

**OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, MA
COMMISSION BASE VISIT
31 MAY 2005**

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I. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ITINERARY
31-May

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	BRAC POC	ACTION
0815	Meet General Newton at Otis Main Entrance and Commissioners Principi, Bilbray and Coyle at Flight Line	Otis Main Entrance and Flight Line	Craig Hall/Brad McRee	Meet
0830-0915	Continental Breakfast Meeting/Briefings with Community Stakeholders	MMR Welcome Center	Craig Hall/Brad McRee	Briefings and Discussion
0915-1000	Windshield tour	Otis ANGB and MMR	Craig Hall/Brad McRee	Tour
1000-1130	Commander's brief with other MMR tenants	102 FW briefing room	Craig Hall/Brad McRee	Briefing/Discussion
1130-1145	Press Availability	Outside main gate	Craig Hall/Brad McRee	Press Q&A
1200 -1215	Shuttle Commissioners to flight line for mil air to Groton, CT	Flight line	Craig Hall/Brad McRee	Transport to Groton, CT
1215	Commissioners Depart (escort is Col "Kimo" Schiavi	Flight line	Craig Hall/Brad McRee	Transport
1300	Commissioners arrive	Groton, CT	Hal Tickle	Meet

DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

BASE SUMMARY SHEET

Otis Air National Guard Base, MA

INSTALLATION MISSION

Otis ANGB is the home to the 102nd Fighter Wing and the 253d Combat Communications Group. The wing's mission is to provide a ready, fully capable air superiority fighter force prepared to employ wherever needed. The wing is equipped with the F-15 Eagle. The 102nd's aircraft and crews are on continuous 24-hour, 365-day alert to protect the Northeast United States from armed attack from another sovereign nation, terrorist activities, illegal activities, smuggling, illicit drug activity and illegal immigration. The wing is also an integral part of an Expeditionary Aerospace Force and is immediately deployable to support U.S. Air Force requirements anywhere in the world.

DoD RECOMMENDATION

- Close Otis ANGB, MA. The 102d Fighter Wing's F-15s will be distributed to the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville International Airport Air Guard Station, FL (three aircraft), and 177th Fighter Wing, Atlantic City International Airport Air Guard Station, NJ (12 aircraft).
- The 253d Combat Communications Group and 267th Communications Squadron will remain in place at Otis, with the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes providing administrative support as the parent wing.
- An air sovereignty alert (ASA) facility will be constructed at Bradley International Airport Air Guard Station, CT.
- Firefighter positions from Otis will move to Barnes Municipal Airport Air Guard Station, MA.

DoD JUSTIFICATION

- The Air Force distributed reserve component F-15C force structure to bases with higher military value than Otis ANGB.
- The Atlantic City bound aircraft will provide expanded capability for the Homeland Defense mission.

COST CONSIDERATIONS DEVELOPED BY DoD

- One-Time Costs: \$ 103 million
- Net Savings (Cost) during Implementation: \$ 12 million
- Annual Recurring Savings: \$ 34 million
- Return on Investment Year: 2011 (3)
- Net Present Value over 20 Years: \$ 336 million

MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS OF THIS RECOMMENDATION (EXCLUDES CONTRACTORS)

	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Students</u>
Baseline	(62)	(443)	0
Reductions	(62)	(443)	0
Realignments			
Total	(62)	(443)	0

MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS OF ALL RECOMMENDATIONS AFFECTING THIS INSTALLATION (INCLUDES ON-BASE CONTRACTORS AND STUDENTS)

	<u>Out</u>		<u>In</u>		<u>Net Gain (Loss)</u>	
	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>
This Recommendation	(62)	(443)	0	0	(62)	(443)
Other Recommendation(s)			0	0		
Total	(62)	(443)	0	0	(62)	(443)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Operation of Otis ANGB has impacted Cape Cod groundwater resources. EPA has designated the Cape Cod aquifer underlying the Massachusetts Military Reservation (where Otis ANGB resides) as a Sole Source Aquifer under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The drinking water of 36,000 people is potentially threatened.
- As a result of evidence of contamination, EPA in January 2000 ordered the National Guard to begin the process for the removal of unexploded ordnance from the base and to clean up contaminated groundwater and soils. The order was the first of its kind in the country.
- It is estimated that over \$400 million has been spent to date on investigation and cleanup. The estimated total cost to complete the cleanup project is \$850 million. These costs include operation of all groundwater cleanup systems for 10 to 30 years. There are currently 12 groundwater cleanup systems operating on eight plumes, extracting and cleaning over 12 million gallons a day of contaminated water from both on and off the Massachusetts Military Reservation. Five more groundwater cleanup systems are to be built during the next four years. Some systems are expected to operate for less than ten years, but several will need to be operated for 25-30 years in order to restore the groundwater aquifer.

REPRESENTATION

Governor: Governor Mitt Romney (R)
 Senators: Edward Kennedy (D); John Kerry (D)
 Representative: William Delahunt (D)

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Potential Employment Loss: 827 jobs (505 direct and 322 indirect)

- MSA Job Base (Barnstable, MA): 137, 500 jobs
- Percentage: 0.6 percent decrease

MILITARY ISSUES

- Capital improvements at Massachusetts Military Reservation/Otis may have been delayed awaiting a finalization of the environmental impact statement.
- Degree to which Otis ANGB's homeland defense mission and local emergency response requirements were considered in the decision to close Otis ANGB.
- Otis' military value scored particularly low in the "current/future mission" category which includes ATC restrictions, weather, proximity to airspace/ranges, etc. Otis was ranked #88 among active and reserve Air Force bases.
- The Air Force estimated that it would cost \$500,000 to increase the number of aircraft based at Otis from 15 to 24 aircraft.
- Atlantic City AGS, NJ which will receive the majority of Otis' F-15's, currently bases F-16's.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ISSUES

- State officials have expressed concern on the impact of Otis' closure on the State's homeland defense mission and local emergency response (loss of aircraft), as only 4 fighter aircraft will be within 175-mile radius of Boston (Hartford, CT).
- Concerns were also expressed on the economic impact on the local community.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL EMPHASIS

- Impact on Air National Guard recruiting and retention.
- Degree to which homeland defense/emergency response plans were factored into recommendation to close Otis ANGB.
- Potential impacts or costs passed on to other Massachusetts Military Reservation tenants, Coast Guard, Army National Guard.
- Existing environmental issues at Otis ANGB and potential effects of closing Otis ANGB.
- If Otis ANGB is closed, what facilities or portion of the existing infrastructure would be maintained for the Communications units? For example, would ramp space be available?

Craig Hall/Air Force/May 23, 2005

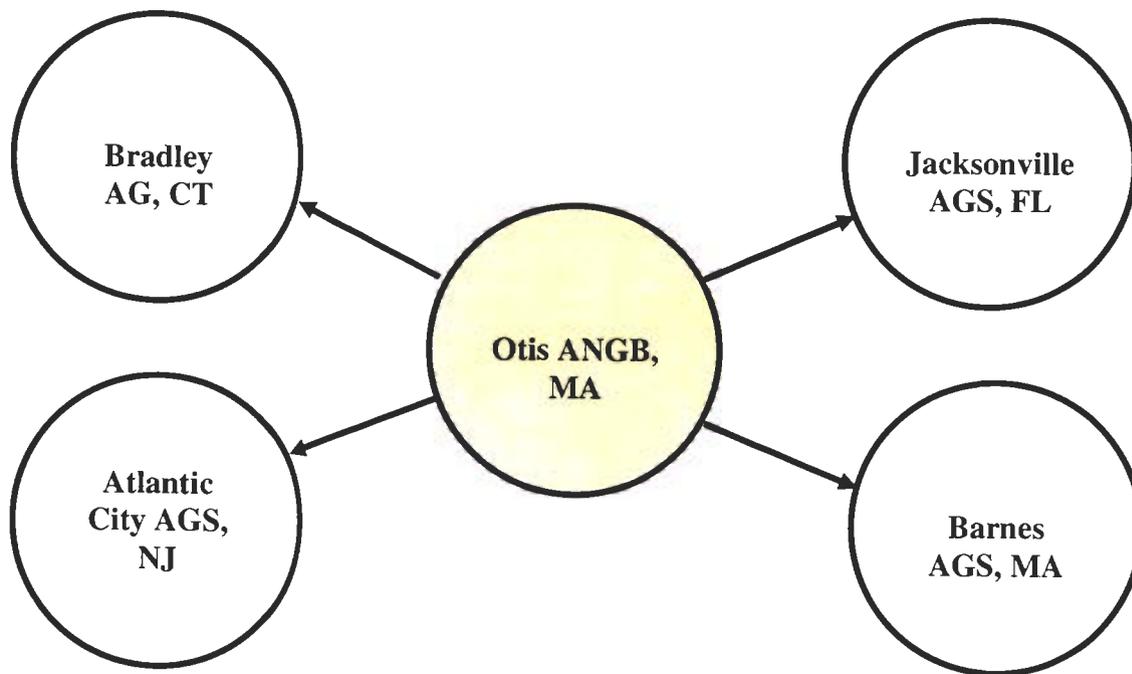
OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, MA

CLOSE

Out		In		Net Gain/(Loss)		Net Mission Contractor	Total Direct
Mil	Civ	Mil	Civ	Mil	Civ		
(62)	(443)	0	0	(62)	(443)	0	(505)

Otis Air National Guard Base, MA, Lambert St. Louis International Airport Air Guard Station, MO, and Atlantic City Air Guard Station, NJ

Recommendation: Close **Otis ANGB, MA**. The 102d Fighter Wing's F-15s will be distributed to the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville International Airport Air Guard Station, FL (three aircraft), and 177th Fighter Wing, Atlantic City International Airport Air Guard Station, NJ (12 aircraft). The 253d Combat Communications Group, and 267th Communications Squadron will remain in place at Otis, with 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes providing administrative support as the parent wing. An air sovereignty alert (ASA) facility will be constructed at Bradley International Airport Air Guard Station, CT. Firefighter positions from Otis will move to Barnes Municipal Airport Air Guard Station, MA.



Secretary of Defense Recommendation

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- An air sovereignty alert (ASA) facility will be constructed at Bradley International Airport Air Guard Station, CT.
- Firefighter positions from Otis will move to Barnes Municipal Airport Air Guard Station, MA.

