

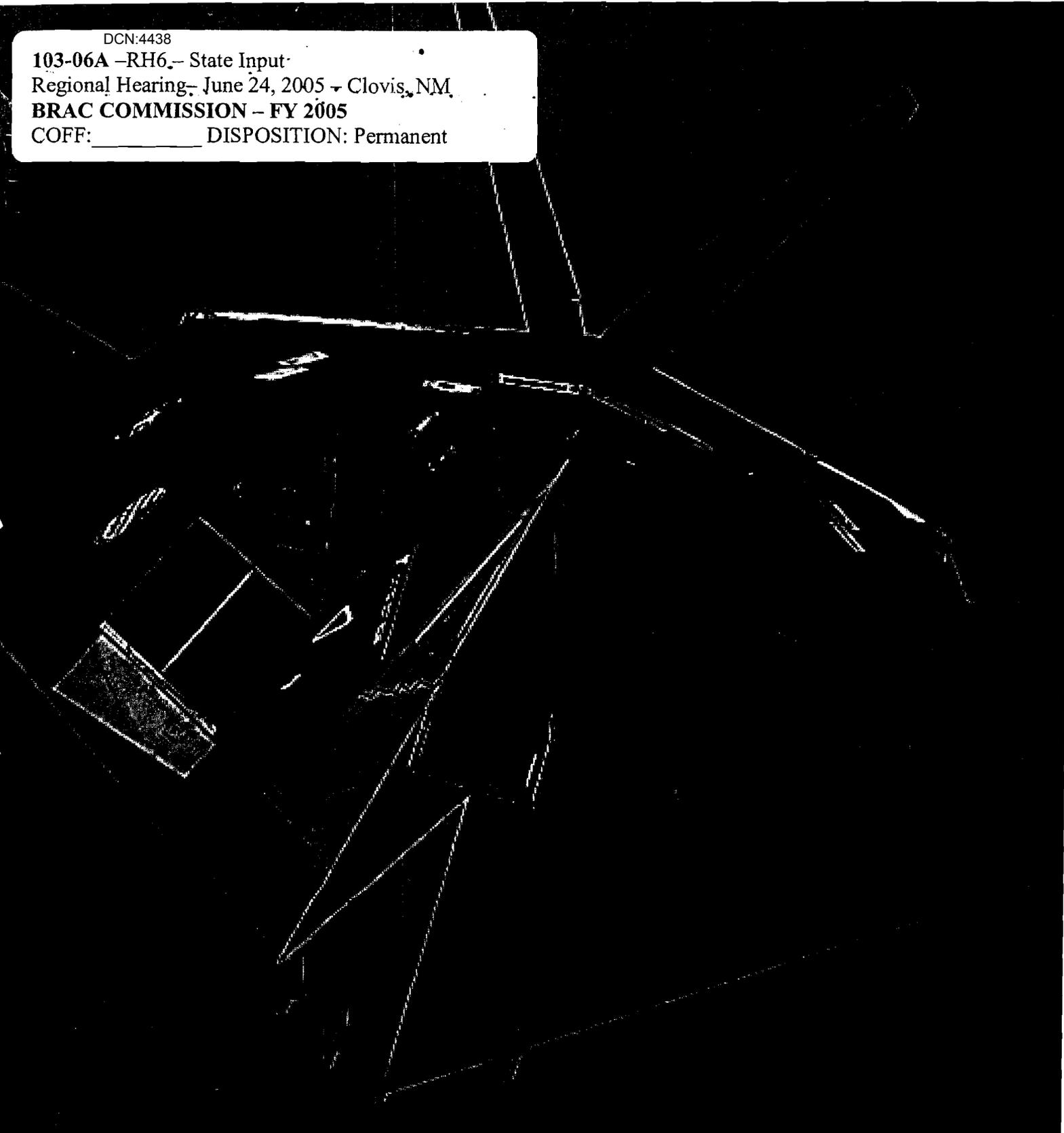
DCN:4438

103-06A -RH6.- State Input

Regional Hearing, June 24, 2005 - Clovis, NM

BRAC COMMISSION - FY 2005

COFF: \_\_\_\_\_ DISPOSITION: Permanent



# HIGH-ONSET GRAVITATIONAL FORCE CENTRIFUGE

2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission

Regional Meeting

June 24, 2005 Clovis New Mexico

# Holloman BRAC Task Force



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20 June 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi – Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

RE: Brooks City Base Alternative Proposal to BRAC Recommendation

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Please review the attached alternative proposal for the Brooks City Base centrifuge and personnel transfer. We believe that this proposal will result in significant cost savings to the Department of Defense.

