DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20330

DCN: 9498

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

MAR 2 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR AF/CV
SAF/IE

FROM: SAF/GC

SUBJECT: Ethical Considerations in BRAC 2005 re Participation of Air Force Personnel in Non-Federal Organizations

You have asked for ethics guidance regarding the participation of Air Force personnel in non-Federal organizations whose activities relate to (or have the appearance of relating to) the protection of Air Force installations during the Base Realignment and Closure 2005 (BRAC) process.

As you know, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended, prescribes a highly structured process to review potential base closures and realignments that emphasizes and requires fairness and impartiality. As part of the overall procedures put in place within DOD to achieve these requirements, the Secretary of Defense has imposed certain restrictions on the activities of all DOD personnel, specifically that "DOD personnel may not participate, in their official capacities, in activities of any organization that has as its purpose, either directly or indirectly, insulating bases from realignment or closure." (See, *Public Affairs Guidance - Transformation Through Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC 2005),* dated February 12, 2004, (attached)).

As such, until the BRAC 2005 process is complete, all Air Force personnel must be particularly careful in any dealings with state and local officials and civic groups. In other words, it is no longer business as usual, and any discussion or information about BRAC 2005 is off limits. Pursuant to the Secretary of Defense guidance, the following are examples of interaction with state and local officials and civic groups that are <u>not</u> permissible:

- Participating in BRAC-specific discussions;
- Speculating about the likelihood or impact of BRAC on any installation;
- Providing any support to organizations working to "insulate" a base from closure or realignment;
- Off-base mission briefings to groups having interests that could be impacted by BRAC;
- On-base tours or mission briefings designed to help groups gain an advantage in, or avoid altogether, the BRAC process;
- Accepting or endorsing community reports or similar information designed to influence the BRAC process.

While this does not mean there can be no interaction with the local community and civic officials, the general subject of BRAC may not be discussed.

Air Force officials may continue to provide limited support to non-Federal organizations in furtherance of Air Force interests, as long as that support could not call into question the fairness and impartiality of the BRAC process and if otherwise permissible under the Joint Ethics Regulation, DOD 5500.7-R. Examples of permissible official support include:

- Giving standard base tours and on-base BRAC-neutral mission briefings to individuals and organizations;
- Participating in permissible organizations as official liaisons (if there is a significant and continuing DOD interest to be served by such representation and if the organization is not one whose purpose or activities include protecting a DOD installation from closure or realignment). Commanders who appoint official liaisons must make sure those individuals understand the limits on their roles.

Although Air Force personnel may voluntarily participate in non-Federal organizations in a personal, off-duty capacity, they must take care that they not engage in any outside activities that conflict with their official duties or that would suggest endorsement by the Air Force or DOD. This is more problematic for senior Air Force officers and civilians in that it becomes more difficult to distinguish between their "official" and "personal" capacities. Consequently, commissioned officers and civilian equivalents (GS-11 and higher) must be particularly careful in this area.

On occasion, gifts may be offered to military members, DOD civilians or to the Air Force in the context of BRAC. In addition to tangible property, these gifts may include offers of meals or entertainment. As a general rule, these gifts should be declined to avoid the appearance of impropriety. Further guidance on the acceptance of gifts is found in the Joint Ethics Regulation, and my office in the HAF or local staff judge advocates in the field should be contacted for assistance in resolving any gift acceptance questions.

Air Force personnel should be strongly encouraged to read and become familiar with the attached Secretary of Defense guidelines and to obtain additional guidance from their local staff judge advocates when contacted by non-Federal entities that may have interests affected by the BRAC process. My point of contact on these and other BRAC-related matters is Mr. Martin Pankove, SAF/GCN, who may be reached at (703) 697-0966 or by e-mail at martin.pankove@pentagon.af.mil.

MARY L. WALKER
General Counsel

Attachment:
As stated

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FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-PA/DPO//
TO AIG 8777
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-PA/DPO//
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UNCLAS
SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE (PAG) - TRANSFORMATION THROUGH BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC 2005)

NOTE FOR ADDRESSEES -- PLEASE RETRANSMIT TO YOUR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS.