Fighter

Rank	Base	Fighter	Current / Future Mission	Condition of Infrastructure	Contingency, Mobilization, Future Forces	Cost of Ops / Manpower
1	Seymour Johnson AFB	83.24	77.95	89.63	80.45	85.03
2	Langley AFB	82.84	87.59	80.51	72.12	77.2
3	Eglin AFB	81.4	74.55	83.97	100	90.39
4	Hurlburt Field	77.43	76.75	84.64	48.05	87.18
5	MacDill AFB	75.6	70.48	78.78	85.77	76.56
6	Tyndall AFB	73.63	64.75	83.78	68	90.98
7	Shaw AFB	72.2	59.83	84.47	74.79	85.64
8	Edwards AFB	71.92	68.64	76.49	75.87	40.87
9	Moody AFB	70.8	57.19	82.55	79.47	91.37
10	Holloman AFB	69.82	60.27	81.84	62.59	75.23
11	Eielson AFB	69.09	58.65	80.9	81.32	16.54
12	Luke AFB	69.06	65.65	79.48	41.64	68.92
13	Nellis AFB	68.73	60.85	82.32	54.77	43.94
14	Hill AFB	68.02	56.88	76.08	83.39	77.82
15	Dover AFB	66.69	61.48	78.78	40.99	64.93
16	Kirtland AFB	66.44	55.39	78.12	67.96	69.56
17	Pope AFB	65.86	58.95	77.74	43.27	86.08
18	Patrick AFB	64.96	71.07	61.64	50.22	66.83
19	Charleston AFB	64.94	59.12	66.51	82.49	75.49
20	March ARB	64.84	68.31	71.06	27.89	45.41
21	Andrews AFB	64.83	63.23	67.83	65.5	41.74
22	Davis-Monthan AFB	63.83	50.51	79.71	57.21	71.89
23	Mountain Home AFB	63.01	48.16	75.17	79.54	68.58
24	Jacksonville IAP AGS	61.8	73.95	54.71	31.25	77.87
25	Barksdale AFB	61.49	43.76	71.35	97.29	80.79
26	Altus AFB	61.43	53.79	62.69	86.47	80.99
27	Little Rock AFB	60.78	46.05	71.32	78.03	88.12
28	McChord AFB	60.73	49.83	77.97	40.23	57.08
29	Fairchild AFB	60.32	43.09	74.35	77.86	73.99
30	Maxwell AFB	59.61	61.81	64.46	22.86	85.68
31	Homestead ARS	59.17	52.11	70.75	44.96	53.65
32	Robins AFB	59.13	47.51	66.23	76	87.45
33	Indian Springs AFS	59.11	60.96	62.87	38.84	43.94
34	Dyess AFB	58.96	40.51	76.07	68.18	77.64
35	Tinker AFB	58.47	49.29	62.76	75.96	85.8
36	Elmendorf AFB	58.35	37.02	78.71	84.41	8.86
37	Whiteman AFB	58.18	39.23	72.69	80.97	74.42
38	Beale AFB	58.1	48.35	67.63	67.18	42.78
39	Ellsworth AFB	58.06	38.76	74.01	74.92	81.32
40	Savannah IAP AGS	57.8	65.2	55.63	26	84.65
41	McGuire AFB	57.02	44.52	70.22	64.69	37.26
42	Minot AFB	56.64	39.53	71.88	67.9	73.42
43	McConnell AFB	56.47	47.44	68.32	44	75.83
44	Travis AFB	56.42	45.93	74.31	38.42	24.22
45	Sheppard AFB	56.26	53.87	62.12	37.03	80.04
46	Grand Forks AFB	55.88	38.31	72.05	63.79	79.09
47	Lackland AFB	55.79	46.6	63.36	60.98	78.33
48	McEntire AGS	55.74	59.4	55.01	34.56	85.19
49	Richmond IAP AGS	55.34	66.15	52.13	13.98	75.18

Fighter

Rank	Base	Fighter	Current / Future Mission	Condition of Infrastructure	Contingency, Mobilization, Future Forces	Cost of Ops / Manpower
50	Cannon AFB	55.22	39.54	74.41	43.06	73.61
51	Wright-Patterson AFB	54.48	42.76	62.01	72.32	74.09
52	Hickam AFB	53.47	41.69	68.03	60.32	1.12
53	Phoenix Sky Harbor IAP AGS	52.3	62.83	45.3	28.91	68.42
54	Keesler AFB	52.07	59.95	47.57	26.19	85.3
55	Martin State APT AGS	51.42	61.01	48.71	16.83	58.71
56	Reno-Tahoe IAP AGS	51.34	61.17	47.23	24.11	47.47
57	Andersen AFB	51.26	37.23	67.15	62.55	0
58	Carswell ARS, NAS Fort Worth Joint Reserve	51.01	53.16	52.93	27.68	72.7
59	Boise Air Terminal AGS	50.86	46.69	56.24	40.75	78.4
60	Dannelly Field AGS	50.66	56.99	48.57	21.36	85.51
61	Atlantic City IAP AGS	50.22	53.44	50.22	37.74	41.33
62	Salt Lake City IAP AGS	50.13	60.83	42.03	29.21	71.72
63	Columbus AFB	49.85	40.27	54.88	61.78	94.97
64	Buckley AFB	49.82	43.25	55.99	53.35	53.78
65	Klamath Falls IAP AGS	49.81	39.6	66.48	22.71	69.01
66	Willow Grove ARS, NAS Willow Grove Joint Reserve	49.69	45.93	63.23	13.27	39.74
67	Tucson IAP AGS	49.54	50.59	51.5	30.82	72.7
68	Randolph AFB	48.7	44.96	49.93	53.43	78.51
69	Westover ARB	48.41	38.05	55.37	66.96	49.23
70	Selfridge ANGB	48.07	35.89	63.74	40.5	42.51
71	Scott AFB	47.91	46.43	52.26	35.09	53.95
72	Channel Islands AGS	47.27	46.92	52.73	32.3	23.21
73	Offutt AFB	47.16	43.03	50.37	46.36	73.2
74	Peterson AFB	46.82	44.97	50.41	36.55	61.91
75	Forbes Field AGS	46.55	44.27	49.3	38.02	77.32
76	Vandenberg AFB	46.05	31.09	59.43	62.81	32.48
77	Portland IAP AGS	45.95	38.07	56.19	36.22	60.13
78	Will Rogers World APT AGS	45.61	49.61	40.65	38.01	84.8
79	NAS New Orleans ARS	45.54	46.23	49.96	17.2	72.63
80	Ellington Field AGS	45.39	37.87	50.14	56.27	61.2
80	Vance AFB	45.39	42.69	51.09	23.57	87.75
82	Grisson ARB	45.2	36.85	50.37	55.24	73.25
83	Stewart IAP AGS	45.15	38.24	57.05	37.85	3.65
84	New Castle County Airport AGS	44.4	57.19	36.9	15.9	47.53
85	Moffett Federal Field AGS	44.05	46.92	50.38	11.68	15.79

Fighter

Rank	Base	Fighter	Current / Future Mission	Condition of Infrastructure	Contingency, Mobilization, Future Forces	Cost of Ops / Manpower
86	Ewvra Sheppard AGS	43.4	50.03	39.16	23.11	73.39
87	Fresno Air Terminal AGS	43.09	46.13	47.02	11.93	46.99
88	Otis AGB	42.83	28.15	56	55.91	42.04
89	Rickenbacker IAP AGS	42.74	39.57	50.05	19.92	71.11
90	Key Field AGS	42.66	43.27	40.54	40.48	75.4
91	Laughlin AFB	42.63	36.05	42.54	62.97	84.09
92	Lincoln MAP AGS	42.55	43.82	43.39	25.95	71.2
93	Memphis IAP AGS	42.44	41.35	43.82	33.43	75.57
94	Hancock Field AGS	42.03	35.71	45.6	50.23	66.32
95	Barnes MPT AGS	42.02	38.75	48.16	30.19	47.17
96	Luis Munoz Marin IAP AGS	41.83	52.6	39.02	10.87	14.06
97	Rosecrans Memorial APT AGS	41.25	38.89	42.16	38.2	81.65
98	Quonset State APT AGS	41.1	37.12	48.34	29.47	40.59
98	Nashville IAP AGS	41.1	41.57	39.78	35.03	78.64
100	Jackson IAP AGS	40.91	36.79	44.29	34.93	84.66
101	Pease International Trade Port AGS	40.83	38.23	45.08	36.8	33.8
102	Burlington IAP AGS	40.79	41.33	42.88	25.52	57.07
103	Kulis AGS	40.76	41.31	48.96	12.36	8.01
104	Dobbins ARB	40.33	39.32	43.6	24.63	67.58
105	Cheyenne APT AGS	40.13	38	41	39.11	68.7
106	Bradley IAP AGS	40.1	38.08	47.75	16.75	43.06
107	Harrisburg IAP AGS	39.79	41.24	43.04	12.19	69.5
108	Sioux Gateway APT AGS	39.5	31.47	46.88	35.58	79.98
109	Birmingham IAP AGS	39.24	37.95	38.69	37.65	77.96
110	F. S. Gabreski APT AGS	38.63	35.33	48.26	16.07	29.52
110	Fort Smith Regional APT AGS	38.63	39.63	36.31	31.14	88.84
112	Joe Foss Field AGS	38.59	30.04	46.09	36.91	77.92
113	Charlotte/Douglas IAP AGS	38.49	38.36	42.07	13.38	81.48
114	Tulsa IAP AGS	38.41	36.83	41.33	22.9	81.03
115	Capital APT AGS	38.18	38.51	39.2	27.74	57.09
116	Niagara Falls IAP ARS	38.13	28.96	47.01	39.09	55.66
117	Great Falls IAP AGS	37.85	31.45	44.04	35.35	62.23
118	W. K. Kellogg APT AGS	37.6	27.31	46.76	40.73	62.57
119	Hulman Regional APT AGS	37.45	36.53	40.99	15.84	82.24
120	Hanscom AFB	37.29	40.55	40.84	10.54	25.42
121	McGee Tyson APT AGS	37.24	35.63	38.3	28.11	86.02

Fighter

Rank	Base	Fighter	Current / Future Mission	Condition of Infrastructure	Contingency, Mobilization, Future Forces	Cost of Ops / Manpower
122	Dane County Regional - Truax Field AGS	37.22	32.04	45.99	18.5	61.55
123	Toledo Express APT AGS	36.85	32.71	38.44	40.29	72.76
124	Louisville IAP AGS	36.56	35.55	37.78	25.76	78.1
125	Hector IAP AGS	36.11	30.93	42.85	22.75	72.6
126	Arnold AFS	35.94	30.95	33	57.62	89.61
127	Lambert - St. Louis IAP AGS	35.93	37.28	38.26	14.14	59.7
128	Springfield-Beckley MPT AGS	35.37	35.33	35.31	26.8	71.74
129	Gen Mitchell IAP ARS	34.5	28.03	41.52	28.83	59.94
130	Fort Wayne IAP AGS	34.49	32.75	37.92	16.99	79.17
131	Bangor IAP AGS	34.47	27.19	37.72	47.2	63.61
132	Greater Peoria Regional APT AGS	34.4	34.13	33.86	32.89	54.24
133	Pittsburgh IAP AGS	34.04	22.6	45.14	31.81	69.3
134	Schenectady County APT AGS	33.59	33.31	33.66	27.95	60.05
135	Gen Mitchell IAP AGS	33.55	28.03	38.62	31.48	59.38
136	Duluth IAP AGS	32.55	23.88	40.48	31.03	66.75
137	Des Moines IAP AGS	32.35	28.67	35.92	23.34	76.75
138	Pittsburgh IAP ARS	30.86	22.6	37.3	32.36	69.59
139	Minn/St Paul IAP ARS	30.25	18.73	41.24	33.25	47.69
140	Mansfield Lahm MAP AGS	29.24	26.31	31.69	21.36	74.01
141	Youngstown-Warren Regional APT ARS	28.84	19.56	35.83	31.21	73.97
142	Yeager APT AGS	28.68	26.99	27.78	27.03	81.12
143	Goodfellow AFB	8	0	5.51	36.4	82.66
144	Brooks City-Base	7.87	0	5.51	36.4	77.48
145	Malmstrom AFB	7.5	0	5.51	36.4	62.67
146	Francis E. Warren AFB	6.79	0	5.51	27.41	70.53
147	Schriever AFB	6.41	0	5.51	27.31	55.46
148	Rome Laboratory	5.55	0	5.51	16.8	63.1
149	Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC)	5.32	0	5.51	16.8	53.84
150	United States Air Force Academy	5.22	0	5.51	13.92	61.68
151	Cheyenne Mountain AFS	4.87	0	5.51	11.89	55.61
152	Bolling AFB	4.22	0	5.51	9.07	40.62
153	Onizuka AFS	3.72	0	5.51	10.08	16.85
154	Los Angeles AFB	3.08	0	5.51	1.94	23.81

**Massachusetts Military Reservation [MMR]
Otis Air National Guard Base (ANGB)
Camp Edwards**

Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR), a military training facility, is located on the upper western portion of Cape Cod, immediately south of the Cape Cod Canal in Barnstable County, Massachusetts. It includes parts of the towns of Bourne, Mashpee, and Sandwich and abuts the town of Falmouth. MMR covers about 22,000 acres—approximately 30 square miles.

The Massachusetts Military Reservation is located over a sole source aquifer that provides drinking water for 200,000 year-round and 500,000 seasonal residents of Cape Cod. The aquifer, referred to as the Sagamore Lens, is a valuable water supply resource.

The industrial area in the southern part of the reservation is where the US Coast Guard, Army National Guard, and Otis Air National Guard Base (ANGB) facilities are located. Aircraft runways, maintenance areas, access roads, housing, and support facilities are found in this 5,500-acre area. The northern 14,700-acre area, also known as Camp Edwards, is used primarily by the Army National Guard. This area contains the 2,200-acre Impact Area, associated military training ranges, and the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod. The 750-acre Veterans Administration Cemetery is located in the southwestern corner of the reservation.