This proposal is being presented by community and civic leaders and interested parties from the City of Alamogordo and the County of Otero who have formed the Holloman BRAC Task Force.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ed Brabson, Chairman

cc:

The Honorable James H. Bilbray  
The Honorable Philip Coyle  
Admiral Harold W. ( Hal ) Gehman, Jr., (USN, Ret)  
The Honorable James V. Hansen  
General James T. Hill (USA, Ret)  
General Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton (USAF, Ret)  
The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner  
Brigadier General Sue E. Turner (USAF, Ret)



**ORAL PRESENTATION of 24 June 2005 to BRAC Commission at Clovis, NM:**

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Congressional, State and Community leaders, ladies and gentlemen:

My name is Ed Brabson. As a member of the Holloman BRAC Task Force in Alamogordo, NM, I thank you for the opportunity to address you today.”

The Holloman BRAC Task Force does not agree with the recommendation by the Department of Defense that the Air Force consolidate all their centrifuge training and research at Wright-Patterson AFB. Their recommendation moves an expensive, out-of-date (over 30 years old) centrifuge from Brooks to Wright-Patt, while mothballing a modern, highly-efficient centrifuge at Holloman.

If instead, the Brooks centrifuge mission were realigned to Holloman AFB, a more cost-effective solution would be realized, and a greater degree of synergism would be achieved. The final result would be a mission that more closely addresses the interests of military value and the purpose of realignment.

**Our recommendation:**

- SAVES the \$25M in shipping, and \$5M in Military Construction costs estimated by DOD to move the centrifuge from Brooks to Wright-Patt, which results in a total savings of \$30M!
- SAVES approximately 15-20% on the cost of living for all personnel assigned to Holloman in Alamogordo (rather than to Wright-Patt in Dayton) and SAVES 15-20% on the per diem for the 1400 pilots that currently train in the Holloman centrifuge. This proposal ELIMINATES travel costs for pilots at Holloman who are assigned initial and refresher centrifuge training.

- SAVES expenditures associated with the one-time and recurring annual maintenance & security costs by not mothballing the Holloman centrifuge. Should the Brooks centrifuge be sold – this proposal AVOIDS those same expenditures by *not* retaining the centrifuge at Brooks.
- AVOIDS 100% of the costs of moving personnel and equipment from Holloman to Wright-Patt. As the distance from Brooks to Wright-Patt is about 1200 miles and Brooks to Holloman is only 600 miles, this proposal also SAVES 50% on mileage costs of moving personnel and equipment from Brooks to Wright-Patt.
- CONSOLIDATES ALL the users of the long-arm, high-onset gravitational force centrifuges to one location and allows for a shared-use arrangement that mirrors the recommendation at Wright-Patt for pilot training and the aero-medical missions. Such synergism and consolidation provides the opportunity to attach the centrifuge mission to either an operational unit (the 49th Fighter Wing) or a research and test unit (the 46<sup>th</sup> Test Group).
- UTILIZES a centrifuge which is more advanced than the non-standard Brooks model. Since the centrifuge model at Holloman is standardized it is easier to maintain and has lower life-cycle costs. With minor modifications it could easily perform the medical research mission.
- ELIMINATES the risk of moving a large, sensitive piece of research equipment such as the Brooks centrifuge, and
- LIMITS DISRUPTION to two bases, versus three.

While the data available to the public at this time does not break out the total costs for the current recommendation, it can be expected that this alternative would eliminate the adverse economic impact to Holloman, yet the overall minor reduction to Wright-Patt and the Dayton, Ohio area would be negligible.

