

## Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

# EARLY



# BIRD

May 27, 2005

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### Department of Defense Releases

## **Taking second step: BRAC commissioner visits Pope AFB**

Air Force Print News Today  
Senior Airman Stacia Zachary  
43rd Airlift Wing Public Affairs  
May 26, 2005

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. (AFPN) -- A Base Realignment and Closure commissioner met with base leaders here May 24 to discuss the base's inclusion on the 2005 BRAC list, the units that could potentially be affected and the land that comprises the base.

"My visit is not to announce Pope will be closed. Rather I am here to get a personal understanding of what comprises Pope," said retired Navy Adm. Harold Gehman Jr. "It is important to keep in mind that this is only the second part of an eight step process. I am here mostly to see if anything (about the recommendation concerning Pope) is wildly out of kilter ... and to make sure that the infrastructures and surroundings comply with what the paperwork states."

BRAC recommendations are the government's and the military's way of continually shifting the focus and assets to better serve the United States.

"The military needs to continually change itself for the challenges it faces. The military always needs to be changing," Admiral Gehman said. "And part of that constant shift is where the military's assets lie. (BRAC announcements) are just part of the normal change process."

Part of the eight-step process includes the opportunity for the public to voice their concerns.

"The third step is public hearings, and that is where the public and the governor will be given a chance to speak on Pope's behalf," Admiral Gehman.

The public hearings are scheduled for June 28 in nearby Charlotte, officials said.

## **National News Articles**

**BRAC Gains**  
National Journal  
May 26, 2005

While lawmakers from Connecticut and South Dakota -- both hard hit by Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's recommended defense base closures and realignments -- are fighting to keep their bases intact, members from districts that stand to gain from the 2005 BRAC round are busy touting their successes.

Maryland stands to add more jobs than any other state, but unlike other potentially large beneficiaries, those gains are mostly civilian and contractor, rather than military, jobs. The state stands to lose 1,570 military jobs, while adding 9,012 civilian and 1,851 contractor jobs.

Fort Meade, located in the district of Democratic Rep. C.A. (Dutch) Ruppertsberger, accounts for more than half of Maryland's potential job gains from this BRAC round. Ruppertsberger, along with Democratic Rep. Benjamin Cardin, whose district is home to many Fort Meade employees, met with business leaders from Anne Arundel County soon after the recommendations were announced.

Business leaders expressed concern about the added stress on area infrastructure, especially roads, and said that planning for the influx is key, a spokeswoman for Ruppertsberger said.

President Bush's home state of Texas also expects large gains. There, Fort Bliss, located in the district of Democratic Rep. Silvestre Reyes, stands to gain 11,501 jobs -- more than any other base, with the exception of Virginia's Fort Belvoir.

Fort Belvoir is located in the districts of Democratic Rep. James Moran and Government Reform Chairman Davis, and is slated to gain 11,858 jobs.

In all, 22 states stand to gain from this BRAC round. Nationwide, the recommendations would cut more than 18,000 civilian jobs and nearly 11,000 military jobs, while adding nearly 3,000 contractor positions.

Since contractors shoulder the burden of their employees' benefits, adding those jobs rather than hiring civilians can save the military money.

## **Senators demand base closing data, prepare for base visit**

The Associated Press

Lolita C. Baldor

May 27, 2005

Senators scrambling to head off proposed military base closings in their states are pressing Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to release all the data used to decide which facilities to shut down.

Nearly two dozen senators, including Connecticut Democrats Christopher Dodd and Joe Lieberman, signed a letter to Rumsfeld, saying they need to know how the Pentagon ranked the bases and determined their military value.

Meanwhile, Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell and 13 other governors sent a similar letter to President Bush asking him to direct Rumsfeld to release that information. The governors also requested a delay in the base closing process until the data is made available and there has been time for review.

Rell said she wants one month delays in the Base Closure and Realignment Commission's scheduled June 1 site visit to Groton and July 6 public hearing in Boston.

"Unless we have the detailed backup information used by DOD (Department of Defense), we can not give the recommendations the kind of serious and detailed scrutiny they require," the governor said. "To date we have only a fraction of the information we need. That is just not acceptable."

Federal law requires that the information be delivered no more than seven days after the list of proposed closings is released, the governors said. The list was made public May 13.

In recent hearings, Defense Department officials said military value was a key factor in deciding which bases would close. They described the

scores given to some of the bases, but did not yet release backup material.

Members of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) began visiting bases this week, and have scheduled the first regional hearings on the closings for early next month.

"If the Department continues to delay the release of this data, communities adversely impacted by BRAC, and the BRAC commission, will be unable to assess the Department's recommendations in the limited time allotted to them," the senators said in the letter.

Defense Department spokesman Glenn Flood said the material is going to be released, but it is going through security checks because some of the information is classified.

"We realize the concern," he said. "We're working very hard on it."

Base closing commissioners are visiting eight bases in five states next week, including Naval Submarine Station New London in Groton, Conn., Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod, Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Pennsylvania, and Fort Monmouth in New Jersey.

At least four members of the panel plan to tour the Groton base, including commission chairman Anthony Principi. Members of the state's congressional delegation plan to meet with the commissioners, who will be in Connecticut Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning.

Two members are heading to the Portsmouth shipyard, and one member - retired Air Force Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton - will tour Otis. Newton is from Connecticut and is an executive vice president at East Hartford-based Pratt & Whitney.

A plan announced May 13 Rumsfeld would close 33 major bases and downsize 29 others, saving an estimated \$48 billion over 20 years.

## State team to visit Georgia Navy base

The Associated Press

Susan Haigh

May 27, 2005

A three-member team of state officials is planning a trip to Georgia to learn more about the community that would take on most of the work now being done at the U.S. Navy Submarine Base in Groton if the Connecticut facility is closed.

Staff members from the state departments of Economic and Community Development and Labor plan to review the Pentagon's claims that Kings Bay, Ga., can accommodate the thousands of military personnel and their families who would be moving from Connecticut.

