



BRAC 2005 - Query Response Manager



Response to E0534

Question:

The following questions were posed on 5 AUG 05 to the BRAC Commission by a representative of the Kentucky Governor's office. Responses are requested from the OSD BRAC Clearinghouse.

1. Maneuver Training Recommendation

Is the Army planning flexibility in moving the Armor Center and school from Fort Knox to Fort Benning, in terms of relocation timing and organizations as indicated below?

a. Disruption The community expressed concern that the ongoing war effort may be adversely impacted by disturbing the efficient production of trained Armor soldier produced by the Armor Center and School at Fort Knox. Does the Army believe this will be a problem?

b. Flexibility What timing flexibility exists to reschedule the relocation of the Armor Center and School to Fort Benning to accommodate Fort Knox community concerns?

c. Capacity The community expressed concern that the Armor Center and School may not be able to fit into Fort Benning due to insufficient training land and facilities at Fort Benning for Armor Center and School functions, including training, garrison, maintenance, maneuver, ranges, community encroachment and restrictive Indian relic areas. Does the Army believe that Fort Benning can provide all required capabilities for the Armor Center and School functions?

d. Environment/MILCON Does the Army plan to provide the military construction funds necessary to enable Armor Center and School functions at Fort Benning on a timeline to support reception of Fort Knox organizations, and is this possible in a timely manner if Fort Benning has not initiated planning such as for environment studies that must precede construction?

e. Organizations It is unclear what specific organizations/units/functions from Fort Knox the Army plans to retain at Fort Knox and which are to be relocated to Fort Benning or elsewhere. (Separately, the Columbus, GA/Fort Benning community raised similar questions.) Consequently it appears useful for both the Commission and the affected communities for the Army to identify the its organizational intention and location for each of the following:

- (1) 1st Armor Bde
- (2) Armor BOLC
- (3) 16th Cavalry Regt
- (4) UAMBL
- (5) Patton Armor Museum

- (6)81st RRC Equipment Consolidation Site (both organization and equipment).
- (7)Mounted Warfare Testbed
- (8)Mounted Battlespace Battle Lab
- (9)CV2 Battle Lab
- (10)UA Experiment Element, Experimental Force Bde Cadre
- (11)(AMC) Armor Maintenance Unit
- (12)(AMC) M1 Tank Engine Rebuild Unit
- (13)(APG) Tracked Vehicle Maintenance Center of Excellence for equipment concentration and 63B, 63D, 63H
- (14)2 BCT Battalions from Fort Knox
- (15)Discretionary units that the Army may consider for potential assignment to Fort Knox: Kentucky-provided suggestion-Relocate the Recruiting School from Fort Jackson to join the Recruiting Command at Fort Knox.
- (16) Discretionary units that the Army may consider for potential assignment to Fort Benning: Columbus, GA-provided suggestion-Locating a Brigade Combat Team or other units at Fort Benning when additional units may need to be stationed/restationed.

2. HRC Kentucky officials heard rumor that other states (Missouri and Virginia) were discussing the potential availability of leased space that the Human Resources Command elements might consider occupying rather than relocating to Fort Knox as recommended by DOD BRAC. Please indicate whether or not the Army plans to modify its plan for the locating of HRC elements associated in the DOD BRAC plan with Fort Knox?

Answer:

1. Maneuver Training Recommendation

Is the Army planning flexibility in moving the Armor Center and school from Fort Knox to Fort Benning, in terms of relocation timing and organizations as indicated below?

a. Disruption: The community expressed concern that the ongoing war effort may be adversely impacted by disturbing the efficient production of trained Armor soldier produced by the Armor Center and School at Fort Knox. Does the Army believe this will be a problem?

Response: The program of instruction (POI) for basic combat training (of which the Infantry School is the proponent) currently trains at five locations across the United States, one of which is Fort Knox, KY. Because all of the locations and those responsible for conducting BCT adhere to the standards as prescribed by the POI, the Army has consistently produced soldiers capable of employing the skills necessary to survive in combat. This methodology also applies to producing world-class Armor soldiers and leaders. The POI and those responsible for executing its prescribed standards will not change because of this recommendation, only the location. Additionally, this move will not be executed prior to Fort Benning, GA, being able to receive the Armor Center and School. The Army will continue the efficient production of all of its soldiers including those being trained to employ its armored capability.

b.Flexibility: What timing flexibility exists to reschedule the relocation of the Armor Center and School to Fort Benning to accommodate Fort Knox community concerns?

Response: The timing for executing the Army's BRAC recommendations is based on the gaining installations implementation plan and Military Construction (MILCON) funding. Once MILCON is completed this move will be executed because other recommendations (e.g., HRC to Fort Knox) are dependent on the Armor Center and School move.

c.Capacity: The community expressed concern that the Armor Center and School may not be able to fit into Fort Benning due to insufficient training land and facilities at Fort Benning for Armor Center and School functions, including training, garrison, maintenance, maneuver, ranges, community encroachment and restrictive Indian relic areas. Does the Army believe that Fort Benning can provide all required capabilities for the Armor Center and School functions?