1. REFERENCES. REF. A: DODINST 5405.3; B. P.L. 101-510, AS AMENDED; C. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (SECDEF) MEMO ON TRANSFORMATION THROUGH BRAC, 15 NOV 02. REF. A. IS THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) INSTRUCTION ON DEVELOPING PAG. REF. B. IS THE LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING A BRAC ROUND IN 2005. REF C. IS SECDEF'S INITIAL DIRECTIONS ON BRAC 2005.

2. PURPOSE: THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES PAG FOR BRAC 2005. IT INCLUDES BACKGROUND INFORMATION, A STATEMENT FOR RELEASE, TALKING POINTS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, AND POINT-OF-CONTACT (POC) INFORMATION.

3. BACKGROUND: THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 AUTHORIZED DOD TO PURSUE ONE BRAC ROUND IN 2005. SECDEF'S 15 NOV 02 MEMO INITIATED THE COMPLEX ANALYSIS AND DECISION PROCESS THAT WILL INVOLVE VIRTUALLY ALL LEVELS OF DOD MANAGEMENT, FROM INSTALLATION THROUGH MAJOR COMMAND AND COMPONENT/AGENCY HEADQUARTERS TO OSD. ALL BASES WILL BE CONSIDERED AND TREATED EQUALLY. ALL BASES CAN EXPECT TO RESPOND TO A COMPREHENSIVE SERIES OF DATA CALLS. ULTIMATELY, THE SECDEF'S REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED PUBLICLY BY AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION, THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.
3.1. BECAUSE OF THE POTENTIAL IMPACT UPON DOD COMPONENTS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, BRAC IS A SUBJECT OF INTENSE INTEREST TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS. AS A ONE-TIME AUTHORITY, REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE DECISIONS WILL SUPPORT TRANSFORMATION OF DOD. TO PROVIDE SECDEF, THE COMMISSION AND THE PRESIDENT WITH THE OPTIMAL SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS, THE ANALYTICAL WORK AND SUBSEQUENT DELIBERATIONS MUST OCCUR FREE FROM OPINIONS, INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL, BASED ON NON-CERTIFIED DATA AND SPECULATION. ACCORDINGLY, DOD PERSONNEL MAY NOT PARTICIPATE, IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES, IN ACTIVITIES OF ANY ORGANIZATION THAT HAS AS ITS PURPOSE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, INSULATING BASES FROM REALIGNMENT OR CLOSURE. INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH APPROPRIATE ETHICS COUNSELORS.

4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTURE: ACTIVE. BASE REALIGNMENTS AND CLOSURES ARE CONTENTIOUS AND CONTROVERSIAL. COMMANDERS AND THEIR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS MUST BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIVELY COMMUNICATE THE DETAILS OF THE BRAC PROCESS TO THE PUBLIC.

5. STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE. (QUOTE) THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS RECEIVED CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR A BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ROUND IN 2005. BRAC IS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE SEVERAL GOALS: ELIMINATE EXCESS INFRASTRUCTURE; RESHAPE OUR MILITARY; PURSUE JOINTNESS; OPTIMIZE MILITARY READINESS; AND REALIZE SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS IN SUPPORT OF TRANSFORMING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. (PARA) AT A MINIMUM, BRAC 2005 MUST ELIMINATE EXCESS PHYSICAL CAPACITY, THE OPERATION, SUSTAINMENT AND RECAPITALIZATION OF WHICH DIVERTS SCARCE RESOURCES FROM DEFENSE CAPABILITY. HOWEVER, BRAC 2005 CAN MAKE AN EVEN MORE PROFOUND CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSFORMING THE DEPARTMENT BY RATIONALIZING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE WITH DEFENSE STRATEGY. BRAC 2005 SHOULD BE THE MEANS BY WHICH WE RECONFIGURE OUR CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE INTO ONE IN WHICH OPERATIONAL CAPACITY MAXIMIZES BOTH WARFIGHTING CAPABILITY AND EFFICIENCY. BY CREATING JOINT ORGANIZATIONAL AND BASING SOLUTIONS, WE WILL FACILITATE MULTI-SERVICE MISSIONS, REDUCE WASTE, SAVE MONEY, AND FREE UP RESOURCES TO RECRUIT QUALITY PEOPLE, MODERNIZE EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, AND DEVELOP THE CAPABILITIES NEEDED TO MEET 21ST CENTURY THREATS. (PARA) THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HAS DIRECTED THAT THE BRAC 2005 PROCESS FOR ANALYZING DOD INSTALLATIONS BEGIN IMMEDIATELY. AFTER GATHERING INFORMATION AND COMPLETING A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS, THE SECRETARY WILL SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REALIGNING OR CLOSING BASES BY MAY 16, 2005, AS REQUIRED BY LAW. (ENDQUOTE)

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&AS). THE FOLLOWING Q&AS ARE PROVIDED FOR RESPONSE TO QUERY ONLY. QUESTIONS THAT CANNOT BE ANSWERED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THIS GUIDANCE WILL BE TAKEN WITHOUT COMMENT AND FORWARDED WITH PROPOSED ANSWERS TO OASD(PA).

Q1. WHAT IS BRAC?

A1. "BRAC" IS AN ACRONYM THAT STANDS FOR BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE. IT IS THE PROCESS DOD HAS PREVIOUSLY USED TO REORGANIZE ITS BASE STRUCTURE TO MORE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT OUR FORCES, INCREASE OPERATIONAL READINESS AND FACILITATE NEW WAYS OF DOING BUSINESS. WE ANTICIPATE THAT BRAC 2005 WILL BUILD UPON PROCESSES USED IN PREVIOUS ROUNDS.

Q2. HOW DOES BRAC WORK?

A2. THE PROCESS IS GOVERNED BY LAW; SPECIFICALLY, THE DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT ACT OF 1990. (PARA) THE PROCESS BEGINS WITH A THREAT ASSESSMENT OF THE FUTURE NATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT, FOLLOWED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FORCE STRUCTURE PLAN AND BASING REQUIREMENTS TO MEET THESE THREATS. (PARA) DOD THEN APPLIES PUBLISHED SELECTION CRITERIA TO DETERMINE WHICH INSTALLATIONS TO RECOMMEND FOR REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILL PUBLISH A REPORT CONTAINING THE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS, FORWARDING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP. (PARA) THE COMMISSION HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS, IF IT DETERMINES THAT A RECOMMENDATION DEVIATED FROM THE FORCE STRUCTURE PLAN AND/OR SELECTION CRITERIA. THE COMMISSION WILL HOLD REGIONAL MEETINGS TO SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT PRIOR TO MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. HISTORY HAS SHOWN THAT THE USE OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AND PUBLIC MEETINGS MAKE THE PROCESS AS OPEN AND FAIR AS POSSIBLE. (PARA) THE COMMISSION FORWARDS ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL, WHO THEN FORWARDS THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS. (PARA) CONGRESS HAS 45 LEGISLATIVE DAYS TO ACT ON THE

COMMISSION REPORT ON AN ALL-OR-NONE BASIS. AFTER THAT TIME, THE COMMISSION'S REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS BECOME LAW. IMPLEMENTATION MUST START WITHIN TWO YEARS, AND ACTIONS MUST BE COMPLETE WITHIN SIX YEARS.

Q3. WHAT IS TRANSFORMATION?
A3. TRANSFORMATION IS SHAPING THE CHANGING NATURE OF MILITARY COMPETITION AND COOPERATION THROUGH NEW COMBINATIONS OF CONCEPTS, CAPABILITIES, PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT EXPLOIT OUR NATION'S ADVANTAGES, PROTECT OUR ASYMMETRIC VULNERABILITIES, AND SUSTAIN OUR STRATEGIC POSITION, WHICH HELPS MAINTAIN PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE WORLD.