- → **There should be no issues regarding the ability of the infrastructure of Holloman to support the additional mission, forces and personnel.**
- → **This proposal avoids any potential environmental impact at Wright Patt. Additionally there should be a minimal environmental impact at Holloman.**
- → **This proposal demonstrates true military value and addresses the purpose of realignment.**
- → **MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION: We respectfully request an immediate evaluation of this scenario on the COBRA model by the Department of Defense staff to determine which of the two recommendations achieve the greatest costs savings, and if indeed our alternate proposal more closely addresses the interest of military value and the purpose of realignment.**

**We are confident that this review will confirm the viability of this alternate recommendation with the result being a new DOD recommendation to move the Brooks centrifuge mission to Holloman.**



## **PRESENTATION to BRAC Commission at Clovis, NM, 24 June 2005**

### **Introduction**

In reviewing the Medical Joint Service Working Group recommendation (MEDCR 0057R), it appears that the decision to close Brooks City Base resulted in the parceling out of units and missions to various bases that were perceived as logical homes. While the attempt to consolidate all of the US Air Force centrifuges into one location was an effort save money and provide a consolidation of assets and a synergy of operation that had here-to-fore eluded the Air Force, it is apparent that the BRAC proposal will actually cost the United States Air Force more money, and will not create sufficient synergy to warrant the additional costs. This alternative proposal demonstrates a solution that will save the Department of Defense over \$30M in one-time costs and hundreds of thousands of dollars in yearly recurring costs.

### **Background**

There are three centrifuges utilized by the U.S. Air Force. At Wright-Patterson AFB is a short-arm centrifuge used for aeromedical research. The second, at Brooks City Base, is a long-arm or high-onset gravitational force centrifuge, which is also used for aeromedical research. The third centrifuge is located at Holloman and is the same type as the one at Brooks, except that it is used solely for initial and periodic refresher pilot training. It is important to note that the centrifuge at Holloman AFB is 17 years old, while the centrifuge at Brooks is more than thirty years old.

In the Department of Defense Medical Joint Service Working Group recommendations for Brooks City Base (MEDCR 0057R) (see attachment 1) it is recommended that the Brooks City Base be closed and that the high-onset gravitational force centrifuge (long-arm) centrifuge, and the Human Factors Directorate which runs the unit, be moved to Wright-Patterson AFB. Additionally, it recommends that the high-onset gravitational centrifuge at Holloman AFB be mothballed and its personnel be realigned to Wright-Patterson AFB.

### **Discussion**

While the Department of Defense recommendation on the surface seems to be a good choice it is not cost effective and may or may not achieve its stated goal of synergism. We would like to offer an alternative that is quantifiably cost effective and makes greater fiscal sense.

An alternative to the Department of Defense recommendation is to move the people from Brooks City Base to Holloman AFB and consolidate all the users of the long-arm high-onset gravitational force centrifuges into one location at Holloman.

## **Pros and Cons of the Alamogordo Alternative Recommendation**

### **Pros**

1. Save on the cost of moving a centrifuge from Brooks City Base to Wright-Patterson AFB approximately \$25M in shipping and \$5M in Military Construction (MILCON), \$30M total.
2. Save approximately 15-20% on the cost of living differential for all personnel from Holloman AFB and Brooks City Base that would be in Alamogordo, New Mexico versus Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio.
3. Save the differential between Alamogordo and Dayton of approximately 15-20% on the per diem for the over 1400 pilots that currently train in the Holloman AFB centrifuge
4. Save a yet unspecified amount of one-time and recurring annual expenditures by not mothballing the Holloman AFB centrifuge.
5. Gain funding through the sale of the centrifuge at Brooks City Base.
6. Save an unknown amount of one-time and annual recurring money by not mothballing the centrifuge at Brooks City Base.
7. Saves 50% on mileage costs associated with moving personnel and equipment (less the centrifuge) from Brooks City Base to Wright-Patterson AFB. (Distance from San Antonio to Dayton is approximately 1200 miles, while it is approximately 600 miles from San Antonio to Alamogordo). Saves 100% of the costs of moving personnel and equipment from Holloman AFB to Wright-Patterson AFB. (See attachment 2)
8. Minimizes disruption. Only two organizations, Holloman AFB (add personnel) and Brooks City Base (realign and sell a centrifuge) versus three organizations, Wright-Patterson AFB (add personnel and a new centrifuge), Holloman AFB (realign and mothball a centrifuge) and Brooks City Base (realign, close and move a centrifuge and its personnel).
9. Efficiently utilizes the more advanced and standardized Holloman centrifuge which is safer and easier to maintain, with lower life-cycle costs, and closer to state-of-the-art than the Brooks model. With minor modifications it could easily perform the medical research mission.
10. Eliminate risk in moving a large and highly sensitive piece of research equipment.
11. Eliminate the travel and per diem costs for all of Holloman's pilots to get initial refresher centrifuge training. There are very few if any operational pilots at Wright-Patterson who require centrifuge training.
12. Mirrors the centrifuge shared-use arrangements recommended at Wright-Patterson AFB for the pilot training and the aeromedical missions.
13. Consolidates all of the users of the long-arm, high-onset gravitational Force centrifuge in one location.
14. Provides the opportunity to attach the centrifuge mission to either an operational unit (the 49th Fighter Wing) or a research and test unit (the 46<sup>th</sup> Test Group).