Response: Training Circular 25-1 on Training Land, was used to determine maneuver/training area requirements. This Circular provided a solid doctrinal basis to determine requirements. Each course requirement of the Armor School was analyzed to determine if the installation could effectively train the Armor School in addition to the current and projected requirements at Fort Benning. Additionally, this analysis included the planned addition of a light brigade being stood up at Fort Benning, GA. The decision to stand this brigade up at Fort Knox, KY will free up additional training resources.

d.Environment/MILCON: Does the Army plan to provide the military construction funds necessary to enable Armor Center and School functions at Fort Benning on a timeline to support reception of Fort Knox organizations, and is this possible in a timely manner if Fort Benning has not initiated planning such as for environment studies that must precede construction?

Response: Provided the Army receives proper funding, the Army plans to provide sufficient military construction funds in a timely manner so as to enable construction of the Armor Center and School functions at Fort Benning, GA, which supports the eventual move from Fort Knox, KY. As with all BRAC recommendations, the Army is unable to initiate major BRAC-associated environmental studies until the recommendations become law. However, the Army has begun, or will begin shortly, very preliminary planning for many of these environmental studies (e.g. completion of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies). Once this recommendation becomes law, the Army will further refine its plans and immediately begin the necessary environmental studies (e.g. NEPA EIS, New Source Review, Air Conformity Analysis, etc.) so as to keep the planned move and military construction on schedule. The Army has successfully completed all the environmental studies listed for Fort Benning many times before, and does not foresee any complications with completing the Fort Benning studies that would prevent or delay the construction of needed facilities.

e.Organizations: It is unclear what specific organizations/units/functions from Fort Knox the Army plans to retain at Fort Knox and which are to be relocated to Fort Benning or elsewhere. (Separately, the Columbus, GA/Fort Benning community raised similar questions.) Consequently, it appears useful for both the Commission and the affected communities for the Army to identify the organizational intention and location for each of the following:

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- (5)Patton Armor Museum
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- (7)Mounted Warfare Testbed
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- (9)CV2 Battle Lab
- (10)UA Experiment Element, Experimental Force Bde Cadre
- (11)(AMC) Armor Maintenance Unit
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Response: It is the Army's intent to relocate from Fort Knox, KY, to Fort Benning, GA, all unit identification codes (UICs), functions, and activities currently belonging to the Armor Center and School Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA). All will move with the Armor Center and School. Additionally, activities, which may have been inadvertently overlooked but are key to the successful establishment of Maneuver Training, will be viewed as a discretionary move during implementation. With regard to locating a Brigade Combat Team at Fort Benning, it would not be appropriate to speculate about other potential units that might be stationed at Fort Benning, GA, during the BRAC time frame. The Army included all known modular force transformation decisions and those related to the return of forces from overseas in its BRAC analysis. Future potential changes in force structure or forces returning from overseas will be analyzed as necessary. We cannot speculate as to whether Fort Benning, GA will gain any additional units. The table below is a partial listing of the units /activities relocating to Fort Benning.

Partial List of Activities/Units Relocating to Fort Benning According to TRADOC Certified Data:
1st Armor Bde

Armor Basic Office Leadership Course (BOLC)
16th Cavalry Regt
Unit of Action Maneuver Battle Lab (UAMBL)
Patton Armor Museum
81st RRC Equipment Consolidation Site (both organization and equipment) from Fort Gillem, GA, to Fort Benning, GA
Mounted Warfare Testbed
Mounted Battlespace Battle Lab
CV2 Battle Lab
Unit of Action Experiment Element, Experimental Force Bde Cadre
Armor Maintenance Unit
M1 Tank Engine Rebuild Unit
Tracked Vehicle Maintenance Center of Excellence for equipment concentration and 63B, 63D, 63H
2 BCT Battalions from Fort Knox, KY
Note: All unit identification codes (UICs) belonging to the Armor Center and School Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) will move with the Armor Center and School to Fort Benning, GA.

2. Human Resource Command (HRC) Kentucky officials heard rumor that other states (Missouri and Virginia) were discussing the potential availability of leased space that the Human Resources Command elements might consider occupying rather than relocating to Fort Knox as recommended by DOD BRAC. Please indicate whether or not the Army plans to modify its plan for the locating of HRC elements associated in the DOD BRAC plan with Fort Knox?

Response: The Army continues to support the Secretary of Defense's recommendation to relocate HRC elements out of lease space to Fort Knox, KY.

References:

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. M. [unclear]", is written over the "Approved By:" label.

Date: 11-Aug-05