Q4. WHY IS DOD TRANSFORMING?
A4. OVER TIME, THE DEFENSE STRATEGY CALLS FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE U.S. DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. TRANSFORMATION IS AT THE HEART OF THIS STRATEGY. TO TRANSFORM DOD, WE NEED TO CHANGE ITS CULTURE IN MANY IMPORTANT AREAS. OUR BUDGETING, ACQUISITION, PERSONNEL, AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS MUST BE ABLE TO OPERATE IN A WORLD THAT CHANGES RAPIDLY. WITHOUT CHANGE, THE CURRENT DEFENSE PROGRAM WILL ONLY BECOME MORE EXPENSIVE IN THE FUTURE, AND DOD WILL FORFEIT MANY OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TODAY.

Q5. HOW IS BRAC TRANSFORMATIONAL?
A5. BRAC PROVIDES A SINGULAR OPPORTUNITY TO RESHAPE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE TO OPTIMIZE MILITARY READINESS. THE 2005 BRAC PROCESS WILL HELP FIND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO CONSOLIDATE, REALIGN, OR FIND ALTERNATIVE USES FOR CURRENT FACILITIES TO ENSURE THAT THE U.S. CONTINUES TO FIELD THE BEST-PREPARED AND BEST-EQUIPPED MILITARY IN THE WORLD. (PARA) BRAC WILL ALSO ENABLE THE U.S. MILITARY TO BETTER MATCH FACILITIES TO FORCES, MEET THE THREATS AND CHALLENGES OF A NEW CENTURY, AND MAKE THE WISEST USE OF LIMITED DEFENSE DOLLARS.

Q6. HOW MANY BASES AND INSTALLATIONS WILL BE CLOSED?
A6. IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY, BUT THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC NUMBERS OR "TARGETS." USING SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA THAT EMPHASIZE MILITARY VALUE, DOD MUST COMPLETE A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW BEFORE IT CAN DETERMINE WHICH INSTALLATIONS SHOULD BE REALIGNED OR CLOSED. IN 2005, AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION WILL REVIEW THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, VISIT VARIOUS SITES, AND ULTIMATELY SEND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT.

Q7. HOW MUCH HAS BEEN SAVED THROUGH PREVIOUS BRAC ROUNDS?
A7. THE FOUR PREVIOUS BRAC ROUNDS HAVE ELIMINATED APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF DOD'S CAPACITY THAT EXISTED IN 1988 AND, THROUGH 2001, PRODUCED NET SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY $16.7 BILLION, WHICH INCLUDES THE COST OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP. RECURRING SAVINGS BEYOND 2001 ARE APPROXIMATELY $6.6 BILLION ANNUALLY. IN INDEPENDENT STUDIES CONDUCTED OVER PREVIOUS YEARS, BOTH THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE AND THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT REALIGNING AND CLOSING UNNEEDED MILITARY INSTALLATIONS PRODUCES SAVINGS THAT FAR EXCEED COSTS.

Q8. WHAT'S THE TIMELINE FOR THIS BRAC ROUND?
A8. THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002 ESTABLISHED THE FOLLOWING MILESTONES FOR THE 2005 BRAC ROUND: PUBLISH PROPOSED SELECTION CRITERIA FOR A 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD BY