Portions of MMR have been used for military purposes since 1911. The Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR) was founded by the Commonwealth in 1935 as a National Guard training camp and federalized in 1940 in order to prepare for World War II. Although the occupants and property boundaries have changed a number of times since MMR was established in 1935, the primary mission has always been to provide training and housing to Air Force or Army units. Since 1935, the base has been used for Army training and maneuvers, military aircraft operations, maintenance, and support.

The US Army built and operated Camp Edwards on MMR between 1940 and 1946. The industrial area has been the most actively used part of MMR. During World War II, Army operations in this area included numerous motor pools, where activities such as vehicle repairs, parts cleaning, oil changes, body work, and repainting were performed.

From 1955 through 1972 the US Air Force operated Otis Air Force Base on MMR. Between 1955 and 1972, Air Force operations included the use of petroleum products and other hazardous materials such as fuels, motor oils, and cleaning solvents and the generation of associated wastes. Consistent with practices of other industries at the time, it was common practice for many years at MMR to dispose of such wastes in landfills, drywells, sumps, and the sewage

treatment plant. Spills and leaks also occurred. These activities have resulted in serious impacts to the Upper Cape's groundwater resources.

In 1973 the Massachusetts Governor appointed the Otis Task Force to oversee a phase-down of military activities at MMR. The major concern of Cape residents was the fate of base property and impacts on the local economy as military activities decreased.

In 1982, the IRP was initiated by the Department of Defense to investigate and clean up environmental problems at Department of Defense facilities nationwide, which included Otis Air National Guard Base. The program was expanded in 1986 to cover Camp Edwards (ARNG) and the Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod and included investigations of hazardous waste sites at all MMR military units. Seventy-eight separate sites at MMR have been identified as having the potential for causing environmental problems.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began to actively review and oversee the expanded IRP program and to meet with ANG personnel to evaluate site investigation reports in 1986.

A review of past and present operations and waste disposal practices identified a number of potentially contaminated areas, including eight covering 3,900 acres on the southern portion of MMR. Six are within Otis ANGB: Former Fire Training Area, Current Fire Training Area, Base Landfill, Nondestructive Testing Laboratory Leach Pit, Fly Ash Disposal Area, and a plume of contaminated ground water from a sewage treatment plant. The two remaining areas, Unit Training Equipment Site (UTES) and Property Disposal Office Storage Yard, are on Camp Edwards, which is currently leased to the Army. The materials associated with the eight areas are fly ash, bottom ash, waste solvents, waste fuels, herbicides, and transformer oil.

While the Nondestructive Testing Laboratory operated (1970-78), waste solvents, emulsifiers, penetrants, and photographic developers were deposited in the sanitary sewer system. Effluent from the sewage treatment plant was discharged into sand beds, where it seeped into ground water. In 1984, the U.S. Geological Survey detected trichloroethane, tetrachloroethylene, and trans-1,2-dichloroethylene in monitoring wells downgradient of the plant. The plume of contaminated ground water extends 2 miles to the south. In 1983 and 1984, the Air Force detected volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in on-site monitoring wells near the Base Landfill and Current Fire Training Area. The Air National Guard and the State have detected VOCs in more than 200 private wells.

Beginning in 1985 ANG initiated an on- and off-base residential drinking water well testing program. ANG and the Air Force have subsequently worked with the towns of Falmouth, Sandwich, Bourne, and Mashpee to test residential water sources and place residences on municipal water supplies or supply bottled

water if private wells are found to be contaminated or potentially threatened by contamination. Water lines were installed in 1986-87 to the affected residences.

EPA has designated the Cape Cod aquifer underlying MMR as a Sole Source Aquifer under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The municipalities of Bourne and Sandwich, as well as the Air Force, have drinking water wells within 3 miles of hazardous substances at the site. To date, they are not contaminated. Irrigation wells are also within 3 miles. The drinking water of 36,000 people is potentially threatened.

Ashumet Pond, less than 1 mile downslope of the Former Fire Training Area, is used for recreational activities. A fresh water wetland is 3,600 feet downstream of the area.

The Air Force is participating in the Installation Restoration Program (IRP), established in 1978. Under this program, the Department of Defense seeks to identify, investigate, and clean up contamination from hazardous materials. The Air Force has investigated Air Force property only. A committee that represents all service branches on MMR is coordinating a second investigation that addresses the entire facility.

As of November 1989 approximately 40 "operable units" were in various stages of evaluation, the majority in the remedial investigation phase. A six-day series of articles entitled "Broken Trust" was published by the Cape Cod Times in January 1997. The articles discussed the mismanagement and other problems associated with the MMR cleanup.

Fearful that military training was causing even more damage to the groundwater, EPA's New England Office in February 1997 ordered the National Guard to conduct a study of the effects of military training on groundwater. In May 1997, EPA suspended most military training at Camp Edwards, including all use of live explosives, propellants, flares and lead bullets. It was the first time in American history that military training activities had been halted due to environmental and public health concerns.

In 1998 the Air Force, with congressional approval, agreed to compensate local cranberry growers and the Towns of Falmouth and Mashpee for lost income from cranberry bogs affected by Ethylene dibromide (EDB) from base plumes. In 1999 the Natural Resources Trustee Council (NRTC) was formed to identify injury caused by contamination from MMR. The council will also determine how to restore or replace those injured resources or acquire similar ones. The five trustees and voting members include representatives from the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior, and U.S. Veterans Affairs.

As a result of the evidence of contamination, EPA in January 2000 ordered the National Guard to begin the process for the removal of unexploded ordnance from the base and to clean up contaminated groundwater and soils. The order was the first of its kind in the country. And in January 2001, EPA ordered the military to use a detonation chamber at the base to destroy the more than 2,500 rounds of different kinds of ammunition dug out of burial pits on the base during the course of the military's investigation of pollution at the firing ranges.

Over \$400 million has been spent to date on investigation and cleanup of Installation Restoration Program sites. The estimated total cost to complete the cleanup project is \$850 million. These costs include operation of all groundwater cleanup systems for 10 to 30 years. There are currently 12 groundwater cleanup systems operating on eight plumes, extracting and cleaning over 12 million gallons a day of contaminated water from both on and off the MMR. Five more groundwater cleanup systems are to be built during the next four years. Some systems are expected to operate for less than ten years, but several will need to be operated for 25-30 years in order to restore the groundwater aquifer.

For years since the pollution was detected, capital improvements at MMR were put on hold, awaiting a final Master Plan, Environmental Impact Statement and new management structure. As of late 2001 there was over \$50 million in MMR modernization work pending. Its aircraft control tower exceeds allowable safety heights; the fire station doesn't meet fire codes; and the Fighter Wing's operations are spread across seven deteriorating structures.



Biography

National Guard Bureau

Departments of the Army and the Air Force
General Officer Management Office, Arlington, VA

MAJOR GENERAL (Ret) GEORGE W. KEEFE



Major General George W. Keefe is the adjutant general of Massachusetts. He is the first Air National Guardsman to serve as adjutant general of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In this executive Branch position General Keefe is responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, plans and programs affecting the more than 10,000 members of the Massachusetts Army and Air National Guard. As the head of the State Military Division, General Keefe is the Commissioner of War Records and Chairman of the Military Reservation Commission and Armory Commission. He is also responsible for ensuring the Massachusetts National Guard units achieve and maintain operational readiness.

The General enlisted in the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 1956 and served in fire protection and personnel. He received his commission in 1968 and has served in various assignments and command positions at the squadron, group, wing and State Headquarters levels. In August 1995 the General was assigned to the position of assistant adjutant general for air. In July 1999 General Keefe was appointed as the interim adjutant general and in January 2000 was appointed the adjutant general for the Massachusetts National Guard.

EDUCATION:

1966 Associates degree, Holyoke College, Holyoke, Mass.
1970 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
1979 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
1983 National Security Management Course

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. June 1968 - April 1973, personnel officer, 104th Combat Support Squadron, Westfield, Mass.
2. April 1973 - October 1976, base supply operations officer, 104th Combat Support Squadron, Westfield, Mass.
3. October 1976 - December 1977, base supply management procedures officer, 104th Combat Support Squadron, Westfield, Mass.
4. December 1977 - September 1978, base chief of supply and services, 104th Combat Support Squadron, Westfield, Mass.
5. September 1978 - February 1987, commander, 104th Resource Management Squadron, Westfield, Mass.

6. February 1978 - January 1993, deputy commander for Resources, 104th Tactical Fighter Group, Westfield, Mass.
7. January 1993 - August 1994, vice-commander, 104th Tactical Fighter Group, Westfield, Mass.
8. August 1994 - July 1995, deputy commander, Massachusetts Air National Guard, Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass.
9. July 1995 - April 1999, assistant adjutant general for air, Headquarters, Massachusetts Air National Guard, Milford, Mass.
10. April 1999 - January 2000, retired status, HQ ARPC, Denver, Colo.
11. January 2000 - present, adjutant general, Massachusetts National Guard, Milford, Mass.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Legion of Merit
Meritorious Service Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters
Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal
National Defense Service Medal with bronze star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal
Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with nine oak leaf clusters
Armed Forces Reserve Medal with gold and bronze hourglass device
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with bronze star
Air Force Training Ribbon
Massachusetts Medal of Merit
Massachusetts National Guard Service Medal with gold eagle
Massachusetts National Guard Desert Storm Service Award;

CIVILIAN OCCUPATION:

Massachusetts State Employee

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

First Lieutenant Jun 15, 1968
Captain Jun 20, 1970
Major Jul 27, 1974
Lieutenant Colonel Aug 19, 1978
Colonel Jul 1, 1987
Brigadier General Aug 22, 1997
Major General Mar 30, 2001

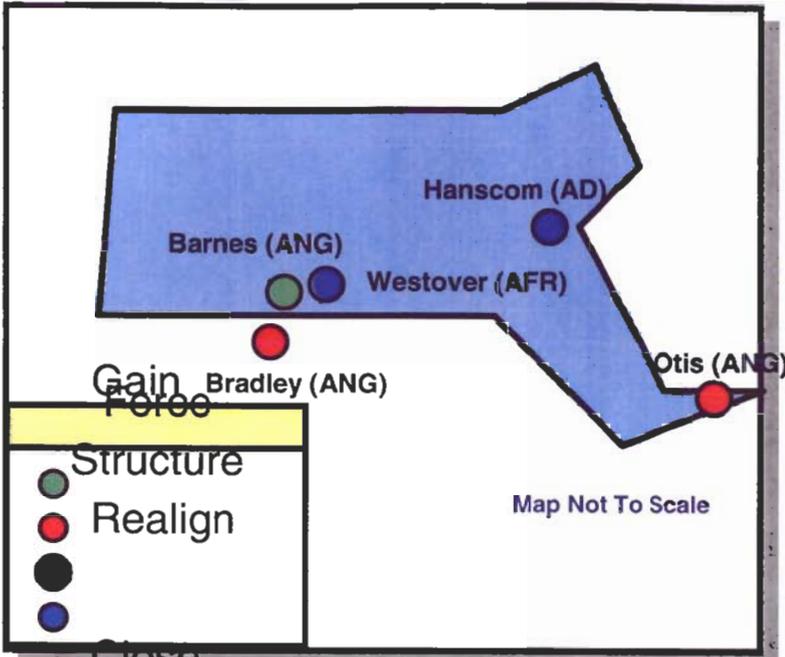
(Current as of May 2003)

The date of publication indicated on this biography reflects the most recent update. It does not necessarily reflect the date of printing.

