

Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

EARLY



BIRD

October 12, 2005

Department of Defense Releases

N/A

National News Articles

2005 Base Realignment and Closure
Focuses on Homeland Defense and Surge
Capability Issues;

Local News Articles

Defense agency has chance to give
Cleveland, Columbus more jobs
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Cleveland likely to get even more defense
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'Facts' unraveled; BRAC's case for Cecil Field
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Additional Notes

N/A

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N/A

National News Articles

**2005 Base Realignment and Closure
Focuses on Homeland Defense and Surge
Capability Issues;**

**Closings and Reorganizations Produce New
Opportunities for IT Vendors**

PR Newswire
October 11, 2005

The Department of Defense's (DoD) Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) commission used military value as its principal criterion for evaluating bases' destinies in 2005 focusing on homeland defense and surge capability issues, according to a report released by INPUT, the authority on government business.

While the BRAC commission was concerned about savings, it looked more closely into strategic issues in DoD's transformation. While the majority of the projected annual savings from this latest round of BRAC activities was from military personnel reductions and redeployments, the closing, realigning, consolidating, and other activities surrounding the bases are likely to create new opportunities for IT vendors.

"In particular, IT vendors should see increased activity around outsourcing of non-core DoD functions and systems like base operations support and administration as well as modernization of support services," said Payton

Smith, director, public sector market analysis at INPUT. "The BRAC decisions may significantly impact DoD programs already in the pipeline or to be awarded in the next few years, since the scope of the work may be expanded to accommodate additional closings and realignments."

This year's BRAC involved strategically transforming the DoD for a post- 9/11 world. For the first time, the BRAC commission looked at balancing DoD's provision of homeland security and fighting terrorism abroad. The Government Accounting Office identified the goals of the 2005 BRAC as eliminating unneeded infrastructure by making progress toward reducing the estimated 25 percent excess capacity of DoD, achieving savings, and furthering DoD's transformation.

"The 2005 BRAC's emphases on cost savings and streamlining DoD to make more funds available for DoD transformation efforts is good news for IT vendors," said Smith. "Increased opportunities for business process re-engineering, business system modernization, and outsourcing of non-mission- critical DoD systems are likely to arise."

INPUT's complete 2005 BRAC TargetView report is available to INPUT Network(TM) members subscribing to the Federal Market Analysis program. For more information on the subscription program, visit federal.input.com or call 703-707-3500.

About INPUT

INPUT is the authority on government business. Established in 1974, INPUT helps companies develop federal, state, and local government business and helps public sector organizations achieve their objectives. Over 1,000 members, including small specialized companies, new entrants to the public sector, and the largest government contractors and agencies, rely on INPUT for the latest and most comprehensive procurement and market information, consulting, powerful sales management tools, and educational & networking events.

Local News Articles

Defense agency has chance to give Cleveland, Columbus more jobs

The Associated Press State & Local Wire (Washington DC)

David Hammer

October 12, 2005

The head of the Defense Department's accounting operations is negotiating how many jobs will be transferred from 20 closing offices to those in five cities, including Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service and Ohio members of Congress say delegations from Indiana, Maine, New York and Ohio are making cases for their cities to take on thousands of DFAS jobs that will be moved out of the closed offices once a military base closing plan is adopted.

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission report filed in August is likely to become law in early November. Under that plan, the DFAS work force would be reduced and consolidated into the five sites.

Cleveland, which now has about 1,100 employees, would grow to no less than 1,500; Limestone, Maine, would end up with at least 600 employees; and Rome, N.Y., at least 1,000. Columbus, with 2,000 employees, and Indianapolis, with 2,700, would maintain at least their current employment levels.

Republican Sen. George Voinovich of Ohio said DFAS director Zack Gaddy has assured him that 300 to 400 additional full-time positions would go to Cleveland, bringing the total number of jobs at that center to more than 1,800. If the BRAC report becomes law as expected, Gaddy has the power to recommend specific job levels to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Gaddy's office and the Department of Defense declined to comment until the base closings report becomes law.

Congress has until the first week of November to reject the recommendations or they automatically become law. Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Ill., vows to have a full House vote to try to kill the law by the end of October, but it appears to have little support; his motion was rejected by a House committee two weeks ago.

Rep. Steven LaTourette, R-Ohio, says DFAS will determine where to put new jobs largely based on how much space is already available at each of the five remaining sites. The BRAC Commission already used space as a factor in recommending Cleveland grow to 1,500 jobs, but LaTourette says a careful inventory showed BRAC commissioners underestimated that available space.