"We are talking about a sudden and enormous influx of new people, something that would strain the resources of just about any community, let alone small coastal towns," Gov. M. Jodi Rell said on Thursday.

At a hearing last week, Anthony Principi, the chairman of the commission reviewing the base closings, had expressed similar concerns about the ability of King's Bay to absorb the additional people and vessels.

The team will examine issues such as the housing capacity, local infrastructure, schools, work force needs and availability of health care services in Camden County.

Rell said the state hopes that information will help Connecticut make its case for removing Groton base from the Pentagon's base closure list.

Connecticut officials also plan to conduct a separate evaluation of the capacity of the Navy base at Kings Bay to handle the additional submarines, military personnel and mission responsibilities.

No date has been set for what officials say will be a three-day trip.

Also Thursday, members of the state's congressional delegation met with Navy officials for a classified briefing about a Pentagon study on the appropriate size of the submarine fleet. At a base closing hearing last week, Navy officials said the proposed closings were based on a fleet of about 41 submarines. But other studies have recommended a larger fleet.

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., could not say what the newest study recommended. But he left the morning meeting clearly buoyed by the information presented by the Navy.

"The BRAC commission better listen to these people," Dodd said. "I would consider it a dereliction of duty if they don't listen to what these people have to say because it goes to the very heart of what our national security needs are going to be."

Also Thursday, the group appointed to help keep the base from closing said the state should ask the Pentagon for documents about possible radioactive waste at the Connecticut base.

"For over 50 years the military has operated nuclear reactors on the premises," said John C. Markowicz, chairman of the state's submarine base realignment coalition. "I'm not suggesting there's any malfeasance, but there ought to be the same remediation and audit standards at the base as there are anywhere else and the Secretary of Defense ought to include the cost of that remediation in any plans to close the base."

Navy environmental reports filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2001 do not list radioactive waste as a potential hazard at the base, but Markowicz said some such reports could be classified.

"For as long as there have been nuclear submarines operating out of Groton, the possibility has existed for that kind of release, however small," said Rell's spokesman, Rich Harris. "We're not suggesting, by any means, that there is a public health hazard, but we want to know if there is any contamination."

Rell is asking the Navy for all documents regarding pollution at the base, even those that may have once been classified, Harris said.

Members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission are slated to be in Connecticut on June 1 to take a look at the Groton base.

The BRAC will hold a public hearing in Boston on July 6. Connecticut officials will have the opportunity to present two hours worth of arguments that it makes strategic and military sense to take the base off the list.

The BRAC must present its final base closure recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8.

### **Congressional delegations prepare for push to save shipyard**

The Associated Press  
May 26, 2005

New Hampshire and Maine lawmakers and governors angry over the Pentagon's failure to provide complete data supporting its base closure recommendations prepared to make their case to the chairman of the independent base closure commission.

"Although we haven't been supplied the information we feel we're entitled to, we have enough to show that the Defense Department is just plain wrong" in recommending closure, Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said Thursday in preparation for Friday's meeting with Anthony Principi.

The delegations will "express their continued outrage over the Defense Department's failure to provide the quantitative data... This delay is inexcusable and severely disadvantages our ability to make our case," said Rep. Jeb Bradley, R-N.H.

Maine Gov. John Baldacci and New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch also were scheduled to attend the meeting.

Baldacci and other governors from a dozen states sent a letter to President Bush on

Thursday asking him to direct Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to release all the information and request a delay in the base closing process until the data is made available and there has been time for review.

Federal law, the governors said, requires that the information be delivered no more than seven days after the list of proposed closings is released. The list, which recommended closing the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and removing aircraft and slashing personnel at Brunswick Naval Air Station, was made public May 13.

Earlier this week, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, threatened to subpoena documents because of the Pentagon's failure to provide the data. Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, introduced a bill that would require the Pentagon to turn over the data.

The latest data delivered to Congress on Tuesday contained the Pentagon's conclusions, but it did not contain the numbers used to arrive at specific recommendations for the Maine bases, the lawmakers' complained.

Pentagon officials promised to provide the supporting documents to the nine-member commission but the documents didn't arrive.

Collins said a strategy meeting of Maine and New Hampshire delegations focused their arguments on several key points: military value of the facilities, costs associated with the closure and realignment and economic effect of those actions.

Also, she said, "we're going to make the case that each facility is a stellar facility and contributes greatly to the Pentagon's mission."

Asked whether the points were in order of importance, she said, "Military value is the most important criteria that the BRAC commission looks at."

Sen. John Sununu, R-N.H., said the Defense Department did not take into account in its recommendations that "Portsmouth does its work more efficiently and more cost effectively

than any other shipyard public or private in the country."

When commission members visit the shipyard, "they will fully appreciate the distinct values that were inadequately considered under the Department of Defense's costs savings analysis," Rep. Charles Bass, R-N.H., said. "Year after year, and contract after contract, Portsmouth has pulled through under cost and ahead of schedule, demonstrating its unparalleled excellence and value to our nation's taxpayers."

Gregg and Sununu both said that once the nuclear submarine shipyard is closed it can never be replaced in the nation's military superstructure. "Once it's closed it's gone," Sununu said.

Rep. Jeb Bradley, R-N.H., said Wednesday, Collins and Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., wrote to the General Accounting Office to urge a thorough review of the defense data and to look at whether the data was accurate and sufficient for its recommendations.

Under the base closing law, the GAO is required to provide a detailed analysis of the of the Pentagon's recommendations and selection process by July 1.

Snowe said the delegations will tell Principi "that the Pentagon's recommendations to close Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Center in Limestone, and to realign Brunswick Naval Air Station are based on faulty data and assumptions and ultimately would be detrimental to our national security."

### **Base plan draws two challenges House critics fail**

Scripps Howard News Service  
Lisa Hoffman and James W. Brosnan  
May 27, 2005

WASHINGTON - After tamping out a congressional attempt to delay military base closings, the Pentagon was faced Thursday with

two more brush fires fanned by critics across the country.

A long-shot House effort Wednesday evening to postpone the just-begun round of closings for at least a year was easily killed in a 316 to 112 vote.