[Back](#)

State-by-State Installation View

Massachusetts



JCSG / JAST Scenarios:

- Hanscom TECH-0009R; TECH-0042C
- Westover USA-0212

Issues/Close Installations:

- Otis **Closes**

Color Scheme: **Active** / **Guard** / **Reserve**

CURRENT

Locations:

Barnes
Hanscom
Otis
Westover

FORCE STRUCTURE

Aircraft changes:

A-10 (Barnes - ANG)
F-15 C/D (Otis - ANG)
C-5 (Westover - AFR)

	<u>Curren</u>	<u>Futur</u>	<u>BRAC</u>
	<u>t</u>	<u>e</u>	
A-10 (Barnes - ANG)	15	15	24
F-15 C/D (Otis - ANG)	15	15	0
C-5 (Westover - AFR)	16	14	14
Totals	<u>46</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>38</u>

STATE IMPACT (Acft)

-6

STATE IMPACT (Manpower)

TOTAL

<u>Full</u>	<u>Drill</u>
<u>Time</u>	<u>-692</u>
+757	

*Includes BRAC and Non-BRAC programmatic actions thru 2011

Otis AGB (MA)

Outgoing

- Otis ANGB (The 102d Fighter Wing) (ANG) F-15 aircraft will be distributed to:
 - 3 PAA to the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville AGS, FL
 - 12 PAA to the 177th Fighter Wing (ANG), Atlantic City AGS, NJ
- The wing's expeditionary combat support elements, 253d Combat Communications Group (ANG), and 267th Communications Squadron (ANG) will remain in place
- The Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA) facility moves to Bradley to support Homeland Defense

Candidate Recommendation (CR)

(Cost) / Savings

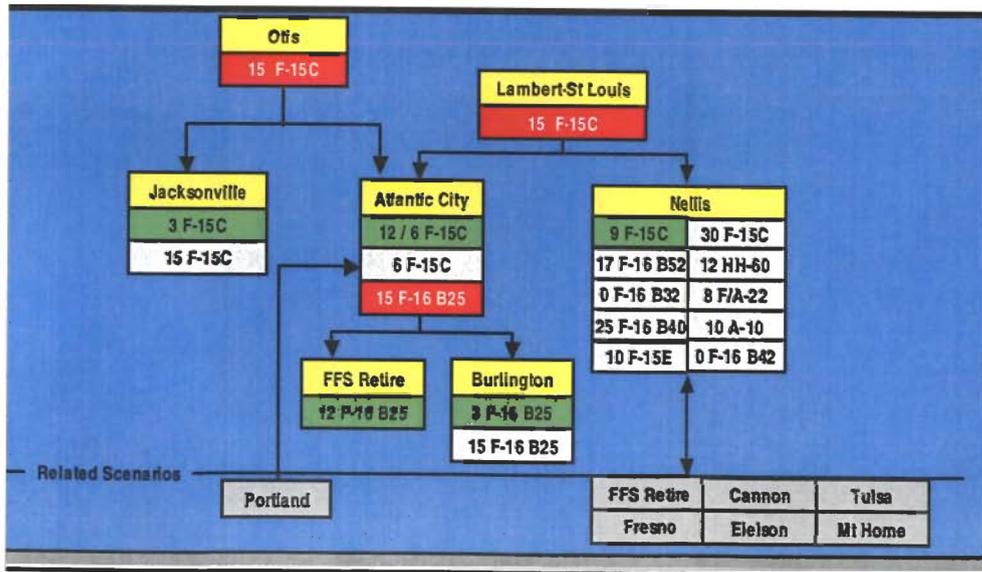
Initiating CR – Close Otis

One Time (Cost):	(\$103M)
2011 (Cost) / Savings:	\$12M
Annual Recurring (Cost) / Savings:	\$33.5M
Payback period:	3 yrs/2011
NPV (Cost) / Savings:	\$336M

Manpower

Impact thru 2011	Full Time	Drill
	-512	-916

Spider Diagram



JCSG / JAST Actions

■ None

MAINE

1991	Loring Air Force Base, Caribou	CLOSE
1993	Data Processing Center Naval Air Station Brunswick	CLOSE

MARYLAND

1988	Army Reserve Center Gaithersburg	CLOSE
1988	Former NIKE site at Aberdeen Proving Ground	CLOSE
1988	Fort Detrick	REALIGN
1988	Fort Holabird	REALIGN
1988	Fort Meade	REALIGN
1988	NIKE Washington-Baltimore	CLOSE
1991	U.S. Army Biomedical Research Development Laboratory, Fort Detrick	DISESTAB
1991	David Taylor Research Center Detachment Annapolis	REALIGN
1991	Fuze Development and Production (armament and missile-related) Harry Diamond Laboratories, Adelphi	REALIGN
1991	Naval Ordnance Station Indian Head	REALIGN
1991	Naval Surface Warfare Center Detachment, White Oak	REALIGN
1993	Data Processing Center Naval Air Warfare Center, Aircraft Division, Patuxent River	CLOSE
1993	Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center St. Inigoes	CLOSE
1993	Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren White Oak Detachment, White Oak	DISESTAB
1993	Navy Radio Transmission Facility Annapolis	DISESTAB
1993	Sea Automated Data Systems Activity Indian Head	DISESTAB
1995	Fort Ritchie	CLOSE
1995	Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division Detachment, White Oak	CLOSE
1995	Fort Meade	REALIGN
1995	Concepts Analysis Agency	CLOSE
1995	Fort Holabird	CLOSE
1995	Publications Distribution Center, Baltimore	CLOSE
1995	Naval Medical Research Institute Bethesda	CLOSE
1995	Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division Detachment, Annapolis	CLOSE
1995	Tri-Service Project Reliance, Army Bio-Medical Research Laboratory, Fort Detrick	REDIRECT
1995	Investigations Control and Automation Directorate, Fort Holabird	RELOCATE

MASSACHUSETTS

1988	Family Housing Bedford 85	CLOSE
1988	Family Housing Beverly 15	CLOSE
1988	Family Housing Burlington 84	CLOSE
1988	Family Housing Hull 36	CLOSE
1988	Family Housing Nahant 17	CLOSE
1988	Family Housing Randolph 55	CLOSE
1988	Family Housing Swansea 29	CLOSE
1988	Family Housing Topsfield 05	CLOSE
1988	Family Housing Wakefield 03	CLOSE
1988	Fort Devens	REALIGN
1988	Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Watertown	CLOSE
1991	Army Materials Technology Laboratory, Watertown	REDIRECT

1991	Fort Devens	CLOSE
1991	Naval Undersea Warfare Engineering Station Keyport	REALIGN
1993	Naval Reserve Center Chicopee	CLOSE
1993	Naval Reserve Center New Bedford	CLOSE
1993	Naval Reserve Center Pittsfield	CLOSE
1993	Naval Reserve Center Quincy	CLOSE
1993	Navy/Marine Corps Reserve Center Lawrence	CLOSE
1995	Naval Air Station South Weymouth	CLOSE
1995	Hingham Cohasset	CLOSE
1995	Sudbury Training Annex	CLOSE

MICHIGAN

1988	Portiac Storage Facility	CLOSE
1991	Ground Vehicle Propulsion Basic and Applied Research, Warren	REALIGN
1991	Wurtsmith Air Force Base	CLOSE
1993	Naval Air Facility Detroit	CLOSE
1993	Defense Logistics Agency Information Processing Center, Battle Creek	CLOSE
1993	K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base	CLOSE
1995	Detroit Arsenal	REALIGN
1995	Naval Reserve Center Cadillac	CLOSE
1995	Naval Air Facility Detroit	REDIRECT

MISSOURI

1988	NIKE Kansas City 30	CLOSE
1988	St. Louis Area Support Center Wherry Housing	CLOSE
1991	Aviation Systems Command and Troop Command Support, St. Louis	REALIGN
1991	Richard-Gebaur Air Reserve Station	CLOSE
1993	Defense Information Technology Service Organization, Kansas City Information Processing Center	CLOSE
1993	Naval Reserve Center Joplin	CLOSE
1993	Naval Reserve Center St. Joseph	CLOSE
1995	Aviation-Troop Support Command	DISESTAB

MONTANA

1993	Naval Reserve Center Great Falls	CLOSE
1993	Naval Reserve Center Missoula	CLOSE
1995	Malmstrom Air Force Base	REALIGN
1995	Fort Missoula	CLOSURE

NEW HAMPSHIRE

1988	Pease Air Force Base	CLOSE
1993	Submarine Maintenance, Engineering, Planning, and Procurement Portsmouth	DISESTAB

NEW JERSEY

1988	Fort Dix	REALIGN
1988	Fort Monmouth	REALIGN
1988	NIKE NY 54 Housing	CLOSE



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION
2521 SOUTH CLARK STREET, Suite 600
ARLINGTON, VA 22202
TELEPHONE: (703) 699-2950
FAX NUMBER: (703) 699-2735

Chairman:
The Honorable Anthony J. Principi

Commissioners:
The Honorable James H. Bilbray
The Honorable Philip E. Coyte III
Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN (Ret.)
The Honorable James V. Hansen
General James T. Hill, USA (Ret.)
General Lloyd W. Newton, USAF (Ret.)
The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret.)

Executive Director:
Charles Battaglia

May 26, 2005

Dear Commissioner:

We have put together a brief compilation of clippings, related to the BRAC process, from the local media. It is our hope that this bit of background information will be useful as you conduct your installation visit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any media-related questions or special needs. The number for the direct line to my office is (703) 699-2962. The Communications staff and I would be more than happy to assist you in any way possible.

Sincerely,

C. James Schaefer IV
Director of Communications

OTIS AIR GUARD BASE CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS

National News Articles

Senators Demand Base Closing Data, Prepare For Base Visit

Base Closures Throw New England Economic Forecasters For A Loop

Guarding The Turf;

Defense Sees Savings From Blending Active, Reserve Units; Lawmakers Line Up To Protect Home-State Bases

More With Less;

USAF Reduces Number But Increases Size Of Fighter, Transport Squadrons In BRAC

Politicians Launch Bid To Keep Cape Cod Air Base From Closing

Local News Articles

Panel On Base Closings Says The List Is Likely To Change

Concerns Heighten On Plan To Shut Bases

Emergency Response Seen As Compromised

Base Closing Panel To Hold Hearing In New England

Closure Review Panel Has A Difficult Job Ahead

Victory And Defeat;

Hanscom Safe, Otis Hit

Opinions/ Editorials

Romney Fails To Deliver

OUR OPINION;

Another Round Of Base Closings

Base-Realignment Reaction

National News Articles

Senators Demand Base Closing Data, Prepare For Base Visit

The Associated Press

Lolita C. Baldor

May 27, 2005

Senators scrambling to head off proposed military base closings in their states are pressing Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to release all the data used to decide which facilities to shut down.

Nearly two dozen senators, including Connecticut Democrats Christopher Dodd and Joe Lieberman, signed a letter to Rumsfeld, saying they need to know how the Pentagon ranked the bases and determined their military value.

Meanwhile, Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell and 13 other governors sent a similar letter to President Bush asking him to direct Rumsfeld to release that information. The governors also requested a delay in the base closing process until the data is made available and there has been time for review.

Rell said she wants one month delays in the Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission's scheduled June 1 site visit to Groton and July 6 public hearing in Boston.

"Unless we have the detailed backup information used by DOD (Department of Defense), we can not give the recommendations the kind of serious and detailed scrutiny they require," the governor said. "To date we have only a fraction of the information we need. That is just not acceptable."

Federal law requires that the information be delivered no more than seven days after the list of proposed closings is released, the governors said. The list was made public May 13.

In recent hearings, Defense Department officials said military value was a key factor in deciding which bases would close. They described the scores given to some of the bases, but did not yet release backup material.

Members of the Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission (BRAC) began visiting bases this week, and have scheduled the first regional hearings on the closings for early next month.

"If the Department continues to delay the release of this data, communities adversely impacted by BRAC, and the BRAC commission, will be unable to assess the Department's recommendations in the limited time allotted to them," the senators said in the letter.

Defense Department spokesman Glenn Flood said the material is going to be released, but it is going through security checks because some of the information is classified.

"We realize the concern," he said. "We're working very hard on it."

Base closing commissioners are visiting eight bases in five states next week, including Naval Submarine Station New London in Groton, Conn., Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, **Otis** Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod, Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Pennsylvania, and Fort Monmouth in New Jersey.

At least four members of the panel plan to tour the Groton base, including commission chairman Anthony Principi. Members of the state's congressional delegation plan to meet with the commissioners, who will be in Connecticut Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning.