15. Avoids any potential environmental issues at Wright Patterson that would arise with the construction of a centrifuge facility.
16. Offers a standardized centrifuge, rather than a unique unit like the Brooks model. With four sister centrifuges currently in use around the world, maintenance and upkeep information is readily shared by the manufacturer making the Holloman unit much easier to operate and maintain.

### **Cons**

1. Creates a small loss in synergy, which could be alleviated through the use of modern telecommunication. Due to the real-world operational commitment of the F-117 and the 46<sup>th</sup> Test Group's mission, Holloman AFB has one of the most robust telecommunication architectures in the Air Force.
2. May lose some of the un-quantified overhead cost savings of moving Brooks City's mission to Wright-Patterson AFB, which has a similar research mission, to the mission at Wright-Patterson AFB. It is not expected that there would be any appreciable overhead cost savings associated with the Holloman AFB training mission going to Wright-Patterson since that training mission does not already exist there.

### **Economic Impact**

Of the 2097 direct jobs being moved from Brooks City Base, data available to the public at this time does not break out the subset that is assigned to the Human Factors Directorate that would be moved to Alamogordo. However, it can be expected that this alternative recommendation would eliminate the adverse economic impact to Alamogordo should the Department of Defense recommendation be implemented, while somewhat lessening the positive economic impact to Dayton, Ohio. Given the other additions to and the overall existing size of Wright-Patterson AFB and Dayton, Ohio this minor reduction would be negligible. Conversely, any addition to Holloman AFB would have an immediate and sizable positive impact on Alamogordo and New Mexico.

### **Community Infrastructure**

There should be no issues regarding the ability of the infrastructure of Alamogordo to support the additional mission, forces and personnel.