The measure, shepherded by Rep. Jeb Bradley, R-N.H., is likely to constitute the last Capitol Hill attempt to delay the process.

"The horse is out of the stable at this point, and we have to move ahead with the process," said House Armed Service Chairman Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., urging the House to kill Bradley's amendment.

But by Thursday morning, another simmering front flared as lawmakers across the country protested that the Pentagon is holding back information showing how officials came to recommend the closing of 33 major bases and hundreds of other military facilities.

At issue: the background data and calculations used by Defense Department to decide which bases to recommend for closing.

State and Capitol Hill legislators in Alabama, Connecticut, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico and other states with bases in peril have protested that the Pentagon has not supplied them with anything but summaries of the supporting documentation.

Governors from 14 states dispatched a letter to President Bush Thursday, asking for a delay in the process until the missing information - which they say is essential for evaluating and challenging the Defense Department's conclusions - is released and carefully reviewed.

Particularly infuriating to state leaders is that members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission - which will decide by September whether to accept or reject the Pentagon's recommendations - have already begun visits to targeted facilities, leaving their defenders there without crucial ammunition to rebut Pentagon

arguments. Next week alone, commission members are traveling to eight installations in five states.

Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood said more data will be forthcoming after a review to make sure no classified information is included in the public release of the documents.

Another front drawing increasing fire is the Pentagon's recommendation to close hundreds of Army and Air Force reserve and National Guard centers in scores of states.

On Thursday, the National Guard Association of the United States blasted the Pentagon's decision, which the group said would "effectively ground one-third of the Air National Guard's flying units, many of which have made significant contributions to the global war on terror."

### **Legislators say BRAC process untimely with war in Iraq**

The Asbury Park Press (Asbury Park, NJ)  
Ledyard King and John Yaukey  
May 27, 2005

WASHINGTON — Stung by the recommended shutdown of Fort Monmouth, New Jersey lawmakers are joining a bipartisan congressional effort to delay the ongoing round of base closures, claiming it threatens national security in wartime.

"If there ever is a wrong time . . . (and) certainly wrong-headed idea, I think it is this overall exercise," Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., said at a Capitol Hill news conference Thursday. "It is very difficult to make strategic decisions when we are as stretched . . . as we are."

The Pentagon wants to close 33 large installations across the country, including Fort Monmouth in New Jersey, and downsize 29 others.

Defense Department officials estimate closing Monmouth, a key communications and electronics research facility for the Army, would

mean the loss of nearly 10,000 jobs — 5,272 base employees and 4,465 workers who benefit from the base.

Two members of the Base Realignment and Closure commission, which will review the Pentagon's recommendations, are scheduled to visit Fort Monmouth on June 3, according to Rep. Rush Holt's office. Holt's district includes the fort.

The effort to delay the BRAC process is led by South Dakota Republican Sen. John Thune, who introduced a bill to postpone the closures until most troops return from Iraq and several pending reports on the status of the military are completed.

That could take years and would effectively nullify the closure process.

A delay has been endorsed by the National Guard Association, which is concerned that the base closures will further stress the National Guard, already strained by the war in Iraq.

Pentagon officials and National Guard leaders have heard most of the criticisms of the closure process repeatedly over the last two weeks and have defended it as necessary for modernizing the military.

Trying to stop economically painful base closures is almost as much a part of the BRAC process as shuttering the bases themselves. Groups of lawmakers have tried and failed to halt all four previous closure rounds, which started in 1988. The last one was in 1995.

The bipartisan effort to forestall closure suffered a blow Wednesday when the House overwhelmingly defeated a similar measure.

Before the vote, Holt, D-N.J., said transferring Fort Monmouth's work to another base would cause a dangerous disruption for the troops.

"Imagine the following scenario," he said. "The insurgents have once again changed the frequency that they use to detonate their roadside bombs. A soldier in Iraq calls back to

Fort Monmouth seeking the latest update for his unit's jammers. A voice on the other end says, "I'm sorry, that person doesn't work here anymore. We're in the middle of a realignment and we haven't found his replacement yet."

Base closing opponents did gain a small victory Thursday when the House approved a measure barring the Pentagon from using money in its 2006 budget to start closing bases until the Pentagon releases the information it used to determine its recommendations.

Members of Congress who represent bases slated for closure say they can't make their best cases to the commission unless they know what data Defense Department officials relied on.

"In the last BRAC round in 1995, we had all the information to back up the Pentagon's recommendations within a few days," said Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., who used to represent Fort Monmouth until his district was redrawn. "It's almost been two weeks since the base closure list came out and we're still lacking most of the background information for these recommendations."

### **Local News Articles**

#### **Center would combine Guard, Army Reserve resources**

The Associated Press (Middletown, IA)  
Susan Haigh  
May 27, 2005

A new Armed Forces Reserve Center - a combined National Guard and Army Reserve armory - would serve as headquarters at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, military officials said.

The up to \$20 million center could open in 2008, said Lt. Col. Greg Hapgood, an Iowa National Guard spokesman.

In a report released two weeks ago, the Base Closure and Realignment Commission - a federal panel charged with transforming military bases - recommended funding the reserve center

and three other combined arms centers in Iowa. President Bush would still have to approve the proposal.

Chances could be good for approval since the government has followed 85 percent of past BRAC recommendations.

Officials said the 30-acre center would be built on what currently is farmland along U.S. Highway 34. Plans would include training, assembly, supply and maintenance facilities for two engineer companies, separate motor pools and a shared parking area for civilian vehicles.

Two local units of citizen soldiers would share the complex. Those units include Company A, 224th Engineer Battalion based in Burlington, part of the Iowa Army National Guard, and Middletown Company C, 389th Engineer Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve battalion.

Plant administrators also would share the space, said Lt. Col. Rory Tegtmeier, the top Army official at IAAP.

"The building we're in now is 60 years old and has been renovated many times," Tegtmeier said. "It's getting to the point where it may be more cost effective to build new than to repair or renovate this building."