Two members are heading to the Portsmouth shipyard, and one member - retired Air Force Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton - will tour **Otis**. Newton is from Connecticut and is an executive vice president at East Hartford-based Pratt & Whitney.

A plan announced May 13 Rumsfeld would close 33 major bases and downsize 29 others, saving an estimated \$48 billion over 20 years.

Base Closures Throw New England Economic Forecasters For A Loop

The Associated Press
Mark Jewell

May 23, 2005

Recommended military base closings in Maine and Connecticut have suddenly injected pessimism into forecasts that had predicted modest economic growth in coming years.

Most of the two states' New England neighbors enjoy a more mixed outlook, and the impact in Connecticut is expected to be less severe than in Maine because of the Constitution State's larger population and more diversified economy.

A Maine economist expects his state's job growth will be cut by half or more over the next five years if President Bush and Congress adopt recommendations to close the Portsmouth shipyard in Kittery and reduce the Brunswick Naval Air Station's mission and employment.

That prospect caused Charles Colgan, a professor at University of Southern Maine, to offer a caveat after presenting his modestly upbeat state economic forecast at Thursday's spring conference of the New England Economic Partnership.

Colgan said he expected employment growth to average a little more than 1 percent per year through 2009, with the state's gross domestic product rising to an average 2.5 percent per year.

He then abruptly changed course, saying, "That's all probably going to change" because of the proposed base closings. He called the cuts a "dreaded monster" that "may eat much of the state's future economic growth" and result in "a decade of essentially no job growth in Maine."

As a result, a jobs target that Colgan initially predicted the state would reach in 2009 may not be achieved until 2013 or later.

Nearly 12,000 Maine jobs could be lost from the possible cuts at Portsmouth and Brunswick combined with the proposed closing of the Defense Finance and Accounting Center in Limestone.

Not counting indirect jobs losses in the communities, more than 6,600 jobs are expected to be lost - or about seven-tenths of a percentage point of the state's total employment.

Connecticut's more than 8,500 direct job losses from the closure of a submarine base in Groton and other smaller facilities amounts to about half a percentage point of the state's total employment.

Combined, the six New England states are expected to suffer 13,600 jobs losses, or about 47 percent of the total cuts nationwide from the military **realignment** in a region with just 5 percent of the total U.S. population.

Ross Gittell, the economic group's New England forecaster and an economist at the University of New Hampshire, said the regional impact will be softened somewhat by the gradual phase-in of the cuts and federal aid to help communities make it through economic transition.

Edward Deak, the group's Connecticut forecaster and an economist at Fairfield University, said it could be two years before job losses begin and six years before they are finished.

Connecticut faces a potentially big hit from the loss of the sub base because it is just up the Thames River from Electric Boat shipyard, a maker of nuclear submarines that could see a big drop in business.

The military cuts, combined with uncertainties about energy prices and instability in the state's insurance industry, have combined to form what Deak called an "instability trifecta" clouding the outlook for the state's economy despite its diverse job base.

Even before the military cuts are taken into account, Deak expected Connecticut to join Massachusetts in posting New England's lowest job growth over the next five years at an annual average gain of less than 1 percent.

In addition to the base closures, another question mark in Maine is the uncertain future of privately owned Bath Iron Works shipyard. The Navy is considering a plan to shift all new destroyer contracts to either BIW or a competing site in Mississippi instead of sharing the contracts between the two.

Maine political leaders will seek to derail the military's closure plans and keep the shipyard open, but Colgan said, "The real battle has in effect already been lost in terms of the Maine economy."

Southeastern New Hampshire is expected to be hit hard by the closure of Portsmouth shipyard, just across the state's border with Maine. New Hampshire, home to many of the shipyard's workers, is expected to suffer nearly 1,900 direct job losses under the Pentagon's **realignment** plan and 1,200 indirect jobs losses.

Rhode Island is forecast to gain about 600 jobs, with Massachusetts posting a net gain of 500 jobs - a consequence of new jobs at Hanscom Air Force Base offsetting losses at other facilities including **Otis** Air National Guard Base.

The pace at which New England communities hit by the base closings recover depends largely on how quickly military land can be converted for use by private industry, economists said. Environmental cleanups must be completed at many of the bases before they can be redeveloped.

"For all of New England, it's going to be a long time getting back to where we were," said Dennis Delay, the regional economic group's New Hampshire forecaster.

**Guarding The Turf;
Defense Sees Savings From Blending Active, Reserve Units; Lawmakers Line Up To
Protect Home-State Bases**

Aviation Week & Space Technology

David A. Fulghum, John M. Doyle, and Amy Butler

May 23, 2005

The U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy Reserves components are taking an inordinate number of cuts in the Defense Dept.'s proposal of bases to be closed and realigned, although analysts are split over whether they are painful enough to start driving citizen airmen away from service. Meanwhile, lawmakers are vowing to defend what they say are key installations that should not be closed.

"The first planes in the air [on 9/11] were out of **Otis** Air National Guard Base"--one of some 400 Guard and Reserve installations on the chopping block--says Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.).

"It's important to recognize the role they played in Massachusetts and we're going to fight to reverse the decision." Many in Congress, like Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), chairman of the

Senate Armed Services' Airland subcommittee, say they were "extremely pleased" the Pentagon "recognized the positive impact" of bases in their home state while regretting "the closing of any U.S. military installation."

But others pledged to fight for their bases, like Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), a member of the Armed Services Committee. The Pentagon recommended closing Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and reassigning the KC-135 tankers of New York Air National Guard's 107th Refueling Wing to a wing at Maine's Bangor Air National Guard Base. "I so strongly disagree with the Dept. of Defense's assessment," she says.

The Pentagon is reducing this infrastructure while at the same time shifting the role of the Guard and Reserve. Also part of the strategy is blending those units into the active duty with more modern missions, like unmanned aerial vehicle operations, rather than just the traditional role of homeland defense.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld forwarded his proposals to the Base **Realignment** and Closure (BRAC) commission last week. The commission must report to the president by Sept. 8, and he will make a final announcement by the end of that month. Congress then has 45 days to reject the plan. The proposed changes for the Reserves and Guard lead some to question the value of cutting back those facilities.

"With all the increased attention to involving the Reserves and Guard in wartime deployments, it seems counterproductive to cut their bases," says a senior aerospace industry official and retired Marine Corps test pilot. "The reductions have really been disproportionate. Why would you want to make it harder for them by making them travel farther from home?"

The Reserve Officers Assn. issued a statement saying it had "serious concerns" about how many Guard and Reserve installations are being targeted.

A number of Air National Guard units will lose their aircraft and bases as the Air Force reshapes the force (see p. 32).

"There [have] to be attractions for people to stay with the Reserves and National Guard," said Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.), whose state stands to lose three Army Reserve facilities and the Navy's submarine base at New London. "If you eliminate those bases and make people have to go 300 mi. to another place, you're just saying to them that they can't participate. It's a tremendous concern to us."

However, some in the Air Force have little sympathy for the Air National Guard, in particular.

"If the governor wants his own air force and doesn't want a base closed, let the state pay for it," says a senior Air Force official who has weathered the BRAC before. "We've got to close bases and shut down units. It's the right thing to do. The Air Force must reduce its fighter force by about 20%--that's 500 older F-15s, F-16s and A-10s--and those are mostly in the Guard and Reserve.

"In the first three rounds of BRAC, they got a free ride," the Air Force official says. "So now they're going to have to close some bases. It was inevitable."

For example, the Guard mission in Richmond, Va., is going to Langley AFB, hours away on the Virginia coast. And some Predator UAV units are transitioning to the Guard. For some time,

communications reachback and intelligence analysis work has been handled by the Reno Air National Guard, which supports Nevada-based Predator units at Nellis AFB and the Indian Spring Auxiliary Field. That trend to involve more Reserves and Guard in Predator operations is likely to expand since most operational piloting and analytical tasks are executed by static sites in the U.S., regardless of where Predators are flying around the globe, say Air Force planners.

The recommendations mimic the strategic airlift mission area where Reserve component units have been shifted to blended units that also contain many active duty personnel. USAF flying units as a whole will be restructured into fewer but larger units. The whole plan is to save the Air Force \$14.5 billion over 20 years. Over all, this BRAC round, if it remains intact, is estimated to save \$48.8 billion over 20 years. Critics claim that savings seldom materialize because of complicated and expensive environmental cleanup and efforts to dispose of the land.

The major cuts in active duty operational Air Force bases were limited to Cannon AFB, N.M., and Ellsworth AFB, S.D. Some Air Force officials question the wisdom of basing all the service's B-1s at Dyess AFB, Tex., where facilities will have to be built to house the additional bombers. In 2001, the Air Force shed one-third of its B-1 fleet, consolidating it at two bases (Dyess and Ellsworth); airframes were pulled from McConnell AFB, Kan., Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, and Robins AFB, Ga.

LAWMAKERS FROM South Dakota are vowing to fight the Ellsworth proposal, adding that the base is the only one left on the U.S.-Canadian border and well-suited for Global Hawk UAV operations, although the likelihood of augmenting those operations outside their hub at Beale AFB, Calif., is unlikely.

A couple of consolidation plans were stillborn, including an idea to merge weapons testing at Eglin AFB, Fla., and another to close down NAS Patuxent River, Md., and shift its assets to a consolidated test facility at the more isolated Edwards AFB, Calif. Patuxent River is about 60 mi. east of Washington, an area experiencing rapid development and airspace encroachment problems.

Instead, Eglin is to become home to the Army's 7th Special Force Group so it can be located with Air Force Special Operations. Additionally, the base will host initial, graduate-level Joint Strike Fighter pilot training for the Navy, Marines and Air Force.

Skeptics contend that too many operational bases have been cut already and that it's time to pare away support facilities, depots, test centers and arsenals in order to improve the military's tooth-to-tail ratio. A number of these bases, "some of which they've been trying to close since the Civil War," the USAF official says, survived because the BRAC cuts were held to what some budgeters consider a disappointing 9% of major bases instead of the earlier advertised goals of as much as 25%. In all, 62 major facilities are to close or be reduced in size. What remains unclear is to what extent the shifts in tactical aircraft basing will support future plans to downsize the fleet and reshape the service's Air Expeditionary Force units.

Another point of contention is how cuts in support facilities are being apportioned. In earlier BRAC cuts, a number of overhaul, maintenance and depot establishments were privatized to make them more efficient and cost effective. Now commercial companies like Boeing and some engine manufacturers are privately protesting that the commercial segments of the military's support facilities, even though they have cut overhaul times and backlogs, are being trimmed more than those that remain in military hands. During the 1990s, the Air Force underwent a painful downsizing from five depots to three, and those three survived this most recent round of

cuts.

The Air Force also plans to divest itself of Brooks City Base, Tex., a partnership between the service and the local San Antonio development authority. Formerly an Air Force base, Brooks became the property of the development authority in 2002 with the Air Force as the main tenant. The project was an experiment in new management style after the base narrowly escaped closure during the post-Cold War military cutbacks. Maj. Gen. Gary Heckman, the Air Force's top BRAC official, says a joint services panel proposed the Brooks closure, and the service supports that position.

Intelligence agencies will also shuffle facilities as part of the BRAC's goal of shedding leased commercial space.

The Defense Intelligence Analysis Center at Bolling AFB, D.C., will move to a new facility at Rivanna Station, Va. The Defense Intelligence Agency analysis function, now in leased commercial quarters, will move to Bolling. The move combines analytical function with the National Ground Intelligence Center at Rivanna Station, addresses shortages at the Defense Intelligence Analysis Center and locates both in areas that are easier to keep secure.

The National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) will close its leased sites in Virginia and the District of Columbia and move them to a new facility at Fort Belvoir, Va. NGA functions at the National Reconnaissance Office will also shift to Fort Belvoir.

More With Less;

USAF Reduces Number But Increases Size Of Fighter, Transport Squadrons In BRAC

Aviation Week & Space Technology

Amy Butler

May 23, 2005

The U.S. Air Force is planning to beef up its squadrons and establish new central basing locations for its tactical and transport aircraft fleets.