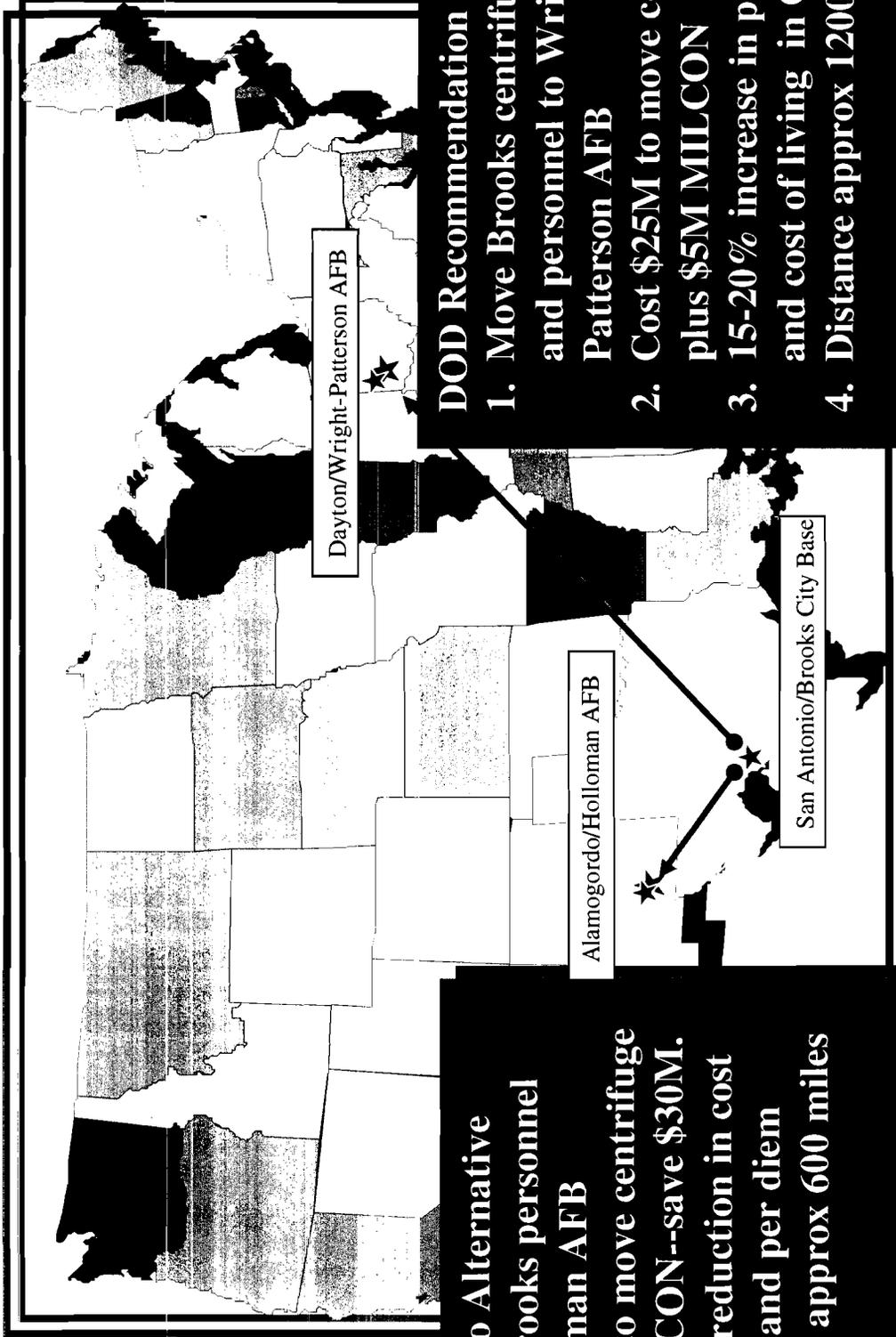
### **Environmental Impact**

There should be no environmental impacts to this recommendation.

## **Recommendation:**

**Request an immediate evaluation of this scenario on the COBRA model to determine which of these two scenarios achieves the greatest costs savings to the Department of Defense and more closely addresses the interest of military value and purpose of realignment. We are confident that it will result in a confirmation of our conclusions and result in a new recommendation to move the Brooks City Base centrifuge mission to Holloman Air Force Base.**

# DOD USAF Centrifuge Recommendation



**DOD Recommendation**

1. Move Brooks centrifuge and personnel to Wright-Patterson AFB
2. Cost \$25M to move centrifuge plus \$5M MILCON
3. 15-20% increase in per diem and cost of living in Ohio
4. Distance approx 1200 miles

**Alamogordo Alternative**

1. Move Brooks personnel to Holloman AFB
2. No cost to move centrifuge
3. No MILCON--save \$30M.
4. 15-20% reduction in cost of living and per diem
5. Distance approx 600 miles

## Brooks City Base, TX

**Recommendation:** Close Brooks City Base, San Antonio, TX. Relocate the Air Force Audit Agency and 341<sup>st</sup> Recruiting Squadron to Randolph AFB. Relocate the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, the Air Force Institute of Occupational Health, the Naval Health Research Center Electro-Magnetic Energy Detachment, the Human Systems Development and Acquisition function, and the Human Effectiveness Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, OH. Consolidate the Human Effectiveness Directorate with the Air Force Research Laboratory, Human Effectiveness Directorate at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, OH. Relocate the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, the Air Force Medical Support Agency, Air Force Medical Operations Agency, Air Force Element Medical Defense Agency, Air Force Element Medical-DoD, Air Force-Wide Support Element, 710<sup>th</sup> Information Operations Flight and the 68<sup>th</sup> Information Operations Squadron to Lackland Air Force Base, TX. Relocate the Army Medical Research Detachment to the Army Institute of Surgical Research, Fort Sam Houston, TX. Relocate the Non-Medical Chemical Biological Defense Development and Acquisition to Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Disestablish any remaining organizations.

Realign Holloman AFB by disestablishing the high-onset gravitational force centrifuge and relocating the physiological training unit (49 ADOS/SGGT) to Wright-Patterson AFB.

**Justification:** This recommendation enables technical synergy, and positions the Department of the Air Force to exploit a center-of-mass of scientific, technical, and acquisition expertise required by the 20-year Force Structure Plan. Greater synergy across technical capabilities and functions will be achieved by consolidating geographically separate units of the Air Force Research Laboratory.