The BRAC report included \$80 million in military construction in Iowa. However, the funding went mostly unnoticed by the public because of worries over recommendations to close the Rock Island Arsenal and several other military bases nationwide.

Hapgood said the design phase of the reserve center could begin as early as November if it proceeds through the commission, Congress and the president.

BRAC commissions also have backed joint Guard and Reserve centers in Middletown, Muscatine and Cedar Rapids. The report calls for a fourth combined Army and Marine Corps reserve center in Waterloo.

Hapgood said the proposals capped 10 years of study by National Guard planners.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for the Iowa National Guard," he said. "We're absolutely pleased with the progress so far."

The federal government would pay much of the bill for the new center, but the Army Reserve would contribute \$9.5 million, said Bob Krause, outgoing president of the Reserve Officers Association in Iowa.

Although the Army and Navy reserve already have combined posts in the state, the new reserve centers would mark the first collaborations between the Reserve and the Iowa National Guard.

"There are similar arrangements in other states, so this is not groundbreaking," Krause said. "But it is groundbreaking in Iowa."

#### **Evaluation date set for Fort McPherson**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (Atlanta, GA)  
Add Seymour Jr.  
May 27, 2005

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### **Pentagon formula sought; Lawmakers hope to save Georgia bases**

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (Atlanta, GA)  
Bob Kemper  
May 27, 2005

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### **National Guard Expansion Protested**

Albuquerque Journal (Albuquerque, NM)

Bob Kemper

May 27, 2005

#### Group Wants Unit Moved to Clovis

A group opposed to the New Mexico National Guard expanding its facilities at the Santa Fe airport is calling on federal officials to move the unit to Clovis, the city now fighting to keep Cannon Air Force Base from shutting down.

In a letter to Sens. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., and Pete Domenici, R-N.M., Elaine Cimino, director of Citizens for Environmental Safeguards, states that Clovis is a military-friendly community and that the base is 10 miles from residential areas. The letter was made available to reporters during a news conference Wednesday outside Bingaman's Santa Fe office.

"In order to keep Cannon Air Force Base open, realignment under a joint operation status is needed," Cimino states. "There is no better solution than to realign the ... Army National Guard Blackhawk base in Clovis, N.M. It will still allow for military training exercises in an area where they would not be impacting so many homes and schools."

National Guard spokesman Tom Koch said the possibility of moving the 717th Medical Company out of Santa Fe had been discussed in the past, but it was made clear that the city of Santa Fe wanted to keep the unit.

"A lot of our state missions, particularly search and rescue, are in the northern section of the state," Koch said. "Logistically, it's a real convenient place for us to be to be able to respond in a timely fashion."

About two dozen people turned out to protest the expansion project, which has been in the works for at least four years. The group contends that the government plans to spend \$55 million on the facility and that the expansion project would enable the National Guard to increase to 25 the number of Blackhawks at its facility housed at the Santa Fe Airport.

Members of the group say that increasing the number of helicopters will adversely impact neighborhoods near the airport. They also contend that the environmental assessment conducted doesn't address the noise of the helicopters.

"They don't care about what the sound does to the people or the animals," said Audrey Storbeck, who showed up to protest the expansion.

National Guard officials, meanwhile, say there are no plans to bring in more Blackhawks than the ones that are already authorized, and they say the project won't cost as much as the group is saying.

"The bottom line is right today we are authorized seven (Blackhawks), and we're not going to be authorized any more. We're not going to get any more," Koch said. He said the cost of building the 75,491-square-foot maintenance hangar and a roughly 14,000-square-foot storage facility is \$29 million.

The only reason they want to increase the size of their facility at the Santa Fe airport, he said, is because the existing facility is only large enough to maintain two Blackhawks at a time.

### **Sen. Clinton: Keep C-130s from Arkansas Snyder, Pryor see her just doing her job for N.Y., though old turf may lose out**

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock)

Paul Barton

May 27, 2005

WASHINGTON - Looking out for her constituents in New York has put Sen. Hillary

Rodham Clinton in direct conflict with her old state Arkansas.

The issue is C-130 cargo planes and the Pentagon's plans to move eight of them from the Niagara Falls (N.Y.) Air Reserve Station to Little Rock Air Force Base. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld made the recommendation May 13 to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Sen. Clinton, a Democrat, thinks the Pentagon should keep them where they are.

She has characterized a plan to consolidate the C-130s in Arkansas as putting "all our eggs in one basket" and called it a mistake.

The Arkansas congressional delegation disagrees.

But that hasn't kept the two sides from talking.

Since the base-closing recommendations were announced, Sen. Clinton has been on the phone talking with Rep. Vic Snyder, the Democrat whose congressional district includes Little Rock Air Force Base.

Snyder said Sen. Clinton was doing her job by standing up for New York.

"They took a big hit, and it's painful up there," Snyder said Wednesday.

Sen. Clinton is not trying to hurt Arkansas, he added.

"Hillary loves Arkansas. She loves the Little Rock Air Force Base. She loves people of Arkansas," Snyder said.

Sen. Clinton spokesman Philippe Reines also emphasized that her taking a stand should not be interpreted as a slap at her former home state.

Hillary Clinton served 12 years as first lady of Arkansas from the late 1970s into the 1990s, and, after eight years in the White House with her husband, former President Clinton, she was

elected as a U.S. senator from New York in 2000.

"Sen. Clinton lived in Arkansas for 15 years, was deeply honored to be the state's first lady and will always be proud of the work she did on behalf of the state," Reines said. "She believes that the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station plays a critical role in supporting our national defense and our homeland security and is fighting hard to keep this important installation open."

Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., also understands where his Senate colleague is coming from - but disagrees, Pryor spokesman Rodell Mollineau said.

"Sen. Pryor understands that Sen. Clinton has to do what she has to do to protect her base," he said. "But that being said, Little Rock Air Force Base is the premier training facility for C-130s, and it makes perfect sense militarily for the C-130s to come to Little Rock."

Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas was unavailable for comment.

