

Inquiry Response

Re: BI-0154 (CT-0633)

Requester: Mr. Frank Cirillo (BRAC Commission)

Question 1: Please have Air National Guard and U S Air Force jointly reply to the following question as an indirect result of testimony during the 18 July ANG Panel:

The Air Force representatives have stated numerous times in testimony, Clearinghouse replies or during working level meetings that Hq USAF staff are precluded from directly communicating with representative Adjutants General directly and must go through the National Guard Bureau for all such communication.

Although this concept theoretically makes organizational sense, such seemingly unyielding restrictions appear to have hindered and will further hinder collaboration regarding resolution and comprehension of the publicly controversial ANG recommendations.

Please jointly cite the formal legislative or regulatory restriction prohibiting such direct communication, which if conducted, would seem to facilitate teamwork and mutual understanding of state and federal mission perceptions.

Answer: Following Air Force Commission Testimony, 18 Jul 05, the Air Force resolved to address BRAC communications with the States in a manner consistent with Title 10 and sound military doctrine. The Air Force took the following actions to this end:

- 20 Jul 05, Gen Heckman and Mr. Pease met with Commissioner Gehman, Commissioner Coyle and members of the Commission's staff. They answered Commissioner and staff questions regarding Air Force BRAC methodology in the three-hour meeting. It is clear from that meeting and the 18 Jul 05 Testimony, the Commission believes the Air Force should more fully involve the States in BRAC decisions
- 21 Jul 05, the TAGs met with the National Guard Bureau to provide alternate BRAC laydown proposals acceptable to the collective States
- The TAGs responded in a letter from the President, Adjutant Generals Association of the United States
- The Air Force continues to work with the Commission on OSD recommendations

On the issue of how the Air Force communicates with TAGs and Governors, the Air Force stands by Title 10 which states:

Title 10/Subtitle E/Part I/Chapter 1011/Section 10501

§ 10501. National Guard Bureau

(a) National Guard Bureau.— There is in the Department of Defense the National Guard Bureau, which is a joint bureau of the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force.

(b) Purposes.— The National Guard Bureau is the channel of communications on all matters pertaining to the National Guard, the Army National Guard of the United States, and the Air National Guard of the United States between

- (1) the Department of the Army and Department of the Air Force, and
- (2) the several States.

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The Air Force has and continues to abide by the chain of command established by Congress. For BRAC, HQ AF communicated directly with 11 Major Commands (MAJCOMs) (ACC, AMC, AFSPC, AETC, AFMC, AFRC, NGB, AFSOC, PACAF and two direct reporting units). The MAJCOMs communicated directly with the installations as required [Note the National Guard Bureau was treated as a "MAJCOM" for the purposes of BRAC]. Using this chain of command the Air Force ensured equitable treatment for Guard and Active Duty installations.

It is important to understand that for HQ AF to communicate directly with an installation is contrary to sound military doctrine, defies the Principle of unity of command and weakens the Commander's ability to command. The Title 10 established chain of command is consistent with the law, consistent with military doctrine, has worked and will continue to work well for the foreseeable future.

2). Please request Northern Command and US Air Force jointly reply to the following question as an indirect result of testimony during the 18 July ANG Panel:

We have heard from both Northern Command and from the Department of Homeland Security that neither entity has concern with the impact of the air defense aircraft lay downs to include full time and alert airfields resulting from the ANG recommendations, especially in the NE, NW, SE and Mississippi River sectors. Organizationally, it would appear such lay downs would be better initiated from Northern Command than suggested to Northern Command from USAF.

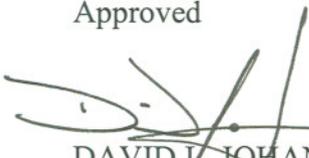
Please provide comments or correspondence related to how the USAF and ANG air defense lay downs were generated to potentially alleviate Commission concerns related to Community allegations regarding Air Defense seams, gaps and outright oversights. Relating this response to an earlier query regarding "Strategic Presence" would seem in order.

Answer: Following a thorough review, Commander, NORAD and USNORTHCOM found that the 2005 BRAC recommendations do not create an unacceptable risk to our mission accomplishment.

NORAD and USNORTHCOM evaluate the wide range of capabilities, including air assets, needed to accomplish our missions. Based on intelligence, changing vulnerabilities, asset availability and other considerations, NORAD and USNORTHCOM, in consultation with our force providers, utilize our posture to ensure successful mission accomplishment. The advice and recommendations of our force providers, such as the USAF, are a key input to our decision process.

In those cases where earlier draft USAF BRAC recommendations caused us concern about our ability to accomplish aerospace warning and control, the USAF agreed to maintain an alert capability that meets NORAD and USNORTHCOM needs. (NORAD/NORTHCOM)

Approved



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