The end state will co-locate the Human Systems Development & Acquisition function and the Human Systems Research function with Air Force Aerospace Medicine and Occupational Health education and training. This action will co-locate the Development & Acquisition for Human Systems with the Research function and will concentrate acquisition expertise for Human Systems at one site. Additionally, the relocation of the physiological training unit from Holloman AFB with the relocation of the high-onset gravitational-force centrifuge, enables the continued use of a critical piece of equipment required for both Human Systems Research and Aerospace Medicine Education and Training. This end state will also increase synergy with the Air Platform Research and Development & Acquisition functions and continue the efficient use of equipment and facilities implemented under Biomedical Reliance and BRAC 91 at Wright Patterson AFB, OH.

Co-location of combat casualty care research activities with related military clinical activities of the trauma center currently located at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston TX, promotes translational research that fosters rapid application of research findings to health care delivery, and provides synergistic opportunities to bring clinical insight into bench research through sharing of staff across the research and health care delivery functions. The availability of a co-located military trauma center also provides incentives for recruitment and retention of

military physicians as researchers, and is a model that has proven highly successful in civilian academic research centers.

Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, is home to the military's most robust infrastructure supporting research utilizing hazardous chemical agents. Relocation of the Non-medical Chemical Biological Defense Development and Acquisition to Aberdeen Proving Ground will increase synergy, focus on joint needs, and efficient use of equipment and facilities by co-locating Tri-Service and Defense activities performing functions in chemical-biological defense and medical RDA.

This recommendation also moves the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) to Lackland AFB, where it will be co-located the Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA) that is being relocated to Lackland in a separate recommendation. The military value of AFCEE is 265th out of 336 entities evaluated by the Major Administrative and Headquarters (MAH) military value model. Lackland Air Force Base is ranked 25th out of 336.

**Payback:** The total estimated one-time cost to the Department of Defense to implement this recommendation is \$325.3M. The net of all costs and savings to the Department during the implementation period is a cost of \$45.9M. The annual recurring savings to the Department after implementation is \$102.1M, with a payback expected in 2 years. The net present value of the costs and savings to the Department over 20 years is a savings of \$940.7M.

**Economic Impact on Communities:** Assuming no economic recovery, this recommendation could result in a maximum potential reduction of 29 jobs (17 direct jobs and 12 indirect jobs) in the Alamogordo, NM Micropolitan Statistical Area, which is 0.11 percent of economic area employment.

Assuming no economic recovery, this recommendation could result in a maximum potential reduction of 4,081 jobs (2097 direct jobs and 1984 indirect jobs) in the San Antonio, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is 0.4 percent of economic area employment.

The aggregate economic impact of all recommended actions on these economic regions of influence was considered and is at Appendix B of Volume I.

**Community Infrastructure:** A review of community attributes indicates no issues regarding the ability of the infrastructure of the communities to support missions, forces, and personnel. There are no known community infrastructure impediments to implementation of all recommendations affecting the installations in this recommendation.

**Environmental Impact:** This recommendation is expected to impact air quality at Fort Sam Houston, Wright-Patterson, and Aberdeen Proving Ground. New source review permitting and permit modifications may be required. This recommendation has the potential to impact cultural or historic resources at Fort Sam Houston, Randolph, Lackland, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Brooks, and Wright-Patterson. Additional operations at Fort Sam Houston and Wright-Patterson may further impact threatened and endangered species leading to additional restrictions on training or operations. Significant mitigation measures to limit releases at Fort Sam Houston

may be required to reduce impacts to water quality and achieve US EPA water quality standards. Increases in population and operations at Aberdeen Proving Ground may require upgrades/purchase of additional waste management services. Modification of the hazardous waste program at Randolph and Wright-Patterson may be necessary. Additional operations may impact wetlands at Wright-Patterson and Lackland, which may restrict operations. This recommendation has no impact on dredging; marine mammals, resources, or sanctuaries; land use constraints or sensitive resource areas; or noise. This recommendation will require spending approximately \$0.5M for waste management and environmental compliance activities. This cost was included in the payback calculation. Brooks City Base reports \$4.2M in environmental restoration costs. Because the Department has a legal obligation to perform environmental restoration regardless of whether an installation is closed, realigned, or remains open, this cost was not included in the payback calculation. This recommendation does not otherwise impact the costs of environmental restoration, waste management, or environmental compliance activities. The aggregate environmental impact of all recommended BRAC actions affecting the bases in this recommendation has been reviewed. There are no known environmental impediments to implementation of this recommendation.