28 major installations; and BRAC 95 – closed 27 major installations.

Q: How much has the DoD saved through the previous rounds of closures and realignments?

A: The four previous rounds produced net savings (cost avoidance) of approximately $16.7 billion through 2001 and approximately $6.5 billion annually thereafter. Independent studies have repeatedly verified that savings from BRAC far exceeded costs.

Q: How much excess capacity does the DoD currently have?

A: The Department will not know its current excess capacity until the completion of BRAC process. In April 1998, the Department completed a report for Congress that estimated that it retained approximately 20-25% in excess capacity across the Department.

Q: When will the Department complete the BRAC analysis and make its recommendations available to the public?

A: The National Defense Authorization Act for FY02 established the following milestones for the 2005 BRAC round: publish proposed selection criteria for a 30 day comment period by December 31, 2003; publish final selection criteria by February 16, 2004; and submit a report to Congress with the FY05 budget justification along with a comprehensive installation inventory and force structure plan. By May 16, 2005, the Secretary of Defense will forward the recommendations for closure and realignment to the BRAC Commission, at which time the information will be available to the public. The BRAC Commission must forward its reports to the President by September 8, 2005. The President will have until September 23, 2005, to accept or reject the recommendations on an all or nothing basis and forward the recommendations to Congress. Once the President forwards the recommendations to Congress, Congress will have 45 legislative days to enact a joint resolution rejecting all the recommendations or they become binding on the Department.

Q: Where will funds come from to perform the BRAC analysis/evaluations?

A: BRAC analysis and evaluations are performed within available resources. They are currently funded by Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds.

Q: Will near-term future new force-structure bed downs be incorporated into the BRAC 2005 process?

A: Where the BRAC timeline can accommodate operational imperatives, new force structure bed downs will be incorporated in the BRAC process. Using the BRAC process offers the opportunity to make the most efficient and effective use of the capacity and capabilities of the Department.

Q: If a base is approved for closure or realignment, how long will it take?

A: Under the BRAC law, actions to close or realign a base must be initiated within two years of the date the President transmits the BRAC Commission's recommendations report to Congress, and must be completed within six years of that same date.

Q: Can Bases/Communities get an assessment of how they "scored" during the "95 BRAC"?

A: How an installation "scored" during the 1995 BRAC round is not indication of how it might "score" during the 2005 BRAC round. In accordance with the BRAC statute, when considering installations for closure or realignment, the Department must consider all military installations equally, without regard to whether the installation has been previously considered or proposed for closure or realignment by the Department. However, for those interested in historical information, the Office of the Secretary of Defense maintains the documentation used by the 1995 BRAC Commission. The records are located at 1745 Jefferson Davis Highway, Crystal Square 4, Suite 105, Arlington, VA. The information is open to the public; however, we ask that individuals call the office, (703) 602-3207, before arriving to ensure a government representative is present. There is a copier available.

Q: How will "Jointness" be assessed during this next BRAC?

A: The BRAC law requires that closure and realignment recommendations be based on published selection criteria that must make military value the primary consideration. The law further provides that military value must include impacts on joint warfighting, readiness and training.

In his November 15, 2002, memorandum, the SecDef established the goals and priorities for the 2005 BRAC round. A primary objective of BRAC 2005, in addition to realigning our base structure to meet our post-Cold War force structure, is to examine and implement opportunities for greater jointness. To reinforce the idea that we should be looking across traditional lines to examine the potential for jointness, the Secretary established an internal BRAC 2005 decision making body that was joint at every level. The Infrastructure Executive Council (IEC), chaired by the Deputy Secretary, and composed of the Secretaries of the Military Departments and their Chiefs of Services, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) (USD(AT&L)), will be the policy making and oversight body for the entire BRAC 2005 . The subordinate Infrastructure Steering Group (ISG), chaired by the USD(AT&L) and composed of the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Military Department Assistant Secretaries for installations and environment, the Service Vice Chiefs, and the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment) (DUSD(I&E)), will oversee joint cross-service analyses of common business oriented functions and ensure the integration of that process with the Military Department and Defense Agency specific analyses of all other functions.

Q: How can communities be involved in BRAC to enhance their support to the Base population/mission and their prospects during the BRAC 2005 round?

A: The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission will solicit community input once it has received the Secretary of Defense's base closure and realignment recommendations in May 2005.

Q: If the final decision is to close or realign the base, with whom will community leaders work in the transition of the base from its current mission to civilian use?

A: Although an enormously complex undertaking, involving the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, and state and local governments, each Military Department will have a central point of contact at the closing activity to assist in coordinating the involvement of the various organizations. Additionally, DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment is chartered to assist local communities with planning for the reuse of closing and realigning installations and in that capacity will provide individual community assistance.

Q: How will property be disposed of or sold?

A: The BRAC statute provides the Department with a variety of mechanisms for disposing of property at closed or realigned military installations. While we cannot speculate on which mechanism might be used at any given installation, in previous rounds of BRAC, Federal real property was made available by public benefit conveyances for airport, education, and homeless assistance; Federal transfers to Native American tribes; economic development conveyances to local redevelopment authorities; and public sales, just to name a few.

Q: How will you decide reuse of the base?

A: The Department of Defense does not decide the reuse of former military installations. Once the property is declared surplus to the needs of the Federal Government, it is the job of the local community, through its designated local redevelopment authority, to plan for the reuse of the surplus property.

Q: Our base has some environmental contamination. Will the DoD clean it up?

A: DoD has a continuing obligation to perform environmental cleanup at all of its installations, regardless of whether a base is identified for closure or realignment.

Q: During the time cleanup is taking place -- several years in many cases -- will the base property be vacant and unused until all the cleanup is completed?

A: In previous rounds, from the time of the base's selection for closure, several options were available for property to be used until it was disposed so that communities could

begin using base facilities promptly and economic redevelopment could occur. Consistent with public health and safety, once a contractual arrangement was in place, property could be leased or, in certain circumstances, deeded while the property was being environmentally prepared for transfer

Q: What comment do you have for communities impacted by closure?

A: Communities affected by closure and realignment decisions in the last four rounds of BRAC have successfully transitioned to productive economic. We are committed to working with BRAC 05 communities to duplicate that success.

Q. There are websites on the internet that indicate that a list of potential base closures already exists. Does DoD maintain a list of bases it wants to close?

A: No, the Department does not maintain a list of bases it wants to close. The BRAC analytical process will not result in Departmental closure and realignment recommendations until May 2005.

Q. How will the realignment of military forces and bases overseas, as recently reported, impact BRAC 2005 efforts?

A. On March 20, 2003, the Secretary directed the development of a comprehensive and integrated presence and basing strategy looking out 10 years. Results of that effort, including rationalizing areas of potential excesses and identifying the utility of overseas installations, should be available to inform the BRAC 2005 process.