"We went into this thinking there were only 300 empty desks in Cleveland and it turns out the number is more like double that," he said.

LaTourette and Voinovich are both emphasizing the ready-made accounting skills in the Cleveland work force and a private-public partnership they've helped establish to recruit accountants.

But while the numbers are going up for the city, LaTourette also is building a case for as many as 2,600 DFAS jobs in Cleveland. That's what he says is possible if a new building can be constructed on Port Authority land. The city has proposed to lease a new high-rise to DFAS for \$14 a square foot, cheaper than the agency's current \$19 a square foot lease.

Gaddy's office has confirmed that Cleveland can expect to take in functions from DFAS' closing Denver offices over the next several years. Gaddy has said he prefers to keep highly skilled and already trained Denver employees working in the expanded Cleveland operations, but the average Denver employee's age is 48 and DFAS is already preparing to rely heavily on the local work force when it expands its five remaining sites.

Cleveland likely to get even more defense jobs

Pentagon to add at least 200 payroll positions

Cleveland Plain Dealer (Cleveland, OH)

Sabrina Eaton

October 12, 2005

Washington - Cleveland's Defense Finance and Accounting Service office is likely to get at least 200 new jobs beyond the 1,500 that the Base Realignment and Closure Commission ordered that it receive, Sen. George Voinovich said Tuesday.

DFAS Director Zack E. Gaddy gave Voinovich the good news in a telephone conversation last week, the Cleveland Republican senator said.

When it consolidates 26 offices around the country into five, the Pentagon accounting agency is likely to put more payroll jobs in Cleveland, which already processes Navy pay, Voinovich said.

"It is logical to put them in a place where you already have folks doing that kind of job," said Voinovich.

Voinovich said the DFAS office in Columbus, which processes checks to Pentagon contractors, is likely to get more jobs along those lines, although Gaddy didn't estimate how many jobs it would receive. DFAS agency spokesmen did not respond to requests for comment.

Voinovich's news represents a sharp reversal from the Pentagon's May recommendation to eliminate 1,028 DFAS jobs in Cleveland and nearly shut the office.

City leaders persuaded the base closure commission to alter that decision and set Cleveland's minimum number of jobs at 1,500.

The commission also decided to retain DFAS facilities in Indianapolis, Rome, N.Y., and Limestone, Maine.

President Bush approved the base closure recommendations last month.

Congress has until the first week of November to reject the recommendations or they automatically become law.

The base closure plan has broad support in Congress, although several members in areas that will lose military facilities have objected.

Greater Cleveland Partnership Senior Vice President Carol A. Caruso said that after Congress completes the closure list, the city's DFAS team plans to begin "an ongoing dialogue" with the agency to secure the maximum possible jobs for Cleveland.

"It was very clear in the recommendation that 1,500 jobs is the floor and not the ceiling," Caruso said.

Debbie Setliff, an aide to Concord Township Republican Rep. Steve LaTourette, said that 3,000 to 4,000 DFAS jobs around the country will be relocated in the next few years, and the federal office that houses Cleveland's DFAS office could accommodate 1,800 workers.

If DFAS wants to move even more workers to Cleveland, she said the city could provide a new building at less than 75 percent of the \$19-per-square-foot rent that the agency now pays. She said Cleveland's low cost of living, convenient location and large number of financial service employees make it an ideal place for DFAS to expand.

"Cleveland might be able to gain 1,000 to 2,000 jobs, but the reality is, other sites will be vying for these same jobs as well," Setliff said.

Redstone breaks ground for missile defense facility
2nd phase of complex will consolidate city's 800 MDA workers

Huntsville Times (Huntsville, AL)
Shelby Spires
October 12, 2005

Military and elected officials turned over fresh dirt Tuesday in a ceremony that's becoming familiar to Redstone Arsenal.

Ground was broken for a facility to house Missile Defense Agency employees who are now working off the military base. The \$38 million building is the second phase of the Von Braun Complex. The first phase of the complex was completed in late 2003 and houses about 1,000 people from the Army Space & Missile Defense Command.

Tuesday's ceremony was the first step in bringing together the majority of U.S. missile defense work onto Redstone, said Rep. Bud Cramer, D-Huntsville.

"It's early and often that we like to dig up this dirt out here on the arsenal," the congressman told a crowd of about 100 at the ceremony. The building, slated to be completed by May 2007, will be used by 828 Missile Defense Agency workers who are scattered across the city.

Lt. Gen. Henry Obering III, MDA director, said Redstone provides a more secure location for the workers. The new facility allows MDA "to consolidate our work space and do our job more effectively," Obering said.