In arguing to keep the planes at Niagara Falls, Sen. Clinton was quoted in The Buffalo News of Buffalo, N.Y., as saying that it didn't make sense for the Pentagon to consolidate C-130 operations in Little Rock, because the base was tornado-prone. The newspaper also cited statistics that showed Arkansas as the fifth most-tornado-prone state between 1950 and 1988.

As for the last time a tornado actually struck Little Rock Air Force Base, Dave Rice, a civilian meteorologist at the base, recalled a 1974 twister. Three years ago a funnel cloud was spotted over the base but it didn't touch down, he said.

While Sen. Clinton emphasized to New York reporters that she had nothing negative to say about Little Rock Air Force Base, two political observers said Wednesday that it was clear she had shucked her Arkansas background.

"We here in New York don't really consider her as ever really tied to the state of Arkansas. She

doesn't talk like a Southerner," said Christopher Malone, political scientist at Pace University in New York City.

He added that the fight over military bases put her in a difficult position.

"That's between a rock and a hard place. She has to fight for her constituency in New York and has to fight against her old constituency."

But Malone said Sen. Clinton has been skillful at shedding "previous lives." She has gone from first lady of Arkansas to first lady of the United States to a new identity in New York.

"It's a fascinating transformation she has gone through. She's formed an identity of her own," Malone said.

He added, "Part of her identity change has been to cut ties not only with Arkansas, but with her husband, who was president."

The political scientist recalled that one reason Sen. Clinton doesn't speak much about Arkansas is that she has had to shed a "carpetbagger" image - coming from out of state to run for the Senate in New York five years ago.

Similarly, pollster John Zogby of New York said: "I don't know if Hillary has an Arkansas identity or a New York identity. She is Hillary."

As for her previous Arkansas identity, Zogby said, "It's been a long time now, if ever."

### **Community members express outrage at proposed base closing**

The Associated Press (Washington DC)  
May 26, 2005

Neighbors of Walter Reed Army Medical Center voiced strong opposition Thursday night to federal plans to close the installation and move its jobs elsewhere.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Farmer Jr., Walter Reed's commanding officer, told a community meeting that the Pentagon wants to merge Walter Reed

with the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and move other operations to a community hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va. Officials believe the moves would improve military medical care and save billions of dollars.

But in a question and answer session that followed, more than 50 neighbors and patients were more concerned that their neighborhood would change for the worse without a military base that has been a Northwest Washington landmark for 100 years.

"Walter Reed is the history of Georgia Avenue," said a woman who identified herself only as Ms. Williams. "Without Walter Reed, there will be no Georgia Avenue."

Tony Tomlinson, 40, a neighbor and retired member of the military, drew applause when he voiced his objection.

"It shocks me no end that they would ever consider moving Walter Reed from the District of Columbia," he said, emphasizing the economic stability that the hospital brings to the community.

Farmer could not offer anything to those who pleaded to keep the hospital open but his thanks for their support. When one man asked if there was any internal opposition to the proposed closing, Farmer explained that it can't be done.

"That is not our place," he said. "Our place is not to disagree, not to refute and get this overturned."

Farmer did promise to work with the community to get information out as soon as it could be made public, and offered reassurances that the military was working on problems like traffic and helping workers make the transition to a new workplace.

D.C Council member Adrian Fenty, D-Ward 4, promised to work to make sure that the community has a say on how the property is used after the Army moves out by 2010 or later.

"The deck is stacked," said Fenty, a possible candidate for mayor next year, "If they start letting communities weigh in, it could undermine the process."

Fenty said there is an excellent chance for the property to be locally controlled. Land for development is scarce in upper Northwest, he said.

"Having a big parcel become available is a great opportunity to do some of the development that has never happened in recent history," Fenty said.

### **BRAC member says DOD needs to gives specifics on recommendations**

The Associated Press (Montgomery, AL)  
Samira Jafari  
May 26, 2005

A member of a military base closing review panel said Thursday the Department of Defense needs to explain how money is to be saved under its proposal to move computer systems management from Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base to a Massachusetts base.

Retired Admiral Harold Gehman said the Pentagon believes shifting the Maxwell program and others to Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts will provide "a better product."

"Now they have to demonstrate that to us, because the cost of doing it is relatively high," he said.

Gehman spoke to reporters after touring the Maxwell-Gunter operation and then meeting with Gov. Bob Riley, U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions and Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright.

Riley characterized the meeting with Gehman "as a very frank and open discussion," said Jeff Emerson, the governor's communications director.

"Gov. Riley and other Alabama officials want to make sure the information used by the Pentagon in making this recommendation is accurate,"

Emerson said in a statement. "If the information is not accurate, it puts us in a stronger position to challenge the recommendation."

Sessions said they discussed some of the issues that would have to be addressed before the commission could overturn the DOD's recommendation, though he wouldn't elaborate. He said the military significance of each base would be the biggest factor for the commission.

"It's not going to be a political decision. The commission is going to be like Admiral Gehman - they're going to be focused on doing the right thing," Sessions said.

Gehman is one of nine members of the Base Realignment and Closure commission who are visiting each of the 33 major bases slated for closing and scores of smaller bases to be downsized. In September, the panel will accept or modify the base-closing plan.

Gehman said the commission is investigating the cost-savings rationale reported in the Pentagon's review and is in the process of receiving specific numbers that support the recommendations.

"The little bitty numbers buried in the report that justify (the recommendations) just came out," he said. "For example, this reassignment costs \$66 million - but where did that number come from?"

Under the recommendations, Maxwell would lose overall 1,251 jobs - 740 military and 511 civilian. Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base has about 21,000 service personnel and civilians, meaning it would retain about 95 percent of its work force - but losing 1,251 mostly skilled posts would be significant.

The job losses at Maxwell-Gunter in Montgomery would be caused by moving the Operations Systems and Sustainment Group, known as OSSG, to Hanscom - where members of Congress and state and local officials had been lobbying hard to keep Hanscom open.

They proposed a \$410 million expansion of the Massachusetts base in a bid to make it more indispensable to the military.

Gehman said the computer systems management done at Maxwell-Gunter "is critical to the national security of the country."