Many of the changes are geared to realign Reserve component infrastructure and missions in what the service says is the first base closure proposal that includes an objective look at the National Guard and Reserve.

An optimum fighter squadron contains 24 airframes, although some Air Force squadrons had dwindled to as few as eight aircraft, says Maj. Gen. Gary Heckman, the Air Force's top Base **Realignment** and Closure (BRAC) official. Critics of the Pentagon's proposal, sent to the BRAC commission May 13, say shutting down Guard and Reserve bases could produce the unintended consequence of steering citizen airmen away from service by forcing them to travel farther to fulfill their commitments.

Air Guard and Reserve installations in Alaska, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are on the proposed closure list. Flying missions at others around the country are slated for **realignment**, although in many cases the Air Force plans to leave behind an "enclave" of support capability like civil engineering or security forces at those locations, Heckman says. Those skill sets are some of the most undermanned in the service.

"The ability of a region to be able to recruit and retain folks in the Guard and Reserve was key. Yes, you will find a lot of installations closing, but that is because if we were going to close three squadrons' worth of capability, that could be one active base or it may be three Guard and Reserve bases," Heckman says. Reserve component "demographics was one of the key factors we looked at because we realized we have to maintain that active-[Reserve] mix to maintain our combat capability."

In past BRAC rounds, USAF overlooked some Reserve bases because, in many cases, they are smaller than their active-duty counterparts. This round included 154 installations, including those smaller installations. Heckman acknowledges the Air Force will need to redirect excess pilot capacity, especially as it plans to reduce its force structure. Estimates for tactical aircraft reduction range up to 25% of the fleet.

At the same time, USAF needs more security officials, linguists, medical specialists, engineers and UAV specialists, among others, some of whom could come from the ranks of local police and hospital workers, for example.

A specific transition schedule is not yet final. Officials are awaiting the results of the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), a sweeping study of military requirements and capabilities, now underway at the Pentagon, that will report how many tactical and transport assets remain in the fleet as well as outline the numbers of F-35s and F/A-22s to be purchased. However, law requires the recommendations, once approved, to be implemented within six years.

Meanwhile, USAF wants to shift its airframes to maximize their capabilities. For example, nine of the A-10s now at Bradley International Airport Air Guard Station, Conn., would be sent to the Barnes Guard facility 12 mi. away in Massachusetts, minimizing travel for transferred pilots. The remaining six A-10s would be retired, pulling the flying mission from that base.

Left behind at Bradley would be an "enclave" of maintenance capability for the TF-34 engine manned by the remaining A-10 support crews. Additionally, Bradley would pick up the air sovereignty alert mission handled by Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass., which is on the closure list. Likewise, A-10s now at Naval Air Station New Orleans would round out under-resourced units at Barksdale AFB, La., and Whiteman AFB, Mo. A similar center for F100 engine work in the Southeastern U.S. would remain at the New Orleans facility.

CHANGES AHEAD for F-16 basing are similar. The proposed closure of Cannon AFB, N.M., which Heckman describes as a "good base," leaves the active duty centers of gravity for the fleet at Hill AFB, Utah, and Shaw AFB, S.C. Meanwhile, Reserve component units in Wisconsin and South Dakota would be among a group receiving Cannon aircraft.

Realigning the F-15 fleet is "not as clean" as the others, Heckman says, primarily because its future shape depends largely on how many F/A-22s the Air Force will purchase, an issue under intense scrutiny in the QDR. However, USAF's strategy is to homogenize the fleet at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, by shedding F-16s and receiving F-15Es from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. The shifts leave open the option to base F/A-22s at the Alaska location.

Recent operations around the globe have stressed the C-130 crews, many of which are in the Reserve component. The pace is high because the C-130s provide intratheater support, requiring crews to deploy to a region for a block of time. By contrast, strategic airlifters like the C-5 and C-17 generally demand shorter time commitments for missions and allow crews to turn over more often. To relieve stress and make more predictable the commitments of Guardsmen and

Reservists in C-130 units, Heckman says the Air Force plans to transfer some of those aircraft to the active duty and realign some strategic airlift assets into the Reserve component. The service is shifting small numbers of C-130s from various locations--such as a Guard unit in Reno, Nev., and Pope AFB, N.C., which USAF is transferring to the Army--into one single, active duty center at Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Heckman says Cannon and Pope are both solid bases and hard to let go, although their missions can be consolidated at other locations or, in the case of Pope, facilities transferred to the Army for more efficient use.

He adds that the closure of Onizuka Air Force Station, in highly populated Sunnyvale, Calif., allows the Air Force to divest itself of a vulnerable installation and consolidate satellite control operations at Vandenberg AFB, in a much larger and more fortified area down the coast in California. "You don't have to have a very strong arm to throw something at Onizuka and some critical resources there and to do some harm," Heckman says. "It is a small plot of land and it is very tough to protect."

The BRAC commission will turn its recommendations over to the President by Sept. 8. He then has until Sept. 23 to accept or reject the plan in full. Congress must act within 45 legislative days thereafter if it chooses to reject the plan.

Politicians Launch Bid To Keep Cape Cod Air Base From Closing

The Associated Press

Ken Maguire

May 20, 2005

The Department of Defense overlooked the usefulness of **Otis** Air National Guard Base and miscalculated the potential savings of closing it, the state's elected leaders said Friday as they launched a bid to save the Cape Cod airfield.

Otis, which launched fighter jets in response to the Sept. 11 terror attacks and the December 2001 "shoe bomber" threat, was the major loss for Massachusetts in the proposed list of military base closures released last week by the Pentagon.

The Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission, appointed by President Bush, can change the Pentagon list before it is submitted to the White House and Congress this fall.

The Bay State's elected leaders are pledging to prove the Pentagon wrong.

"This decision... defies logic. It is a decision based on incorrect data and misinformation," U.S. Rep. William Delahunt said at a news conference outside the base with Massachusetts Sens. Edward Kennedy and John Kerry and Gov. Mitt Romney.

Their plan is to use experts to analyze the facts and figures the Pentagon relied on to determine **Otis** should close.

The Legislature had already appropriated \$500,000 for a statewide effort to keep its bases open. The money was used to hire Washington consultant Steve Wolf, who is leading the **Otis** analysis, the governor's office said. Wolf did not return a call to comment.

Otis, home to 500 workers and the 102nd Fighter Wing, ranks better than other bases when it

comes to relationships with other military units, readiness, distances to threats, and potential for expansion - all among the criteria used by the Pentagon, Kerry said.

"That's inexplicable," Kerry said of the recommendation, "unless you wanted that to happen beforehand or unless someone simply made a mistake."

Romney noted that a Pentagon estimate that it will save \$336 million over 20 years by closing **Otis** doesn't take into account the cost of continuing to let the Coast Guard use **Otis'** aviation facilities.

"The savings they are anticipating aren't going to be realized," Romney said. "They made mistakes, in our view, as they did that analysis. We're going back and looking at their analysis and pointing out their flaws."

Romney also has been lobbying for the creation of a homeland security training facility at **Otis**.

A Department of Defense spokesman did not immediately return a call to comment.

The lawmakers met with the base commander, Col. Paul Worcester, and other **Otis** officials before the news conference.

"**Otis** was not given a fair shake," Kennedy said. "We don't want to represent that this is going to be a slam dunk. It's an uphill battle, but I think we have a strong case."

Historically, about 15 percent of base closure recommendations are overturned, Kerry said.

The Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission will hold hearings and make a final recommendation to Bush by Sept. 8. The New England hearing will be in Boston on July 6. A spokesman for the commission did not return a call to comment.

Delahunt said the future of the Coast Guard's air station at the base hasn't been considered. The Coast Guard has used the base since 1970.

"Can the United States Coast Guard (Cape Cod air station) survive without the presence of the 102nd Fighter Wing?" he said. "That analysis has not been done."

Local News Articles

Panel On Base Closings Says The List Is Likely To Change

The New York Times

ERIC SCHMITT

May 23, 2005

The independent commission assessing the Pentagon's proposed list of domestic base closings will spare some installations but could add others that are not on the list now, the panel's chairman says.

The head of the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, Anthony J. Principi, said in two interviews that testimony last week from Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the civilian secretaries and uniformed chiefs of the armed services effectively presented the Defense

Department's argument for closing 180 installations and offices, including 33 major bases.

State and local community leaders will get their turn to rebut the military's recommendations in 16 field hearings, to begin on June 7 in St. Louis and Salt Lake City and run through mid-July.

The hurdle for changing the Pentagon's plan is high. The commission must show that the Defense Department "deviated substantially" from its guidelines to change or remove a site from the list. A simple majority of the nine-member panel can drop a site; seven members must approve adding a site for closing.

Commissions in four prior base-closing rounds changed about 15 percent of the Pentagon's recommendations. Mr. Principi, a former secretary of veterans affairs, said that it was too early to put a figure on what this panel might do, but that the Pentagon's list would not go unscathed.

"I expect there will be changes, and I think there'll be a few additions considered," he said. "The last thing this commission will be is a rubber stamp."

After expressing outrage at the Pentagon's decision, announced on May 13, civic leaders and lawmakers switched gears last week and began to organize their counterattack. On Friday, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, led a state delegation to Cape Cod to show support for the **Otis** Air National Guard Base, from which F-15 fighters were scrambled on Sept. 11, 2001, to try to intercept the hijacked passenger jets.

"The true military value of **Otis** was obviously not assessed accurately in the Pentagon analysis," Mr. Kennedy said, "and we will do all we can to reverse this misguided decision."

Last week, Senator John Thune, Republican of South Dakota, joined nine other senators from states that stand to lose thousands of civilian and military jobs in introducing legislation to delay the base closings.

"It doesn't make sense to close bases now," said Mr. Thune, who campaigned last fall on his ability to use Republican connections to preserve Ellsworth Air Force Base, the state's second-largest employer, which is on the list. "We should not be undertaking massive BRAC **realignments** and closures while we are engaged in a war."

Lawmakers have unsuccessfully tried such delay tactics in the past. Last week, the House Armed Services Committee defeated two measures to slow or cancel the base-closing process.

In interviews, commission members said they would scrutinize the Pentagon's military rationale and estimated cost savings.

"Where there are significant changes taking place," said Gen. Lloyd W. Newton, a retired Air Force officer, "we want to be sure we fully understand it" and to make sure "it adheres to the criteria."

Gen. James T. Hill, a retired Army officer who commanded American forces in Latin America, said, "We'll take a hard look at whether they did the right figuring on the dollars."

In testimony last Monday, Mr. Rumsfeld warned the panel against unraveling the interlinked decisions that Pentagon analysts made after two years of study and tests of some 1,000 different approaches. "I made a conscious decision not to add anything or take anything out or change

anything," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

The Pentagon said that its proposal, which, all told, would shut, reduce or reorganize more than 800 facilities in all 50 states, would save \$48.8 billion over 20 years.

At least in the testimony last week, the panel members poked skeptically at many parts of the plan.

They expressed concern that the Army's proposal to close 176 Army Reserve centers and 211 Army National Guard facilities, and to build 125 new, multiservice Reserve centers, could hurt recruiting.

"You're going to have a real enlistment problem," said James H. Bilbray, a former Democratic congressman from Nevada, warning that the closings would increase some reservists' travel time to the next closest training center.

They challenged the Navy on whether a rural county in Georgia was capable of handling an influx of thousands of sailors and their dependents from the submarine base in Groton, Conn., which the Pentagon proposes closing.

And they questioned why the Air Force wants to keep Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska and Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota up and running, largely for training purposes, even though thousands of civilian and military jobs would be sent to other installations.

Panel members also asked why the Pentagon did not go beyond the proposals to merge functions like medical operations and truck-driving school, moving to consolidate other functions, like undergraduate pilot training and the war colleges for each of the armed services.

"I don't think you can push hard enough on jointness," said Samuel K. Skinner, a former secretary of transportation and White House chief of staff under George H.W. Bush.

Concerns Heighten On Plan To Shut Bases Emergency Response Seen As Compromised

The Boston Globe

Bryan Bender

May 22, 2005

WASHINGTON The Pentagon's plan to close military bases would ground a third of the nation's Air National Guard units and shutter hundreds of other armories and readiness centers, raising concerns among defense specialists and local leaders that the consolidation would hamper state responses to local emergencies.

