

BASE VISIT REPORT

Hawthorne Army Depot, NV

July 11, 2005

COMMISSIONER: Philip Coyle

COMMISSION STAFF:

George Delgado, Analyst Joint & Cross Services Team – Industrial Issues
Dean Rhody, Analyst Army Team

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

LTC John Summers, Commanding Officer, Hawthorne Army Depot
BG Cynthia N. Kirkland, Adjutant General, Nevada National Guard
Wayne Ventrileth, Marine Corps Program Department
LtCol Joseph Dennison, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center
LtCol Robb Etnyre, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center
LCDR Mike Strenk, Naval Special Operations
CWO2 Kevin Calloway, Naval Special Operations
Robert Jusko, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Keyport
Scott Wills, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Keyport
John Nester, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Hawthorne
Larry Jones, NAS Fallon
Mark Glass, NAS Fallon
Jerry Bailey, HDSOC
Tiny Cardenas, HWAD
Herman Millsap, HWAD
John Gray, HWAD
Donna Roberts, HWAD
Dave Dillingham, HWAD
Ray Montoya, HWAD
Mike McKnight, HWAD
Jody Gonzales, HWAD
Jewell Benscoter, HWAD

BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:

- Receive, store and, issue/ship conventional ammunition.
- Demilitarize and dispose of unserviceable, obsolete and, surplus ammunition.
- Renovate conventional ammunition.
- Inspect conventional ammunition.
- Provide training facilities to special operations forces and conventional forces.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:

Close Hawthorne Army Depot, NV. Relocate Storage and Demilitarization functions to Tooele Army Depot, UT.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:

Capacity and capability for Storage and Demilitarization exists at numerous munitions sites. To reduce redundancy and remove excess from the Industrial Base, the closure allows DoD to create centers of excellence and establish deployment networks that support readiness. Hawthorne Army Depot has infrastructure problems that severely limit the ability to offload.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:

Aerial survey of the installation: 147,236 acres containing 2,915 buildings, 7.68 million square feet of inside storage space, 80 family housing units, 16 bachelor housing apts., 1 barracks bldg, 600 miles of roadway and, 267 miles of railway.

- Industrial area
- Western Area Demilitarization Facility (WADF)
- North, Central and, South Magazine Areas
- Demo & Explosive Breaching – 3,183 acres (New Bomb Disposal Range northern and southern detonation areas)
- High Altitude Mountain Training – 49,566 acres (Mount Grant)
- Industrial Combat Training Facilities – 161 acres (101 Compound)
- High Angle Sniper Range (Formal USMC School) and Desert Live Fire Convoy Training – 18,703 acres (Old Bomb)
- Desert Convoy Operations Training – Unlimited acreage
- Walker Lake Training Area (49 square miles)
- C130/Helicopter/Parachute Training at Hawthorne Aviation Facility – 6,000 ft runway (777 acres)
- POW Compound- 4.3 acres (103-30 Compound)
- Lance Corporal Carter Test Range (testing of weapon systems ranging from small arms through mortars, rockets, and artillery)

Visited Building 117-16 Hot Gas Facility (part of the WADF complex)

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- HWAD has a high storage quantitative military value score (2 of 23 assessed). The recommendation reduces storage capacity as large quantities of ammunition returns (retrograde) from Europe, Korea, and Southwest Asia to CONUS HWAD's underutilized storage capacity could be used to store most overseas retrograde. PEO Ammo estimates that all existing organic depots will be at 100% of storage capacity by FY08.

