



# CHIEF's Sight Picture

3 August 05

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## 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) – Joint Basing

The Department of Defense recently released the largest BRAC proposal in our history, including the recommendation to close ten Air Force installations and realign 62 more. These changes maximize our warfighting capabilities, realign our infrastructure within the future defense strategy, eliminate excess physical capacity, and capitalize on opportunities for joint operations. They also include a concept called “joint basing” where two or more adjacent or nearby DoD installations are run by a designated service – be it Army, Navy, or Air Force. By consolidating installation support services at conjoined or nearby bases under one Military Department, the Department of Defense hopes to save \$2.3B over 20 years.

Under this BRAC recommendation, the Air Force will become the lead installation support provider at six locations (Charleston AFB/Naval Weapons Station Charleston, Joint Base McGuire-Fort Dix, Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Lackland AFB / Randolph AFB / Fort Sam, and Langley AFB / Fort Eustis.) The Air Force will be the supported service at one Army (Joint Base Lewis-McChord) and three Navy locations (Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Navy Guam/Anderson AFB, and Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling-Naval Research Laboratory.)

Modern warfare is Joint warfare. In addition to saving scarce funds, this move to Joint Basing will allow us to build closer relationships and forge stronger ties between services. We will not only train as we fight, we will live as we fight.

The Air Force has a long and successful history of working toward common goals in a joint environment without compromising Air Force principles and the well being of our people – joint basing will be no different. Our guiding precepts as we move forward with joint basing are:

- Maintain uncompromised warfighting capability, including expeditionary combat support forces
- Preserve our installations as fighting positions and training platforms for our expeditionary force
- Airmen will command Airmen – our unity of command at home station will remain intact
- Airmen open and operate airfields – airfields will be operated and maintained by Airmen
- Provide quality services at the best value

Establishing joint bases will take time. We are working with the Army and Navy to ensure that we do it smartly and are mindful of the lessons learned from past joint basing initiatives. The Office of the Secretary of Defense expects to establish the basic implementation policy by the end of this summer, with work on common standards and metrics continuing in the following months. Together, we will undertake pilot projects to explore how to best establish mutually acceptable joint basing agreements. However, until these projects are complete and

BRAC is signed into law, it is premature to enter into any additional cooperative or inter-service joint basing agreements.

Joint basing will neither lower our standards nor compromise our warfighting capabilities. Combining capabilities and eliminating unnecessary duplication and redundancy will save scarce funds and result in more efficient installations from which we, and our sister services, will more effectively project combat power for our Nation.



  
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