

## Q&As on BRAC Selection Criteria

**QUESTION:** In regards to a base closure and realignment round, what are selection criteria?

**ANSWER:** Selection criteria are the guidelines that provide the structure for the Department's analytical process which will result in the Secretary's recommendations for base closures and realignments.

**QUESTION:** Is the use of criteria voluntary or mandatory?

**ANSWER:** The use of criteria is mandatory. The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, requires that closure and realignment recommendations be based on published selection criteria that make military value the primary consideration. The statute further provides that military value must include, at a minimum, the preservation of training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval, or air forces to guarantee future availability of such areas to ensure the readiness of the Armed Forces. Additionally, military value must include the preservation of military installations in the United States as staging areas for the use of the Armed Forces in homeland defense missions and preservation of military installations throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas in the United States for training purposes. Finally, the statute provides that military value must also include the impact on joint warfighting, training, and readiness; and contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training.

**QUESTION:** Did the Department use selection criteria in previous rounds?

**ANSWER:** Yes. Selection criteria governed all previous BRAC rounds.

**QUESTION:** Is military value going to be treated differently during BRAC 2005?

**ANSWER:** No. In previous rounds, as a matter of policy, the Department ensured that military value was the primary consideration in the development of closure and realignment recommendations. For BRAC 2005, the statute now requires that military value be the primary consideration.

**QUESTION:** Will the selection criteria to be used in BRAC 2005 be weighted differently than in previous rounds?

**ANSWER:** The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended, weights military value as the primary consideration and specifies those considerations that should be included within the military value criteria. The Department believes this statutory weighting of military value as the primary consideration is both appropriate and sufficient for conducting the base closure process.

**QUESTION:** What is the timeline for publishing the criteria for public viewing?

**ANSWER:** In accordance with the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended, the Secretary of Defense is required to publish the draft selection criteria in the Federal Register no later than December 31, 2003, for a 30-day public comment period. Following that, the Secretary must, by February 16, 2004, publish in the Federal Register and transmit to the congressional defense committees the final criteria to be used in making recommendations for the closure and realignment of military installations inside the United States. For BRAC 2005, the draft selection criteria will be published in the Federal Register on December 23, 2003, with comments requested by January 28, 2004.

**QUESTION:** Why do the criteria lack a high degree of specificity?

**ANSWER:** The selection criteria are broadly defined to permit application to DoD's diverse set of activities and functions.