The Pentagon plan announced May 13 would have a significant impact on the National Guard, the state militias that are under the control of governors during peacetime unless federalized by the president. More than half of the more than 800 large and small military facilities nationwide that would be closed or reconfigured are operated by the Air or Army National Guard. Among them is **Otis** Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod.

Many of these bases have played a critical role in homeland security and are designated as

staging areas for National Guard troops and emergency management personnel in the event of natural disasters or terrorist attacks. Lawmakers, interest groups, and security specialists worry that the preparedness level will suffer if the Pentagon plan is approved.

"Some of the concern among governors is not only the loss of jobs, but that some of these facilities are really important to state emergency plans," said John Goheen, spokesman for the National Guard Association of the United States, a lobbying group.

National Guard bases such as **Otis** provide governors with critical communications and other equipment that could be used in an emergency, and could serve as temporary shelters in the aftermath of a disaster, officials said.

Otis is home to the 253d Combat Communications Group, which, according to its mission statement, is required to provide communications for state agencies "during local or statewide disasters of emergencies for protecting life and property, and to preserve peace, order, and public safety."

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, told the Globe on Friday that he worries the closures of **Otis** and other National Guard facilities across the country did not fully assess the homeland security implications.

"Many of us in Congress are concerned that closures of National Guard bases was budget-driven only, and will leave serious gaps in air defense and homeland security," Kennedy told the Globe in a statement, after visiting **Otis** on Friday with Senator John F. Kerry, Governor Mitt Romney, and other state leaders.

Romney, meanwhile, is also concerned about the effect on state preparedness plans, aides said.

The governor recently ordered the state's emergency management agencies to review the impact of **Otis's** closure on state response plans.

"Governor Romney has asked the Executive Office of Public Safety and other agencies involved in emergency preparedness to review all implications of the changing base alignment in Massachusetts," said Julie Teer, Romney's press secretary. "The results on **Otis** will be part of a report submitted to the base commission."

The Pentagon maintains that its plan, now being reviewed by the independent commission, would save billions of dollars while also safeguarding homeland defense.

The base-closing process "enabled the services to match facilities to force structure, and to make the best use of defense dollars," Air Force General Richard B. Myers, the chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff, said last week.

Republicans and Democrats are questioning whether the Pentagon's underlying analysis fully takes into account the homeland defense implications of the base **realignment**.

A bipartisan bill to postpone the base-closing process was put forward in the Senate last week, citing among the reasons for delay the need for a comprehensive homeland security strategy that identifies weak points and where additional military presence may be required.

"Once these bases are closed, they're gone forever," said Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine. "And our nation cannot afford to lose invaluable national and homeland security assets at such a critical time in our nation's history."

Air National Guard bases are a particular regional concern. **Otis** is among the 28 Air National Guard units out of 88 nationwide that would be stripped of their aircraft under the Pentagon plan.

The National Guard Association fears that the Pentagon's proposal to move the aircraft will push experienced pilots and support personnel out of the National Guard because they will not want to move with their aircraft to bases far away.

"Some of the most valuable assets in the nation's defense arsenal would then be gone forever," said retired Brigadier General Stephen M. Koper, president of the association, which represents 45,000 Army and Air National Guard officers on Capitol Hill.

In Massachusetts, officials fear the loss of **Otis** could put Boston and surrounding areas at risk during a terrorist attack.

"Closing this base will make us more vulnerable by reducing fighter coverage for the Boston metropolitan area and the entire region," Kennedy said at **Otis**, noting that the 102d Fighter Wing scrambled as recently as Tuesday when a passenger on an Alitalia flight headed to Boston was believed to be on a no-fly list.

"Under the Pentagon proposal, only four interceptor aircraft . . . will be within a 175-mile radius of Boston," Kennedy added, referring to four fighter aircraft that will be stationed near Hartford, instead of the 12 now stationed at **Otis**. "That's not enough for a large metropolitan area with so many high-value targets."

Located on the Massachusetts Military Reservation on the Upper Cape, **Otis** also houses Coast Guard units and forces from the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Other local emergency responders have also been trained on the base.

But with the loss of its main unit the 102d some like Goheen worry that the facility, like many National Guard bases, "will wither away and die."

"What we have at these bases is mission-essential infrastructure," he said. "The base-closure process seemed to penalize that."

Romney has proposed creating a homeland security training center on the site, telling Michael Chertoff, the homeland security secretary, in a meeting last month that many of the required facilities are already in place.

He made a similar proposal to the Energy Department to train first responders for a possible incident involving liquefied natural gas tankers like the ones that offload in Everett.

Others warn that all National Guard facilities slated for closure or **realignment** require more scrutiny at a time when the nation is struggling to come up with improved homeland security strategies and local response plans in the event of natural disasters or chemical, biological, or nuclear catastrophes.

"It could impact some of the governor's ability to use state National Guard assets for state emergencies," said Hank Chase, a retired Navy commander who worked on previous base-closure rounds.

"Shutting these armories may undermine homeland security efforts, which rely in part on the geographic dispersion and availability of Reserve units to respond to domestic emergencies," Phillip Carter, a retired Army officer who has written extensively about military overhauls, wrote in a recent article published on his weblog and the website Slate.com.

"The base-closure commission should evaluate this impact before accepting the Pentagon's recommendations," he said.

SIDEBAR:

CLOSING BASES, SHIFTING JOBS

The US Defense Department's proposal to close and realign military bases would eliminate 29,000 jobs and shift thousands of other jobs from one state to another.

Base Closing Panel To Hold Hearing In New England

The Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

May 20, 2005

Representatives from the region hardest-hit by the military cutbacks are expected to testify.

WASHINGTON (AP) - The New England hearing on the Pentagon's recent military base closing recommendations will be in Boston on July 6.

The hearing is expected to attract state and local officials and citizens from Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts, as the commission ventures into the region of the country hardest hit by the Pentagon's proposed base closings.

New England will lose three major bases, and absorb nearly 50 percent of the net jobs cut nationwide, under the plans outlined by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. The Pentagon last week proposed shutting about 180 military installations from Maine to Hawaii including 33 major bases. The plan is expected to save \$48.8 billion over 20 years.

The base closing commission announced its schedule yesterday, and said that before the hearing panel members will visit the bases targeted for closing or **realignment**.

The three major bases set for shutdown in New England are: Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine; **Otis** Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod in Massachusetts; and the Naval Submarine Base New London, in Groton, Conn. A major **realignment** was proposed for the Naval Air Station in Brunswick, Maine, New England's only active-duty airfield.

Meanwhile, the House Armed Services Committee early yesterday passed a \$441.6-billion defense authorization bill for fiscal 2006, marked by redirected Navy shipbuilding priorities and new requirements to force the Pentagon to reduce cost overruns in major weapons systems.

The bill, which now goes to the full House, includes \$49 billion in supplemental funding for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan for the year starting Oct. 1, and increases in pay, bonuses and benefits to help retain troops and recruit new ones.

The bill cut two weapons programs that have been troubled by technical challenges and cost escalations.

Declaring that rising costs "threaten to undermine" the Navy's shipbuilding program, the committee took the unusual step of cutting \$1 billion from the President Bush's request for a DD(X) destroyer being developed by Northrop Grumman Corp. and putting a ceiling of \$1.7 billion on its cost.

As it warned about the cost of the DD(X), the committee directed the secretary of defense to begin designing a new Navy surface combat ship, according to a summary of the bill.

At the same time, the bill authorized \$2.5 billion more than the budget request for two more DDG-51 destroyers. They are built by Northrop Grumman in Mississippi and General Dynamics Corp. in Maine.

Closure Review Panel Has A Difficult Job Ahead

The Boston Globe

Bryan Bender

May 15, 2005

WASHINGTON The independent commission reviewing Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld's proposal to close Otis Air National Guard Base, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and dozens of other domestic military bases will find it harder to recommend changes than its predecessors and must complete its work more quickly, according to defense officials, lobbyists, and base closure specialists.

Guidelines now require the support of seven of the nine members of the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission to add a base to the list, versus a simple majority in previous rounds. That change, specialists said, will make sparing bases harder, because for every base that the commission wants to keep open, it will probably have to recommend a new closure to help achieve the billions of dollars in future savings that the government is seeking.

During the last four base closure rounds in 1995, 1993, 1991, and 1988 the oversight commission ultimately changed between 10 and 15 percent of the Pentagon's recommendations on average, according to senior Defense Department officials.

This time, "It will be a smaller proportion in this round that gets changed," predicted Steve Grundman, former deputy undersecretary of defense for installations. "They won't have enough time or the disposition" to overrule the Pentagon as much as in previous go-arounds, he added.

Still, the nine-member base closure commission, made up of retired officers, former Pentagon officials, and lawmakers, is not intended simply to rubber-stamp Rumsfeld's consolidation plan.

Its members will crisscross the country with a staff of 90 this summer, visiting dozens of bases and hearing testimony from local officials and top military leaders, before making final recommendations to President Bush and Congress in September. Anthony Principi, the commission chairman, has pledged to give the Pentagon plan a "clear-eyed" examination.

The panel's schedule of visiting bases has not been set. Tomorrow, it will hear Rumsfeld's rationale for the bases selected.

Some of its members are known as extremely outspoken personalities who are expected to cast a skeptical eye on the process, questioning the Pentagon rationale for shuttering certain facilities and consolidating their operations elsewhere.

"This group of commissioners is a confident and well-informed bunch," said Loren Thompson, chief executive officer of the Lexington Institute, a think tank in Arlington, Va. "They will not be bashful about telling Rumsfeld when he's wrong."

Thompson pointed to James Hansen, a former Republican member of Congress from Utah, who chaired the House's Depot Maintenance Caucus and is considered a specialist on military repair depots, which are a chief target of Rumsfeld's overhaul. Another independent voice is expected to

be Phillip Coyle, formerly the Defense Department's top weapon tester, who already has raised concerns about the process the Pentagon used to weigh the merits of technical facilities such as military research centers.

Retired Admiral Harold Gehman, meanwhile, recently retired as head of the US Joint Forces Command, giving him a unique perch from which to assess the Pentagon's stated design to make the military's branches more "joint" better able to operate together as a result of a realigned base structure.

But ultimately, the commissioners have less room than their predecessors to modify the Pentagon list or question its analysis.

In addition to the seven votes now needed to make changes to the list, the law establishing the 2005 commission also stipulated that a base cannot be added unless two commission members have visited it. Before such decisions are made, Rumsfeld has 15 days to make a counterargument.

But time is already short. The commission must make its final report by Sept. 8, giving it less than four months to complete its painstaking work, compared with six months for previous panels.

As a result, it will have less time to review the underlying analysis used by the Pentagon to make its recommendations, including the military value of the installation in question, the economic impact to the local community of its closure, and environmental impact from abandoning the facility.

"This will still be the largest round of closures the country has ever endured," said Grundman, who was in charge of all military facilities during the Clinton administration. "But the commission will have 60 fewer days. That is a practical limitation." Earlier this month, Principi protested that his staff will be under the gun to complete its work in time.

But the Pentagon has sent a clear message that it thinks few changes are necessary. In a rare public show of solidarity, Rumsfeld on Thursday briefed reporters on his rationale for the base closures flanked by top brass representing all the military branches, who told reporters they supported the plan and urged the commission to adopt all the Defense Department's recommendations.

"We are very hopeful that these recommendations will be seen through the process, and we believe that they will benefit the United States Navy and the United States military greatly," said Admiral Vernon Clark, the chief of naval operations.

For communities such as Kittery, Maine, and New London, Conn., which received the bad news

Friday that their facilities are on Rumsfeld's closure list, specialists say a reversal at this point is probably wishful thinking.

While still fighting to save their bases, local communities should focus more on what to do with the bases once they are closed or downsized, including applying for a variety of economic assistance grants that will be made available by the Defense Department, Labor Department, and other federal agencies, according to government officials and redevelopment specialists.

