

BASE VISIT REPORT
Detroit Arsenal, MI
29 JULY 2005

LEAD COMMISSIONER:

Samuel K. Skinner

ACCOMPANYING COMMISSIONER:

None

COMMISSION STAFF:

Valerie Mills (JC-S)

LIST OF ATTENDEES:

MG William M. Lenaers	Commanding General U.S. Army TACOM
Robert Graves	USAG-M
Nancy White	Board of Commissioners
Thomas Mathes	TARDEC
Vicki Selva	Senator Carl Levin
Michael Kuiken	Senator Carl Levin
Dan Mehney	TACOM
Grace Bochenek	PEO CS/CSS
COL Don Kotchman	PEO GCS
E. S. Bacon	TACOM
Judy Hartwell	Rep Sandy Levin
David Carter	TACOM ILSC
Donna Westby	TACOM BRAC Office
Luci Nickels	TACOM ILSC-RI
Darryl Blackburn	TACOM ILSC
Ronda Jones	TACOM BRAC Office
Jack Dugan	Deputy to the Commander
Curtis Smith	TACOM BRAC Office

BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:

TACOM, the U.S. Army's Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, headquartered in Warren, Michigan, in partnership with the Army's Program Executive Offices, is one of the Army's largest weapon systems research, development, and sustainment organizations. TACOM mission, serving the world over, provides and sustains mobility, lethality, and survivability for soldiers, other services, and our Allies through ground combat, automotive, marine and armaments technologies.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:

S&S - 5

Realign Detroit Arsenal, MI, by relocating the supply contracting function for tires to the Inventory Control Point at Defense Supply Center Columbus, OH, and disestablishing all other supply functions for tires.

S&S - 7

Realign Detroit Arsenal, MI, by relocating the Budget/Funding, Contracting, Cataloging, Requisition Processing, Customer Services, Item Management, Stock Control, Weapon System Secondary Item Support, Requirements Determination, Integrated Materiel Management Technical Support Inventory Control Point functions for Consumable Items to Defense Supply Center Columbus, OH, and reestablishing them as Defense Logistics Agency Inventory Control Point functions, and by disestablishing the procurement management and related support functions for Depot Level Repairables and designating them as Defense Supply Center Columbus, OH, Inventory Control Point functions.

Tech -7

Realign Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL, by relocating the joint robotics program development and acquisition activities to Detroit Arsenal, Warren, MI, and consolidating them with the Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems, Program Executive Office Combat Support and Combat Service Support and Tank Automotive Research Development Engineering Center. Realign the USMC Direct Reporting Program Manager Advanced Amphibious Assault (DRPM AAA) facilities in Woodbridge, VA, by relocating the Ground Forces initiative D&A activities to Detroit Arsenal, Warren, MI.

Tech -13

Realign Detroit Arsenal, MI, by relocating Sea Vehicle Development and Acquisition to Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, Bethesda, MD, and Program Management and Direction of Sea Vehicle Development and Acquisition to Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington Navy Yard, DC.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:

S&S - 5

This recommendation achieves economies and efficiencies that enhance the effectiveness of logistics support to forces as they transition to more joint and expeditionary operations. This recommendation disestablishes the wholesale supply, storage, and distribution functions for all tires; packaged petroleum, oils and lubricants; and compressed gases used by the Department of Defense, retaining only the supply contracting function for each commodity. The Department will privatize these functions and will rely on private industry for the performance of supply, storage, and distribution of these commodities. By doing so, the Department can divest itself of inventories and can eliminate infrastructure and personnel associated with these functions. This recommendation results in more responsive supply support to user organizations and thus adds to capabilities of the future force. The recommendation provides improved support during mobilization and deployment, and the sustainment of forces when deployed worldwide. Privatization enables the Department to take advantage of the latest technologies, expertise, and business practices, which translates to improved support to customers at less cost. It centralizes management of tires; packaged petroleum, oils, and lubricants; and compressed gases and eliminates unnecessary duplication of functions within the Department. Finally, this recommendation supports transformation by privatizing the wholesale storage and distribution processes from DoD activities.

In addition to the actions described in this recommendation, the Department is also disestablishing storage and distribution functions for tires, packaged petroleum, oils, and lubricants, and compressed gases at Red River Army Depot, TX. The storage and distribution functions at this additional location are now being disestablished as part of a recommendation for the full closure of the Red River Army Depot installation. The recommendation to close the installation fully supports all objectives intended by this recommendation.