DEC. 31, 2003; PUBLISH FINAL SELECTION CRITERIA BY FEB. 16, 2004; SUBMIT A REPORT TO CONGRESS WITH THE FY 2005 BUDGET JUSTIFICATION ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS: A FORCE STRUCTURE PLAN, BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF PROBABLE THREATS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS; THE PROBABLE END STRENGTH LEVELS AND MILITARY FORCE UNITS NEEDED TO MEET THOSE THREATS; THE ANTICIPATED LEVELS OF AVAILABLE FUNDING; A COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WORLDWIDE; A DESCRIPTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE FORCE STRUCTURE; DISCUSSION OF EXCESS CAPACITY CATEGORIES; ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF REALIGNMENTS AND CLOSURES TO REDUCE EXCESS INFRASTRUCTURE; AND SECDEF CERTIFICATION OF THE NEED FOR BRAC, AND THAT ANNUAL NET SAVINGS WOULD RESULT BY 2011. (PARA) SECDEF FORWARDS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REALIGNMENTS AND CLOSURES TO THE BRAC COMMISSION BY MAY 16, 2005; THE COMMISSION FORWARDS ITS REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT BY SEPT. 8, 2005. THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE UNTIL SEPT. 23, 2005 TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THEIR ENTIRETY. IF ACCEPTED, CONGRESS WILL HAVE 45 LEGISLATIVE DAYS TO ACT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Q9. WHICH BASES WILL BE LOOKED AT IN THIS ROUND?
A9. ALL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WITHIN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND ITS TERRITORIES (UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT) WILL BE EXAMINED AS PART OF THIS PROCESS. THIS INCLUDES LABS, MEDICAL, TRAINING, GUARD, RESERVE, AIR STATIONS, LEASED FACILITIES, ETC.

Q10. ISN'T BRAC JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF BUDGET PRIORITIES DRIVING NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING?
A10. ABSOLUTELY NOT. THE LEGISLATION IS QUITE CLEAR THAT MILITARY VALUE IS THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION. THE SECRETARY'S GUIDANCE TO THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS EMPHASIZES THAT BRAC 2005 WILL MAKE A PROFOUND CONTRIBUTION TO TRANSFORMING THE DEPARTMENT BY BRINGING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IN LINE WITH DEFENSE STRATEGY.

Q11. HOW WILL THE COMMISSION BE SELECTED, AND WHO WILL SERVE?
A11. THE BRAC LEGISLATION SPECIFIES THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR COMMISSIONERS. THE PRESIDENT IS REQUIRED TO CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ON NOMINATIONS TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION.

Q12. HOW HAVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY BASE CLOSURES FARED OVERALL?
A12. BASE REALIGNMENTS AND CLOSURES CAUSE NEAR-TERM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISRUPTION. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY SUCCESS STORIES FROM PREVIOUS CLOSURES. (PARA) FOR EXAMPLE, AT CHARLESTON NAVAL BASE, S.C., THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, ASSISTED BY DOD, WAS ABLE TO CREATE APPROXIMATELY 4,500 NEW JOBS. APPROXIMATELY 90 PRIVATE, STATE AND FEDERAL ENTITIES ARE CURRENTLY REUSING THE FORMER NAVAL BASE. (PARA) SINCE THE CLOSURE OF MATHER AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF., MORE THAN 54 LEASES HAVE BEEN GENERATED AT THE NEW MATHER FIELD COMPLEX. ITS PRIME LOCATION AND ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LONGEST RUNWAYS HAVE MADE IT AN ACTIVE AIR CARGO HUB FOR CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL VALLEY AND THE SACRAMENTO REGION. ADDITIONALLY, THE FORMER BASE NOW EMPLOYS NEARLY 3,700 PERSONNEL WITH ITS HIGH-TECHNICAL BUSINESSES, MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS, EDUCATIONAL CENTERS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. (PARA) AT THE FORMER FORT DEVENS, MASS., MORE THAN 3,000 NEW JOBS HAVE BEEN GENERATED AND 2.7 MILLION SQUARE FEET OF NEW CONSTRUCTION HAS OCCURRED. WITH 68 DIFFERENT EMPLOYERS

ON SITE, REDEVELOPMENT RANGES FROM SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATORS TO THE GILLETTE CORP., WHICH OCCUPIES A LARGE WAREHOUSE/DISTRIBUTION CENTER AND MANUFACTURING PLANT. (PARA) A BASE CLOSURE CAN ACTUALLY BE AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, ESPECIALLY WHEN ALL ELEMENTS OF A COMMUNITY WORK TOGETHER.