He said there is a set of eight criteria the commission uses to make its recommendation - the first four entail military significance. Economic impact to base communities, while important, is the last issue considered.

"Yes we will consider the economics of the situation, but it's pretty far down on the list," he said.

He said the visits are not for fact-finding, but used to supplement the data supplied by the DOD. The commission members' observations on Maxwell-Gunter will be discussed publicly at a BRAC regional hearing June 30 in Atlanta.

### **BRAC: Renewed hope Delegation more confident about Air Force commitment to new UAV missions**

Grand Forks Herald (Grand Forks, ND)  
Elisa L. Rineheart  
May 27, 2005

Grand Forks Air Force Base and Fargo's 119th Air National Guard Fighter Wing will play a "substantial" role in the Air Force's plans to use unmanned aerial vehicles, base retention leaders said Thursday.

North Dakota congressional delegation's confidence about the Air Force's commitment to bring emerging UAV missions to the bases increased dramatically after a briefing with Gen. Stephen Wood, Air Force deputy chief of staff for plans and programs, said Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D.

"We are learning now that the UAV mission has real legs to it," Conrad said. "It has real substance and Grand Forks is going to play a big role."

Wood, the man in charge of Air Force long-range planning, told the delegation that the Pentagon plans to use Grand Forks and Fargo as bedding sites for growing UAV missions such as Predator and Global Hawk, Conrad said.

"We are slated to be one of the two major sites for these systems and that has very positive implications for the base," he said.

The congressional delegation will host a public meeting to discuss base retention efforts at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Alerus Center.

### **More UAVs**

The number of UAV systems is going to increase substantially and that means more opportunities for expansion at the Grand Forks base, he said.

In a 2006 budget request, the Pentagon has asked for nearly \$2 billion to acquire UAV systems, Pentagon officials said.

Conrad said he couldn't reveal details of the conversation with Wood, but said that the delegation left the meeting feeling "very upbeat."

"It's the best we've felt since the realignment plan was released," Conrad said.

Wood told the delegation that the Pentagon has a definite plan for the North Dakota bases. He also said that in the next two weeks, the Air Force would provide additional details about the UAV mission in Grand Forks and Fargo and their role in developing war-fighting strategies, Conrad said.

### **Proofed in combat**

Because of their surveillance and fighting capabilities, UAVs are expected to play a larger role in the force structure of the Air Force, Wood said.

The Air Force is leading the development of UAV missions.

Grand Forks was selected because of its strategic location near the Canadian border, and because it provides an excellent quality of life to service members and their families, Conrad said.

Experts say that the Predator's proven ability to fire air-to-ground missiles played an important role in the expansion of the UAV program.

Combat leaders in Iraq are using about 750 UAVs to conduct operations and are asking for more because of their proven combat and spy capabilities. They also want them because they can go into hazardous combat areas, keeping soldiers out of harm's way, Conrad said.

"A lot of this is evolving as a result of what they are learning from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan," Conrad said. "What they were thinking of doing a year ago and what they are thinking of doing now is very different."

### **BRAC commissioner: History not a factor**

The News Enterprise (Hardin County, KY)  
Erica Walsh  
May 27, 2005

Fort Knox could easily accept an incoming brigade combat team, a member of the BRAC Commission said Thursday after visiting the post.

Two of the nine members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission came to Fort Knox to see the post and gain information for their upcoming recommendations.

Members of the independent panel are traveling to all installations slated for closure or major realignment as a result of the Department of Defense recommendations.

Commissioners Samuel K. Skinner and retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Sue E. Turner visited Fort Knox for several hours.

"We're really here on a fact-finding tour," Turner said.

BRAC recommendations released on May 13 called for Fort Knox to lose the Armor Center, but receive an infantry brigade combat team and the Accessions, Cadet and Human Resources commands.

Turner said Fort Knox "seemed to be a great place." She spoke with officials on post and community leaders who seemed satisfied with the recommendations.

Employees who are concerned that their jobs might be transferred or lost should learn what options are available to help, she said. Turner also reminded employees and soldiers that the recommendations put forth were just the initial step.

"It's hard to remember that these are just recommendations," she said. "They're not fact yet. My advice is to get as smart as you can about what's traditionally available and what is anticipated to be available at any post that could be realigned."

There are aspects of Fort Knox that make it a very valuable installation, Turner said.

"One of the really interesting things is the training space that is available," she said.

Turner would not go into much detail about exactly what commissioners are examining, but said she did speak to some permanent personnel during the visit and asked about alternatives to the recommendations.

She understands the history at Fort Knox and said that would be examined, but she pointed out that an installation's history is not a determining factor in closure and realignment decisions.

"I think it would be impossible to ignore things like history," she said. "But that's not a criteria."

### **Two from base panel visit Fort Knox**

#### **Outlook generally is good on plans**

The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)  
Michael A. Lindenberger  
May 27, 2005

FORT KNOX, Ky. -- A member of the commission evaluating which military bases to close said yesterday that she was surprised by the Pentagon's proposal to move tank training from Fort Knox.

But retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Sue E. Turner also said she has yet to form an opinion about any specific recommendation.

Turner was one of two members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission who visited Fort Knox to evaluate the proposal before the panel passes its findings to President Bush in September.

Among the biggest changes recommended May 13 for Fort Knox is to move the Army Armor Center to Fort Benning, Ga. About 7,500 soldiers who train at Fort Knox each year would no longer come to the post, officials have said.

But the post would gain the Army Accessions Command and the U.S. Human Resources Command, plus 3,000 to 3,500 soldiers as part of a newly created brigade combat team.

Turner said the post's long history with tanks will be considered.

"How could you ignore the history of Fort Knox?" she asked. "But the BRAC commission itself did not prepare these recommendations. The Department of Defense did, over a number of years."

Turner said the proposed changes will be judged by whether they conform to criteria set by Congress. They include such factors as the military value of the post, the costs associated with closures, the capacity for joint operations and the impact of local development near installations.

Turner said her meetings yesterday with local officials and Fort Knox officers left her with the impression that they believe that the post stands to gain more than it does to lose by the recommendations.