To deal with recent Base Realignment and Closure Commission decisions, Cramer is working to secure more military construction money for another phase of the Von Braun office complex.

In August, the BRAC panel voted to relocate the Army Materiel Command, the bulk of the Missile Defense Agency and the headquarters of the Army Space & Missile Defense Command from the Washington, D.C., area to Huntsville. More than 1,700 military jobs are expected to come with the Army Materiel Command (AMC), and, by some estimates, all the moves could bring an additional 2,000 to 3,000 contractor jobs to Huntsville.

The Alabama delegation in Washington, said U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Mobile, is working to get the money needed to build a third phase to the Von Braun Complex and more construction will be needed to house the AMC.

"In this budget year, we are trying to get \$40 million placed in the budget for the third phase," Cramer said. "It's a good problem to have. We are going to be building (on Redstone) for several years to come."

President Bush approved the recommendations last month, and Congress is not expected to make any changes. The full Congress could vote to approve the recommendations, or, as is more widely thought, no action by Congress before the current session ends - called a "sunset" vote - will allow the bill to become law.

"I believe it will pass or sunset," Cramer said. "I'm not expecting any surprises."

Opinions/ Editorials

'Facts' unraveled BRAC's case for Cecil Field appears to be built on lies

Daily Press (Virginia Beach, VA)
October 12, 2005

"Lies, damned lies and statistics" - with this, 19th-century British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, who knew a thing or two about the underside of government, drew a fine distinction among different variations on the "truth," or so legend has it.

In the case of the numbers that Florida officials used to convince the BRAC commission that Cecil Field would be a better place for Navy jets than Oceana Naval Air Station, Disraeli's characterization is right on target.

The team that testified, under oath, on behalf of Cecil Field, said that no people lived within the crash zone around Cecil. That there were no homes, no churches, no other hubs of human activity. Zero.

Turns out, that's a lie. What other name is there to put on it?

Because it is simply inconceivable that Jacksonville's city planning staff was unaware of what is around Cecil Field and a nearby landing-practice field. There are as many as 75 homes

within the primary crash zone and 850 in the secondary zone - as well as other buildings, including some approved by that same department within the last few years. Yet the information provided to the BRAC commission, and pulled together under the Jacksonville mayor's oversight, reflected none of this development and use.

It is inconceivable that Jacksonville officials could have lost track of all the structures that the city surely knows about when it's time to collect taxes or dispatch emergency personnel.

It is inconceivable they could have forgotten that some are so close to the airstrip that the Navy objected before they were built.

It is inconceivable that they forgot about the permits issued for another 266 homes in the crash zones, as the city has eased restrictions around the former base.

It is inconceivable that Jacksonville and Florida could have simply overlooked something so relevant to their argument that Cecil Field is a better place than Oceana for a jet base because there's nothing near Cecil but pine trees. Come to find out, those pine trees have a lot of human company.

It is inconceivable, with development being the hot topic as the BRAC commission debated where the Navy's East Coast master jet base should be located, that development around Cecil could have escaped the attention of Jacksonville officials.

Who's caught in the headlights?

Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, whose response is, "I'm not going to apologize." The former Navy pilot who testified with great effect on behalf of Jacksonville, promising, "No one lives in the accident-potential zones (around Cecil Field). No one."

And the Base Closure and Realignment Commission, for there is no excuse for its failing.

The panel looked bad even before the revelations about development around Cecil. That stemmed from its decision to put Oceana on the closure list and move its jets and jobs to the previously closed Cecil Field unless Virginia Beach takes aggressive, expensive steps to clear homes around Oceana. In its demands on Virginia Beach, and in essentially soliciting competition to replace Oceana, the commission appeared to be exceeding its authority.

Now the panel looks even worse. For it is simply inconceivable that its own staff didn't consult readily accessible records to verify the claims made by a city and state that had a vested interest in making Cecil Field look good. That after making an unprecedented decision based on development around Oceana, the panel didn't check the facts on development around the alternative.

The mayor of Jacksonville has called the mistakes "reckless." That applies to the BRAC panel as well.

None of those who made mistakes acknowledged them until they were brought to light by the Jacksonville newspaper, the Florida Times-Union, last week. The paper documented other "inaccuracies" in the information the city presented - like underestimating by half the number of people living in the noise zones around Cecil Field.

Virginia Beach can be criticized for a lot, mainly letting its appetite for development threaten its golden goose as homes and businesses have encroached on Oceana. But it can't be criticized for trying to profit on false information. It can't be accused of grossly misrepresenting the facts. Of lies.

Additional Notes