Q13. WILL LOCAL COMMANDERS AND OTHERS IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES BE AVAILABLE TO HELP US IN OUR TASK FORCES OR OTHER EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE BRAC DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO OUR BASE?
A13. DOD OFFICIALS MAY ATTEND MEETINGS IN A LIAISON OR REPRESENTATIONAL CAPACITY WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAY SEEK TO DEVELOP PLANS OR PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF INSTALLATIONS TO DISCHARGE THEIR NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE MISSIONS. DOD OFFICIALS MAY NOT MANAGE OR CONTROL SUCH ORGANIZATIONS OR EFFORTS. (PARA) IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY, DOD PERSONNEL MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF ANY ORGANIZATION THAT HAS AS ITS PURPOSE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, INSULATING DOD BASES FROM CLOSURE OR REALIGNMENT. THIS GUIDANCE IS AIMED AT ENSURING THE FAIRNESS AND RIGOR OF THE BRAC PROCESS.

Q14. IS THE LIST OF CLOSURES AND REALIGNMENTS ON THE G2MIL.COM WEBSITE THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE?
A14. NO. IT IS A PRIVATELY OPERATED WEBSITE WITH NO TIES TO OR SUPPORT FROM DOD.

7. TALKING POINTS:
7.1. BOTH CONGRESS AND DOD RECOGNIZE MILITARY VALUE MUST BE THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION IN REDUCING OR RESTRUCTURING U.S. MILITARY BASES.

7.2. THE 2005 BRAC PROCESS WILL HELP FIND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO CONSOLIDATE, REALIGN, OR FIND ALTERNATIVE USES FOR CURRENT FACILITIES.

7.3. ALL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED, AND ALL RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE BASED ON APPROVED, PUBLISHED SELECTION CRITERIA AND A FUTURE FORCE STRUCTURE PLAN.

7.4. THROUGH THE BRAC PROCESS, WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO FIELD THE BEST PREPARED AND BEST EQUIPPED MILITARY IN THE WORLD.

7.5. BRAC WILL ENABLE THE U.S. MILITARY TO MATCH FACILITIES TO FORCES, MEET THE THREATS AND CHALLENGES OF A NEW CENTURY, AND MAKE THE WISEST USE OF LIMITED DEFENSE DOLLARS.

7.6. BRAC WILL FACILITATE MULTI-SERVICE MISSIONS BY CREATING JOINT ORGANIZATIONAL AND BASING SOLUTIONS THAT WILL NOT ONLY REDUCE WASTE BUT MAXIMIZE MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS.

7.7. CONSOLIDATING FACILITIES WILL SAVE BILLIONS, ALLOWING THE DEPARTMENT TO FOCUS FUNDS ON MAINTAINING AND MODERNIZING FACILITIES NEEDED TO BETTER SUPPORT OUR FORCES, RECRUIT QUALITY PERSONNEL, MODERNIZE EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, AND DEVELOP THE CAPABILITIES NEEDED TO MEET 21ST CENTURY THREATS.

8. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE.

8.1. RELEASE AUTHORITY: OASD(PA), IN COORDINATION WITH DUSD (I&E), IS THE SOLE RELEASING AUTHORITY FOR INFORMATION ON BRAC 2005 TO NEWS MEDIA. LOCAL COMMANDERS AND THEIR PAOS ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THIS PAG. TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE BRAC 2005 PROCESS AND TO ENSURE THAT CONSISTENT AND ACCURATE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED, OSD, THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS, AND PARTICIPATING DEFENSE AGENCIES WILL DESIGNATE KEY INDIVIDUALS TO RESPOND TO COMMUNITY AND CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES. UNAUTHORIZED DISCUSSION, DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION OR SPECULATION REGARDING BRAC MATTERS BY DOD PERSONNEL AND CONTRACTORS IS PROHIBITED.