"The general consensus seems to be that Fort Knox would come out pretty good on the whole arrangement," she said.

In his announcement earlier this month, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld proposed that 33 major military installations be closed and that hundreds of smaller changes take effect.

The proposals will be considered by the nine-member commission between now and Sept. 8, when Turner said a final list of bases will be published.

After that, President Bush has until Nov. 7 to approve or reject the list, but cannot edit it. It will then become law unless Congress passes legislation to reject the list.

The visit yesterday by Turner and another commission member, former Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner, was not open to the public.

Turner said the commission will hold regional public hearings, including one June 7 in St. Louis.

### **Release of Georgia's BRAC data under fire**

State's delegation seeks Bush's help to get more information

The Macon Telegraph (Macon, GA)

Gene Rector

May 27, 2005

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE - A sharp controversy is brewing about what Georgia's congressional delegation is calling the Pentagon's "limited and sketchy" release of data supporting Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's May 13 base realignment and closure recommendations.

In a letter sent late Thursday to President Bush, the delegation said, "It is imperative that we, the governor and communities affected by the BRAC process, and the BRAC Commission itself, have full access to all the data on which these decisions were based."

Four Georgia installations - Forts Gillem and McPherson, Naval Air Station Atlanta and the Athens Naval Supply Corps School - were recommended for closure by Rumsfeld. The letter asks the president to consider delaying the BRAC process until all information has been released and reviewed.

The independent, nine-member BRAC commission has already begun its review of the Defense Department's recommendations and must provide its assessment to the president no later than Sept. 8.

Clyde Taylor, military aide to Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., said Georgia's military communities have no time to waste both in understanding and contesting the closure decisions.

"We've already had BRAC commissioners visiting our bases, so we're already behind," he said by telephone late Thursday.

The Pentagon is required by law to release all BRAC data - including detailed backup information - within seven days of the May 13 announcement, Taylor said. "It's slowly trickling out, but we don't have it all," he said. "That means our communities have less time and less ability to accurately understand why their bases were selected for closure."

Glenn Flood, a Defense Department spokesman, said the Pentagon has met what the law requires and that security issues are delaying the release of additional data.

"We have to make sure that we don't inadvertently release sensitive information," he said by telephone. "We don't want to put out documents that discuss things like where we have things stored and how much. So the data has to be looked at almost line-by-line, and that takes time."

Ron Carbon, director of Middle Georgia's 21st Century Partnership, said the additional data is important even for communities with bases not selected for closure. The partnership, consisting

of local business, political and civic leaders, is working to defend Robins Air Force Base during the BRAC 2005 process.

"Of course, the people in Atlanta and Athens have more at stake in the near term," he said, "but the data means something to all of us in the longer term. We want to see what was said about Robins. We want to know our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We think this data will be the baseline not only for BRAC but for decisions over the next five to 10 years."

Chambliss press aide Annie Laurie Walters said late Thursday that other states were also concerned about missing BRAC data.

"In fact, Sen. (Olympia) Snowe is introducing a bill tonight that will require the Pentagon to release the backup data," she said. "So we're not alone."

Snowe is a Republican senator from Maine, where three installations are tapped for closure, including the Naval Shipyard at Portsmouth.

Carbon said his contacts indicated that at least 10 other states have complained to the Pentagon about the slow release of data.

### **Residents Decry Plan to Close Walter Reed**

The Washington Post (Washington DC)  
Allan Lengel  
May 27, 2005

District resident Brenda Williams delivered an unambiguous message last night to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld: "Leave Walter Reed alone!"

"Without Walter Reed, there will be no Georgia Avenue," she said. "I just cannot believe that Mr. Rumsfeld or Mr. Bush added Water Reed" Army Medical Center to the list of proposed closures released this month.

The impassioned message was one of many that area residents and those who frequent the hospital delivered during a community meeting

to discuss the future of the 113-acre facility near the city's northern tip. Most recently, Walter Reed has treated hundreds of U.S. troops who were wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rumsfeld announced May 13 the proposed closure of about 180 military installations, which Defense officials say would save about \$49 billion over 20 years. If approved by Congress and the president, the changes would take effect over the next six years.

One by one, some of the 70 or so people in the hospital's auditorium talked about the outstanding medical care at Walter Reed and the economic and emotional stability it has provided the area near the Shepherd Park and Brightwood neighborhoods.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Farmer Jr. , commanding general and installation commander, who stood in combat fatigues and boots, listened patiently and at times showed clear signs of empathy.

"Ma'am, thank you for your love and concern for us," he told Williams after she surrendered the wireless microphone that was being passed around the audience.

Farmer assured residents that they would have input on what becomes of the parcel if the closure proposal is approved. He also promised to get more details on the plans and to share them with the community before a final decision is made.

"It's not a done deal," he said.

Farmer said that a 300-bed medical center, to be known as Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, would be added to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda.

In addition, a facility with about 165 beds would be built at Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, and roughly 60 percent of the 4,800 military, civilian and contract employee positions at Walter Reed hospital would remain in the region, he said.

Farmer assured the audience that the new facilities would carry on the outstanding care that Walter Reed now provides.

Last night's scene is likely to play out across the nation as people try to save many of the installations nominated for closure because they often provide an economic backbone for their communities.

Some audience members spoke last night about Walter Reed with the concern of a protective parent. They said they feared that the mergers in Bethesda and Fort Belvoir would compromise the quality of care.

But Farmer assured the audience that that would not happen.

"It is not a closing of Walter Reed; it is a relocation," he said. "The soldier on the battlefield will still be able to say, 'Take me to Walter Reed.' "

That remark came in response to concern voiced by Michael Heanue of Edgewater, N.J., who was in town for treatment at Walter Reed. Heanue spoke with great fondness for the hospital, calling it a world-class facility that had saved his life more than once.

Heanue said that in the early 1950s, after he was seriously wounded in the Korean War, officials asked where he wanted to be sent stateside.

He said he mustered "three syllables: Walter Reed."

Martin Cody, a Korean War veteran and a resident of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Northeast Washington, said he thought the session was informative.

