

BASE VISIT REPORT

Alabama Army National Guard

Thursday June 16, 2005

LEAD COMMISSIONER: None

ACCOMPANYING COMMISSIONER: None

COMMISSION STAFF:

Mr. Tim Abrell

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

MG Mark Bowen, TAG-AL

MG Paul Brown, Commander AL Air Nat'l Guard

COL George Lee, Chief of Staff

COL James Suttler, Chief of Staff(Army)

COL George McCurdy, Chief of Staff (Air)

LTC Douglas Reeves, CFMO AL ARNG

COL John White, 117th ARW

COL Robert Hamrick, 117th ARW

Lt. Col. Robert Grant, 117th ARW

LTC Gary Kramer, Chief of Engineering and Plans, 81st RRC, USAR

Mr. Eric Huckabee, Community Planner, 81st RRC, USAR

BASE'S PRESENT MISSION: Alabama Army National Guard and US Army Reserve provide training facilities for Guard and Reserve units.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:

Realign Birmingham Armed Forces Reserve Center, Birmingham, Alabama, by relocating Detachment 1, 450th Military Police Company into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center(AFRC) on or near Birmingham Air National Guard Base, Birmingham, Alabama, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facility. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate the Alabama National Guard units from the following Alabama ARNG Readiness Centers: Fort Graham, Fort Hanna and Fort Terhune, Birmingham, Alabama, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.

Close the Wright United States Army Reserve Center, Mobile, Alabama and relocate units into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Mobile, Alabama, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facility. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate Alabama National Guard units from the following Alabama ARNG Readiness Centers: Fort Ganey, and Fort Hardeman, Mobile, Alabama, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.

Close the Faith Wing United States Army Reserve Center on Fort McClellan, Alabama and relocate units into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center on Pelham Range in Anniston, Alabama. Close the Finnell United States Army Reserve Center and the Area Maintenance Support Activity, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and the Vicksburg United States Army Reserve Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi, and relocate units into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center and Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC and AMSA shall have the capability to accommodate the 31st Chemical Brigade from the Northport Alabama Army National Guard Readiness Center, and units from the Fort Powell-Shamblin Alabama Army National Guard Readiness Center, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.

Close the Screws Army Reserve Center in Montgomery, Alabama; close the Cleveland Abbot Army Reserve Center, Tuskegee, Alabama; close the Harry Gary, Jr. Army Reserve Center, in Enterprise, Alabama; close the Quarles-Flowers Army Reserve Center in Decatur, Alabama; close the Grady Anderson Army Reserve Center, Troy, Alabama; and relocate all units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) at the Alabama Army National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters Complex in Montgomery, AL, if the Army is able to acquire suitable property for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate ARNG units currently located on the Alabama Army National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters Complex in Montgomery, Alabama, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:

This recommendation transforms Reserve Component facilities throughout the State of Alabama. The implementation of this recommendation will enhance military value, improve homeland defense capability, greatly improve training and deployment capability, create significant efficiencies and cost savings, and is consistent with the Army's force structure plans and Army transformational objectives.

This recommendation is the result of a state-wide analysis of Reserve Component installations and facilities conducted by a team of functional experts from Headquarters, Department of the Army, the Office of the State Adjutant General, and the Army Reserve Regional Readiness Command.

This recommendation closes nine Army Reserve Centers and one Area Maintenance Support Activity throughout the state of Alabama and constructs five multi component/service, multi functional Armed Forces Reserve Centers, and one Area Maintenance Support Facility capable of accommodating National Guard and Reserve units. This recommendation reduces military manpower and associated costs for maintaining existing facilities by collapsing fifteen geographically separated facilities into five modern Armed Forces Reserve Centers. The Department understands that the State of Alabama will close ALARNG Readiness Centers: Fort Graham, Fort Hanna, Fort Terhune, Fort Ganey, Fort Hardeman and Fort Powell-Shamblin and realign the Northport Alabama Army National Guard Readiness Center by relocating the 31st Chemical Brigade to the new AFRC. The Armed Forces Reserve Centers will have the capability to accommodate these units if the State decides to relocate the units from these closed facilities into the new AFRCs.

The implementation of this recommendation will enhance military value, improve homeland defense capability, greatly improve training and deployment capability, create significant efficiencies and cost savings, and is consistent with the Army's force structure plans and Army transformational objectives.

This recommendation considered feasible locations within the demographic and geographic areas of the closing facilities and affected units. The site selected was determined as the best location because it optimizes the Reserve Components ability to recruit and retain Reserve Component soldiers and to train and mobilize units impacted by this recommendation.

This recommendation provides the opportunity for other Local, State, or Federal organizations to partner with the Reserve Components to enhance Homeland Security and Homeland Defense at a reduced cost to those agencies.

Although not captured in the COBRA analysis, this recommendation avoids an estimated \$72.8M in mission facility renovation costs and procurement avoidances associated with meeting AT/FP construction standards and altering existing facilities to meet unit training and communications requirements. Consideration of these avoided costs would reduce costs and increase the net savings to the Department of Defense in the 6-year BRAC implementation period, and in the 20-year period used to calculate NPV.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:

HQ AL Nat'l Guard, Montgomery; Birmingham AFRC; Henry Graham RC; Hannah RC; Screws RC

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

Command is very supportive of Army Nat'l Guard BRAC process and recommendation

Solves many AT/FP issues

Replaces many obsolete, outdated facilities

Leads to better integration of joint training

All local commanders visited at individual locations were supportive of the recommendation

Significant issues with Air Guard recommendation in Birmingham Air Guard Station (AF-5).

Significant errors in military value and capabilities of that unit.

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED

No issues concerning this recommendation

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:

No community concerns

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:

Request from the Air Guard Staff to meet with the Analyst to talk about Air Guard recommendation in Birmingham. Gave POC number and contact information.