- As of May 31, 2005 HWAD reports storing 305,348 tons of explosives, and 36,126 inert items. Of the ammunition inventory 47% belongs to the Army, 31% is demilitarization and other, 14% belongs to the Navy, 6% belongs to the Air Force and 2% belongs to the U.S. Marine Corps. Its storage capacity is 56% full as of May 31, 2005.
- HWAD reports no infrastructure problems that severely limit the ability to offload. Its investigation into concerns over weather related damages to rail revealed only one incident in 20 years and only for a short time. Averaged over the last 19 years HWAD received 45,392 tons and shipped 40,346 tons of ammunition each year. As of June 26, 2005 depot supply operations have shipped 12,940 tons and received 13,614 tons.
- HWAD has a high demilitarization quantitative military value score (1 of 13 assessed) the depot only demilitarizes conventional ammunition. For CY 03 HWAD reported demilitarizing 6,535 tons of munitions. In the past 12 years, HWAD has Resource Recovered / Recycled / Disposed 120,848 tons. Explosives/metals recovered from demilitarization operations at HWAD for the past 12 years: Explosives 24,650,000 pounds @ \$1.596 per pound = \$39,341,400. This figure represents a cost avoidance of buying new explosives. Mixed Metals 91,400,000 pounds with an estimated value of \$7,000,000
- The inventory of obsolete ammunition has increased over time due to limitations or diversion of demilitarization funds.
- Continued munitions demilitarization funding limitations or diversions will extend the time required to complete the work. The timeframe for completing the munitions demilitarization mission may extend beyond the BRAC time period.
- Returning munitions from Europe, Korea, and Southwest Asia will create storage and demilitarization difficulties for the entire Army storage system. Closure of Hawthorne will increase the shortfall problem.
- As of May 31, 2005 Hawthorne Army Depot (HWAD) had a total of 553 personnel, 1 military, 50 DoD civilians (including the tenants), 488 contractors and, 14 sub-contractors.
- HWAD restores ammunition deteriorated from rough handling or exposure. This work involves cleaning, rust removal, painting, repair of containers, and component replacement. For CY 03 HWAD reported renovating 3,510 tons of munitions.
- With its high altitude desert terrain environment, HWAD is a premier military/special forces training site. Its training mission was approved Oct. 04, after the BRAC data calls, therefore HWAD did not receive a military value score for the training mission. The training mission provides usage of 71,287 acres similar to terrain in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- HWAD provides a joint training environment for Navy Special Warfare, Marine Force RECON, Marine Conventional, Army National Guard and, Army Reserve units.
- Types of training available at HWAD include firing ranges, high altitude patrolling, high angle sniper range and, desert convoy operations. Over 1,500 military personnel have trained at HWAD between Jan 05 and Apr 05.
- Plans are in the works for an Afghan Village (modular, semi-permanent small urban training facility) and desert live fire convoy training. At the LCpl Carter Test Range planned upgrades include high angle sniper firing range targetry and classroom and hygiene facilities.
- HWAD has been working on two proposal to expand its training area by approximately 178 square miles. The 178 square miles comes from 113,919 acres from the Bureau of

Land Management. In addition, another 16 square miles may be available through acquisition of an adjacent private property owned by Aerojet.

- No encroachment issues.

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED

- HWAD ranked 31 out of 97 installations evaluated for RDTE, production, maintenance, storage/outload, transportation, and demilitarization, officials feel HWAD was undervalued.
- Only GOCO Depot – Largely Commercial – minimally organic, officials feel there is a bias against GOCOs.
- The Industrial Joint Cross Service group used military “judgment” to recommend closure of HWAD. Depot officials would like to know what went into and how the judgments were reached.
- Loss of ammunition storage capacity and loss of demilitarization capacity as retrograde from Europe, Korea and South West Asia looms.
- Notwithstanding its high military value score, HWAD officials felt that its demilitarization capabilities were undervalued.
- Loss of training facilities and maneuvering space suited for scenarios similar to those encountered by U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq as we continue unspecified length of time involvement in those countries.
- No consideration for the effect of closure on tenants/customers such as:
 - United States Navy Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Detachment Hawthorne (tenant)
 - United States Marine Corps Programs Office ammunition testing (tenant)
 - United States Navy SEAL training
 - United States Marine Corps training
 - Army Special Forces training
 - Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Bulge Plate Explosive Testing/Loading of explosives charges
 - United States Navy Range Scrap Processing; NRSW/Hawthorne Range Residue Processing Program – demilitarization and recycling of range residue scrap.
 - Corps of Engineers FUDS and BRAC Sites Range Scrap Processing
 - DLA Elementary Mercury Storage
 - HWAD is the test bed for the next generation of robotic security systems
 - High Desert Special Operations Center, Limited Liability Co. (HDSOC, LLC) utilizes HWAD facilities and lands to train:
 - Department of Defense military units (USMC, USN)
 - USG Agencies – Border Patrol, US Department of State
 - Other private security companies fulfilling USG contracts in high threat regions in the world.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:

- Closure effect on direct and indirect jobs in the area.

- Closure of supporting businesses and reductions of services.
- Economic effect of closure threatens the continued viability of the town of Hawthorne, NV.
- The town of Babbit, immediately adjacent to Hawthorne, was razed as the result of the Navy pullout from Hawthorne in 1985. Twenty years later, no development of Babbit has occurred due to the weak local economy in Hawthorne.
- Environmental effects of chemical contamination in areas contaminated by mustard gas and other chemical agents.
- Post-closure usage of the property.

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:

None

George M. Delgado/Joint and Cross Services Issues – Industrial/ July 20, 2005
Dean Rhody/Army

ADDENDUM:

MR. David Van Saun accompanied Chairman Anthony J. Principi for a base visit to Hawthorne Army Depot on Tuesday 26 July, 2005. Similar briefings and tours as presented during Commissioner Coyle's visit were presented to Chairman Principi. The following persons accompanied the Chairman during his visit, Congressman James A. Gibbons (R) 2nd District State of Nevada, Mr. Robert Herbert, Staff Member for Senator Reid, State of Nevada and Jennifer Meyer, BRAC Legislative Affairs Staff.

George M. Delgado/Joint and Cross Services Issues – Industrial/ July 30, 2005