8.2. COMMUNITY QUERIES. EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS COMMUNITIES HAVE AN EXTRAORDINARY INTEREST IN THE BRAC PROCESS AND, CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S NEED FOR INTERNAL DELIBERATION, SHOULD RECEIVE TIMELY ACCESS TO DATA THAT CAN BE MADE PUBLIC AS THE BRAC ANALYTICAL PROCESS UNFOLDS. TIMELY AND CONSISTENT INFORMATION FROM ALL DOD ELEMENTS WILL MINIMIZE CONFUSION AND FOSTER TRUST. PAOS MAY CONTINUE TO RELEASE THE SAME TYPE AND AMOUNT OF INFORMATION ON THEIR INSTALLATIONS AS THEY CURRENTLY DO, BUT MAY NOT RELEASE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, DATA CALLS/INFORMATION REQUESTED UNDER BRAC. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT LOCAL COMMANDERS ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO EVALUATE THE ENTIRE MISSION REQUIREMENTS AND CROSS-SERVICE IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL FUNCTIONS AS THEY MAY AFFECT DOD, AND LOCAL COMMANDERS ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ANSWER QUESTIONS REQUIRING THEM TO SPECULATE AND/OR DISCUSS BRAC ISSUES WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO INTERNAL DOD DELIBERATION. WHILE INFORMATION NORMALLY PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC MAY CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED, EVEN IF IT IS THE SUBJECT OF A BRAC DATA CALL, ITS RELATIONSHIP TO BRAC IS NOT RELEASABLE.

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8.3. PARTICIPATION IN OFFICIAL CAPACITY. DOD PERSONNEL MAY NOT PARTICIPATE, IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY, IN ACTIVITIES OF ANY ORGANIZATION THAT HAS AS ITS PURPOSE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, INSULATING BASES FROM REALIGNMENT OR CLOSURE. THIS GUIDANCE IS AIMED AT ENSURING THE FAIRNESS AND RIGOR OF THE BRAC DELIBERATIVE PROCESS. INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH APPROPRIATE ETHICS COUNSELORS. (PARA) IN A LIAISON OR REPRESENTATIONAL ROLE, DOD OFFICIALS MAY ATTEND MEETINGS WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAY SEEK TO DEVELOP PLANS OR PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF INSTALLATIONS TO DISCHARGE THEIR NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE MISSIONS. DOD OFFICIALS MAY NOT MANAGE OR CONTROL SUCH ORGANIZATIONS OR EFFORTS.

8.4. INFORMATION SOURCES. PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT BRAC PROCESS AND PAST EXPERIENCE WITH PRIOR BRAC ROUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH A CENTRAL WEB SITE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DETAILS ON THE WEB SITE, INCLUDING ITS URL, WILL BE PROVIDED VIA SEPARATE MESSAGE WHEN AVAILABLE. CONTENTS ARE PLANNED TO INCLUDE THE TEXT OF THE CURRENT DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACT, THE REPORTS OF THE SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE AND THE DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSIONS IN PRIOR BRAC ROUNDS, GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REPORTS ON THE STATUS OF BASES REALIGNED AND CLOSED IN PRIOR ROUNDS, AND INFORMATION ON ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITIES WITH BASES THAT HAVE BEEN REALIGNED OR CLOSED. DOD PERSONNEL ARE ENCOURAGED TO REFER THE MEDIA, COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO THIS PUBLIC WEB SITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN PRIOR ROUNDS AND THE PROCESS FOR BRAC 2005. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC

INFORMATION RELATED TO BRAC 2005 WILL BECOME AVAILABLE AND POSTED TO THE DOD BRAC WEBSITE AS THE PROCESS PROCEEDS.

9. POCS. THE OASD/PA (MEDIA) POC IS MR. GLENN FLOOD, COMM 703-695-6294, OR EMAIL GLENN.FLOOD@OSD.MIL.