S&S - 7

The Supply & Storage Joint Cross Service Group looked at the responsibility for consumable and depot level reparable item management across the Department of Defense. This recommendation, together with elements of a base closure recommendation, supports the migration of the remaining Service Consumable Items to the oversight and management of a single DoD agency/activity. This proposal moves select Inventory Control Point functions (Budget/Funding, Contracting, Cataloging, Requisition Processing, Customer Services, Item Management, Stock Control, Weapon System Secondary Item Support, Requirements Determination, and Integrated Materiel Management Technical Support) to DLA. A number of Inventory Control Point functions (Allowance/Initial Supply Support List Development, Configuration Management, User Engineering Support, Provisioning, and User Technical Support) will be retained by the Services to maintain the appropriate critical mass to perform requirements and engineering. In addition, this recommendation realigns or relocates the procurement management and related support functions for the procurement of DLRs to DLA. For both consumable items and the procurement management of DLRs, this recommendation provides the opportunity to further consolidate Service and DLA Inventory Control Points by supply chain type. Defense Supply Center Columbus, OH (DSCC), manages the Maritime and Land supply chain, the Defense Supply Center Richmond, VA (DSCR), manages the Aviation supply chain, and Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, PA (DSCP), manages the Troop Support supply chain. The realignment should provide labor savings through transfer in place (application of standard labor rates across Inventory Control Points, headquarters staff reductions, and consolidation of support functions), reduce labor and support costs (from site consolidation) and business process improvements, such as consolidation of procurement under a single inventory materiel manager, reduction of disposal costs, and improved stock positioning. Savings related to overhead/support functions, especially at those locations where physical realignments occur at a lead center can be anticipated. Finally, this recommendation supports transformation by transferring procurement management of all Service DLRs to a single DoD agency/activity.

Tech -7

This recommendation consolidates those USMC and Army facilities that are primarily focused on ground vehicle activities in development and acquisition (D&A) at Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI, to increase joint activity in ground vehicle development & acquisition. The D&A being consolidated is centered on manned and unmanned ground vehicle program management. In Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), effectiveness in combat depends heavily on "jointness," or how well the different branches of our military can communicate and coordinate their efforts on the battlefield. This collection of D&A expertise will not only foster a healthy mix of ideas, but will increase the ground vehicle community's ability to develop the kinds of capabilities that can position us for the future as well as adapt quickly to new challenges and to unexpected circumstances. The ability to adapt is critical where surprise and uncertainty are the defining characteristics of the new threats.

The Joint Center for Ground Vehicle D&A located at Detroit Arsenal will be the Department of Defense's premier facility for ground vehicle D&A. Detroit Arsenal is located in southeastern Michigan where the Research and Development headquarters reside for General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, General Dynamics Land Systems, Toyota-North America, Nissan-North America, Hino, Hyundai, Suzuki, Visteon, Delphi, Johnson Controls, Dana, and many others. The synergies gained from having a critical mass located in southeastern Michigan, and being able to leverage the world's intellectual capital for automotive/ground vehicle Research and Development & Acquisition, will ensure the Department is prepared to meet the future demands.

The end state of this recommendation is to consolidate Department of Defense expertise in Ground Vehicle D&A activities at Detroit Arsenal. It promotes jointness, enables technical synergy, and positions the Department of Defense to exploit a center-of-mass of scientific, technical, and acquisition expertise with the personnel involved in ground vehicle Research, Development & Acquisition that currently resides at Detroit Arsenal.

Tech -13

This recommendation positions technical sites for jointness through co-location with functions at the receiving locations. It also increases efficiency by consolidating program management of Sea Vehicle Development and Acquisition (D&A) from three sites to two principal sites; the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEASYS COM) at the Washington Navy Yard (WNY), DC, and the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Carderock Division, Bethesda, MD.

The consolidation and co-location leverages existing concentration of research, design and development, and acquisition support capabilities residing within the US Navy Headquarters and Warfare Center RD&A infrastructure. Program management for D&A will be at the Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington Navy Yard. In support of joint and transformational initiatives, this recommendation relocates management and direction of Theater Support Vessels (TSV) and other Sea Vehicle/Watercraft programs for US Army to the Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington Navy Yard. Consolidation of all program management of Sea Vehicle Programs at the Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington Navy Yard co-locates these functions and aligns with related program offices supporting Sea Vehicle Weapons and Combat systems, Hull Mechanical and Electrical, C4I integration and related sea vehicle equipment and support functions. This also places it near the principal technical direction and development agent for sea vehicles located at Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division in Bethesda, MD. This recommendation is consistent with the existing partnership collaboration between the USA and the USN on Theater Support Vessels as reflected in a Memorandum of Understanding between the US Army Program Executive Office (PEO) for Combat Support and Combat Service Support (PEO CS & CSS) and the US Navy PEO for Ships Systems.

The recommendation will enhance synergy by consolidating Sea Vehicle functions to major sites, preserve healthy competition, leverage existing infrastructure, minimize environmental impact, and effect reasonable homeland security risk dispersal. The recommendation will increase efficiency by making a robust acquisition organization available to all DoD Sea Vehicle and watercraft program requirements and will increase efficiency by reducing overall manpower requirements.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:

- Windshield Tour of Detroit Arsenal
- Propose site for Administrative Building and Parking

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

- Recommendation S&S-7
 - Detroit Arsenal is prepared to accommodate 1,100 additional positions instead of 740 identified in the recommendation by building two administrative offices and surface parking. Need to capture additional cost associated with additional positions using COBRA.

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED:

The installation had no concerns with any of the recommendations.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:

No concerns or issues raised by the community.

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:

Commissioner Skinner requested a re-run of COBRA to reflect the additional personnel and additional cost of building at Detroit Arsenal, MI.