This time, local communities are under greater pressure to come up with alternative plans for their bases than a decade ago. Some bases ordered closed then are still in public hands, but this time the Pentagon is bent on reaping billions of dollars in savings by completely jettisoning what it considers excess facilities in half that time.

"What we are seeing is that the military really wants to shorten the process of closure to transfer," said Edward S. Hershfield, an attorney at Brown & Rudnick in Boston who represents the developer for the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station, closed in 1995.

"You have to get up and running and redeveloped as quickly as possible."

Victory And Defeat; Hanscom Safe, Otis Hit

The Boston Herald

Andrew Miga and Ann E. Donlan

May 14, 2005

Rejoicing in saving Hanscom Air Force Base but jolted by the surprise listing of **Otis** Air National Guard Base on the Pentagon's closure list, Bay State leaders vowed to battle - albeit uphill - to save the Cape Cod facility.

"This list is not the final step in the process," Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) said. "We'll continue to fight for our bases as we've done all along."

Otis - where 505 jobs are at stake - was the base from which F-15 Eagle fighters from the 102nd Fighter Wing were among the first military aircraft to scramble after the World Trade Center towers were attacked Sept. 11, 2001.

"It simply makes no sense to close **Otis** in the post-9/11 world. . . . **Otis** is the No. 1 base for homeland defense on the entire East Coast," Sen. John F. Kerry (D-Mass.) said.

U.S. Rep. William Delahunt (D-Quincy) said he is "confident that we will prevail" in getting **Otis** removed from the hit list. As recently as late last month, a senior Delahunt aide reportedly dismissed as "wild speculation" word that **Otis** was targeted.

The state's congressional delegation, while not ignoring **Otis**, had largely focused its anti-closure efforts on the sprawling Hanscom base in Bedford that fuels 30,000 spinoff jobs and \$3 billion in private-sector investment.

And they rejoiced loudly yesterday in news that Hanscom was not only spared but will actually grow by 1,104 jobs with the transfer of functions from bases in Ohio and Alabama.

``This is a great day for Massachusetts," Gov. Mitt Romney said as he appeared outside the State House with members of the all-Democratic Washington delegation. ``It's a great shot in the arm. It's a great signal to the rest of the country. This is a technology center."

Kennedy credited the Hanscom victory to ``the people in the local communities - our business leaders, our research leaders, the leaders in our universities" who mounted a three-year pitch to sell Hanscom's story and make the case that ``its function should be advanced in order to enhance our national security and national defense."

Massachusetts lawmakers said they will now mount a multifaceted lobbying campaign for **Otis** aimed at persuading the nine-member Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission to take it off the closure list.

Over the summer, BRAC will hold public hearings as it reviews Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's list.

The Pentagon's initial recommendations to close about 180 military installations, including 33 bases, from Maine to Hawaii over a six-year period starting next year, left Massachusetts with a net gain of 491 jobs.

Massachusetts officials are reviewing the criteria used by the Pentagon to target **Otis** for closure, Kennedy aides said, as they prepare to lobby BRAC commissioners.

BRAC will issue a final list of closures in early September. Congress and President Bush will have until November to accept or reject the BRAC list.

Bumping a base from Rumsfeld's initial list will be a formidable task. During past base-closing rounds, roughly 85 percent of bases initially targeted ended up on the final closure list.

Romney last month met with U.S. Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff to request that federal officials build an anti-terrorism training facility at **Otis**. That option is still on the table as a contingency, Romney aides said.

Opinions/ Editorials

Romney Fails To Deliver

The Berkshire Eagle (Pittsfield, Massachusetts)
May 26, 2005

Throughout the course of his administration, Gov. Romney has made much of his ability to use contacts in the GOP establishment to lobby for Massachusetts. In the 2002 campaign it was his contention that the all-Democratic Massachusetts congressional delegation couldn't get the job done because of their minority status. However, the recent announcement by the Pentagon of base closings has proven Romney's assertion false.

In Western Massachusetts, the two main military installations are Barnes Municipal Airport Air Guard Station and Westover Air Force Base. The Defense Department's Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission announced that both of these facilities are slated for "gains," or added

responsibilities, jobs and capacity. While the commission's recommendations must be approved by both Congress and the president, it is very likely that both of these facilities will remain in this category. This is in large part due, not to the work of Gov. Romney, but of two Western Mass-based congressmen.

Congressmen Richard Neal of Springfield and John Olver of Amherst are not the most visible members of the Bay State's delegation. They lack the rhetorical eloquence of Barney Frank or the proclivity for media attention of Congressmen Meehan or Markey. Mr. Neal and Mr. Olver work quietly and get real results doing so. They sit on the Ways and Means and the Appropriations committees, respectively, and use those influential positions to the advantage of their districts. Both men have deep-held ideological beliefs but often choose constituent service over partisan warfare.

The loss of facilities such as the Otis Air Guard Base and its 500 jobs is just the latest in a long line of evidence deconstructing much of Romney's reasoning as to why he would be an effective governor.

His corporate background didn't prevent the sale of Bay State icons such as John Hancock or Gillette, or prepare Massachusetts for how to deal with these job losses. Romney's forays into far-flung important Republican presidential primary states have even demonstrated that he doesn't really seem to like the people in his home state.

So now we seem to have a governor whose corporate background isn't any help to the Massachusetts economy, whose political identity doesn't help us in Washington and whose partisan concerns distract from the job of governing. Mr. Olver and Mr. Neal will not seek the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, but the field is already large and growing.

However, we would all do well to consider electing someone as governor who is willing to take their approach to public service to heart. We need a governor willing to work quietly for his constituents, to share headlines to get results and to put the public above party. I hope we find one.

OUR OPINION;

Another Round Of Base Closings

The Patriot Ledger (Quincy, MA)

Tom Benner

May 18, 2005

"All politics is local," the late Tip O'Neill famously observed. The latest round of proposed military base closings proves it.

The U.S. Defense Department proposes to close 33 major bases and realign 29 more nationwide. The plan is intended to "better position U.S. forces to confront this century's threats," and save the federal government roughly \$50 billion over the next two decades, according to the department.

There's no arguing with the fact that the Pentagon and its installations have to keep up with 21st century needs and challenges. New England takes a big hit from the proposed closings because, in part, the Defense Department is more focused on terrorism and threats from Pacific countries such as China and North Korea than on Cold War-era threats such as the former Soviet Union.

Among bases recommended for closure is Cape Cod's Otis Air National Guard Base, which

employs 500 people, making it one of the largest employers on the Cape. Its closing would be a blow to the southeastern Massachusetts economy, and - it is argued by the state's elected officials - a blow to homeland security. **Otis** is a hub in the nation's anti-terror network, the home to the 102nd Fighter Wing, its F-15 Eagles on continuous alert to protect the Northeast from terrorist attacks and other threats. It was the launching site for the first fighter jets to arrive in New York during the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

In addition, its closing could bode ill for the future. **Otis** is located on the 22,000-acre Massachusetts Military Reservation in Sandwich, Mashpee, Falmouth and Bourne. While the Army National Guard and the Coast Guard facilities at the Massachusetts Military Reservation will remain, the loss of **Otis** could make the reservation vulnerable in a future round of base closings.

The state's leading politicians immediately pledged to fight the proposed closing of **Otis**. Gov. Mitt Romney and U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy made a rare joint appearance at a State House press conference pledging to fight to keep **Otis** open. The unlikely duo are pushing a plan to turn **Otis** into a regional homeland security training center.

Romney and Kennedy have no choice but to make the case for **Otis** to remain open. But they've already won on other fronts, including convincing the Pentagon to spare military facilities at Hanscom and Natick. And - proving Tip O'Neill's maxim - they're up against politicians in every other state affected by the proposed base closings, all of whom are making similar arguments to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Not many planned closings, however, are likely to be rescinded.

So local expectations must remain realistic. Some base closings are inevitable, and in many cases create new possibilities - as did the closing of the South Weymouth Naval Air Base a decade ago.

Ideally, the painful and disruptive process of military base **realignment** should be - and largely is - kept apart from the political process. Which bases stay open and which are closed or slimmed down should be decided on the merits of their usefulness in defending our country, not on which congressman's district is involved and how much clout he or she has in allocating Defense Department funds.

Meanwhile, the closing of **Otis** may have its own silver lining. No doubt the valuable Cape property will be a magnet for developers and may ultimately give back more in taxes, jobs and other revenues than than its current use.

Base-Realignment Reaction

The Providence Journal (Rhode Island)
May 18, 2005

Neither we nor, we assume, most of our readers have read all of the various rationales for the proposed closing of more than 30 major domestic military bases. But on the face of it, the technocratic approach to the closings and that they would happen in both "blue" (Democratic) and "red" (Republican) states suggest that the process has been both careful and fair.

The proposed cuts must now be reviewed by an independent commission, which should gird itself against politics. (Now, if only such military pork as the C-130J transport plane would get the gimlet eye!)

This does not mean that we're happy about such potential regional disasters as the closing of the submarine base at Groton, Conn. More than 8,000 jobs would be lost, most in Connecticut, but probably plenty in Rhode Island, too.

We should remember that many Rhode Islanders work at the Groton complex, and not take too much encouragement from the probable increase by about 500 in jobs at the Navy's Newport-Quonset complex. After all, given the size of the Groton complex -- which is virtually on the Rhode Island border -- it seems likely that the Ocean State would suffer a substantial net loss. This might well ultimately include the 2,111 jobs at Electric Boat's facility at Quonset Point, since the future of Electric Boat would be made problematic by the closing of the Groton submarine base.

Moreover, Connecticut citizens are our fellow New Englanders -- we lament the economic pain that our neighbors may soon suffer. We feel similarly about the possible closing of **Otis** Air Force Base, on Cape Cod.

Nevertheless, Rhode Islanders can at least take comfort in that the Navy's intellectual center -- in Newport, with the U.S. Naval War College at its heart -- would be stronger than ever under the base "**realignment.**"

Naturally, local leaders and their national legislators will aver that these cuts won't stand -- that any facility in a politician's district is essential to national security. But ultimately most if not all of the targeted bases will probably be shut anyway. Thus, local political, business, education and labor leaders should start planning now what to do with the land and facilities to be abandoned by the government in the next few years.

For instance, could the Groton base, close to Route 95 and the rails, be turned into an international shipping port, as well as a ferry-service hub, with stores and manufacturing -- in, say, bio-technology, as a spinoff of the huge nearby Pfizer operation? We hope that thinking about such possibilities is well under way.

Beyond that, everyone should bear in mind the perils of a community's depending on one big employer. A mix of large, medium and small employers, in a wide range of manufacturing and service industries, should always be the goal of local economic-development planning.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Otis Air National Guard Base site covers approximately 22,000 acres and is more commonly known today as the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR). Closure of the site will involve significant environmental restoration and monitoring of water contaminates.

Although the occupants and property boundaries have changed several times since MMR was established in 1935, the primary mission has always been to provide training and housing to Air Force and/or Army units. A review of past and present operations and waste disposal practices identified numerous potentially contaminated areas, including several areas located on the southern portion of MMR. These contaminated areas are the result of historic chemical/fuel spills, fire training activities, landfills, and drainage structures. Additionally, effluent from the former sewage treatment plant was historically discharged into sand beds where it seeped into the groundwater. In 1984, the U.S. Geological Survey detected contaminants in monitoring wells nearby this former plant. In 1983 and 1984, the Air Force detected volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in on-site monitoring wells near the Base Landfill and a Fire Training Area. Monitoring had also detected VOCs in several hundred private wells (all of which are now on municipal water) and in one town well (which is shut down). The EPA has designated the Sagamore Lens underlying MMR as a sole source aquifer under the Safe Drinking Water Act. People could be at risk if they accidentally drink or come into direct contact with contaminated groundwater. Contaminated groundwater could also pose a threat to the environment within several ponds and streams used for recreational purposes. Soil contamination primarily includes heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), pesticides, and PCBs. The principle threats from the contaminants result from assumed future residential exposures as well as ecological risks. MMR was placed on the National Priority List in 1989; a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) was signed in 1991 (and subsequently amended in March 2000) governing the Superfund cleanup. Cleanups at approximately 25 separate source areas are currently ongoing.