Nonetheless, he was still bothered by the proposal.

"What kind of country shuts down a medical facility in the middle of a war?" he asked. "A country run by accountants."

## **F-15 Move to Scott Is Unlikely, General Says**

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (St. Louis, Mo)

Harry Levins

May 26, 2005

The general who drafted the Air Force's base-closing list says any move of the Missouri Air National Guard's F-15s to Scott Air Force Base would be a long shot at best.

The officer is Maj. Gen. Gary W. Heckman, who passed through Lambert Field Wednesday en route to Columbia, Mo., for that community's Memorial Day observance.

Along with a senior civilian from the Department of the Air Force, Heckman ran that service's Base Closure Executive Group. Among its recommendations: Take away the Air Guard's fighters at Lambert, sending nine to Nevada and six to New Jersey.

The Defense Department agreed and put Lambert on its own list. When that list came out this month, some politicians said that moving the fighters to nearby Scott would make more sense than shipping them to Nevada and New Jersey.

But in an interview, Heckman offered two reasons why a move to Scott was unlikely.

In the short term, he said, the addition of four KC-135 refueling tankers to the Illinois Air National Guard unit already at Scott will eat up whatever infrastructure that base has to spare.

And in the long term, Heckman said, the use of Scott as a fighter base falls outside the Air Force's force structure plan, which looks 20 years into the future. "Other locations had a better ranking for fighters," Heckman said.

Asked whether the fighters might have stayed at Lambert had the city of St. Louis moved speedily to get the Air Guard out of the way of runway construction, Heckman said simply, "I don't know. That's a hypothetical question."

But again and again in the interview, he emphasized the role of the 20-year plan in the consolidation of bases.

He noted that ideally, a fighter squadron had 24 planes. But over the years, he said, the shrinking number of fighters at a fixed number of bases had reduced most squadrons to 18 planes.

With consolidation, he said, most squadrons can climb back up to 24 planes. In fact, he noted, that's what will happen at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. An Air Force Reserve attack squadron there will add enough A-10 Warthogs to become a 24-plane squadron.

He said that when the fighters left Lambert, the Air Force would find jobs for the Air Guard members left behind. "The kinds of things we're doing today won't be what we're doing 20 years from now," he said. "Some folks will have to learn new jobs" -- for example, in such specialties as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

And others can stay on -- or retrain -- as specialists in such high-demand fields as security police, engineers and medics, he said.

Many politicians have charged that the departure of Air Guard fighters from St. Louis, Springfield, Ill., Terre Haute, Ind., and Fort Smith, Ark., will leave a hole in the Midwest's air defense.

Security rules barred Heckman from responding in detail. But he said his people had run their proposal past the U.S. Northern Command, which is responsible for military defense of the homeland.

"They graded our work," Heckman said, "and they said they were quite satisfied."

Staff members air concerns

A member of the federal commission that is reviewing the plans to close military bases visited Wednesday with employees at two installations in St. Louis whose jobs would be moved elsewhere.

Sue Ellen Turner, a retired Air Force brigadier general, toured the Army Human Resources Command in Overland and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard. The human resources office employs about 2,000 at the National Personnel Records Center and the accounting service has about 300. Most are civilians.

Turner said she listened to employees discuss reasons for keeping the operations here and concerns over moving their families. The Pentagon proposes to move the human resources jobs to Fort Knox, Ky., and the accounting jobs to undetermined sites.

Turner, of San Antonio, said the Base Realignment and Closure Commission has just begun its work. Speaking to reporters after the tours, she said it was far too early to say whether the commission would endorse the closings here.

### **S.A. Now To Have BRAC's Only Hearing In Texas**

San Antonio Express News (San Antonio, TX)  
Gary Martin  
May 27, 2005

WASHINGTON — An independent base closure commission canceled a planned hearing in Dallas, making the July 11 regional meeting in San Antonio the only chance for Texas communities to make their case to save installations targeted for elimination, officials said Thursday.

"This means the San Antonio hearing will be a pivotal moment for us, and for many other communities," said Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi, who's leading the fight to save Ingleside Naval Station.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, commonly called BRAC, is holding regional hearings across the country to allow communities to testify against closing installations that provide jobs and millions in federal spending to local economies.

A June hearing in Dallas was canceled when the base closure commission sought to consolidate the hearing in San Antonio, said Robert McCreary, a spokesman for the panel.

"We just consolidated the two Texas hearings to San Antonio," McCreary said.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry asked the base closure commission to reconsider.

Perry said canceling the Dallas hearing "will cause an undue hardship on the North Texas communities."

In a letter to the commission, Perry said some community leaders would have to travel "an additional 271 miles to San Antonio."

The Pentagon has proposed closing four major military installations in Texas: Brooks City-Base in San Antonio, Ingleside and the Red River Army Depot and Lone Star Ammunition Plant, both of which are in Texarkana.

In addition, several other Texas installations would see realignment, including Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, Ellington Field in Houston and Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls.

Texas communities prepared to fight the Pentagon's closure recommendation have complained that the Defense Department has yet to publicly release the data used to compile the base closure list.

The state's two U.S. senators, Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn, both Republicans, sent a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Thursday asking that the information be released.

"Communities have a right to know how their bases were measured so they can either support or challenge the proposals," the letter stated. "We urge you to release this data immediately to avoid undermining the BRAC process."

Commissioners on the independent panel reviewing the Pentagon proposals also have

complained about the delay in receiving information from the Department of Defense.

The panel has until Sept. 8 to review the recommendations and craft a final roster of bases to be eliminated. That list must be submitted to President Bush, who either can accept or reject it.

Meanwhile, retired Gen. James Hill, a commissioner, is scheduled to visit Ingleside and Corpus Christi NAS on July 6-8. Hill is a former resident of El Paso and a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio.

"I am confident that Gen. Hill will be pleasantly surprised when he sees the state-of-the-art facilities at" Ingleside, Congressman Ortiz said.

**Opinions/ Editorials**

N/A

**Additional Notes**

N/A