

DCN: 8729



Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

~~BRAC Commission~~

AUG 29 2005

Received

Contact Us

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Public Record Announcement: Detailed explanation of the requirement that all information submitted to the Commission, including comments from this web page, be made part of the public record.

Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General: Information outlining when and how to contact the Inspector General to investigate allegations of fraud, waste and abuse within the Department of Defense.

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Please provide your message in the space provided below. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required to learn more about other opportunities for public input.

* Subject: waste if U.S. taxpayers time

Base/Installation/Facility: AFRC Moffett Field

State: California

* Comment: It is amazing that the gov't has all this time to waste deciding which bases to close when we are at war. I think the 50 billion that the gov't will save over twenty years is outrageous. All they need to do is go public about the 87 billion is borrowed from the post office which we will never use since we are 1.5 billion in the black. If you want to save 50 billion over 20 years just take the interest of the 87 billion over that same amount of time and you will come out with 50 billion.

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2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
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Commission Phone Number

To contact the Commission by phone, please call (703) 699-2950.

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Information that you choose to provide to the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission will be incorporated into the public record. The information you provide will be used to inform the Commission's evaluation of the recommendations of the Department of Defense regarding realignment and closure of defense installations and to formulate the recommendations of the BRAC Commission. If you want your contact information to be incorporated into the public record, do not include that information in your submissions. As a general rule, the BRAC Commission will not redact contact information from the records that have been submitted. Obscene or otherwise unlawful submissions will not be incorporated into the public record. The BRAC Commission will not consider any information provided by the public that is obscene or violates the law.

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The Department of Defense Inspector General is the lead agency for the investigation of allegations of waste and abuse within the Department of Defense. Anyone, whether uniformed or civilian, who witnesses or believes to be a violation of Department of Defense ethical standards and/or the law, including but not limited to fraud, waste, or abuse of authority, potential leaks of classified information, or potential acts of corruption, should report such conduct through the chain of command or either directly to his or her respective Inspector General or directly to the Inspector General of the Department of Defense Hotline at 800-425-6282 (mail: hotline@dodig.osd.mil) or through the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General Home Page at <http://www.dodig.osd.mil/hotline/index.html>.

General comments and criticisms of the Department of Defense base closure and realignment recommendations that do not amount to a violation of criminal or ethical standards should be directed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, not the Department of Defense Inspector General. Because the regulations that govern the operations of Inspectors General throughout the government restrict the information received by Inspectors General from complainants, allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse made to the Department of Defense Inspector General might not be made immediately available to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission is an independent entity of the Department of Defense.

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Bush: 'We Will Stay, We Will Fight'

Faced With Rising Criticism, He Says Goals Are Being Met

By Sam Coates and Mike Allen
Washington Post Staff Writers
Thursday, August 25, 2005; Page A01

NAMPA, Idaho, Aug. 24 -- President Bush, rebutting a rising antiwar movement in the country and on Capitol Hill, told National Guard soldiers and their families Wednesday that terrorists "want us to retreat" but vowed that he never will.

Bush spoke frankly for the second time in three days about the casualties the U.S. military is continuing to suffer in Iraq but rejected demands for the troops to come home, calls that have gained widespread attention during the month he has spent at his ranch in Texas.

"An immediate withdrawal of our troops in Iraq, or the broader Middle East, as some have called for, would only embolden the terrorists and create a staging ground to launch more attacks against America and free nations," he said. "So long as I'm the president, we will stay, we will fight, and we will win the war on terror."

White House officials said they viewed the speech, the second of three he plans to give in the two weeks before Labor Day, as a crucial opportunity for Bush to show both compassion and



Tammy Pruett of Pocatello, Idaho, is singled out by President Bush for her family's contributions to the war. Four of her sons continue to serve with the Idaho National Guard in Iraq; her husband and a fifth son returned last year. (By Joe Jaszewski -- Idaho Statesman Via Associated Press)

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resolve when his conduct of the war is increasingly being publicly questioned, and polls of public support are flirting with Vietnam War-era depths.

During a month when he has been shadowed by war protester Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a soldier killed in Iraq, the president drew thunderous applause from the camouflage-clad National Guard troops and others in the Idaho Center arena when he saluted "a mom named Tammy Pruett," who has watched six loved ones deploy to Iraq.

Asserting that "the stakes in Iraq could not be higher," Bush contended that the nation is "achieving our strategic objectives in Iraq." It is that last contention -- that the United States is moving purposely toward its goals and an accompanying exit from Iraq -- that has been subject to growing skepticism by Democrats.

Bush's aides said they realize that the death toll in Iraq -- at least 1,867 at the time Bush spoke -- will soon reach 2,000, a milestone that will provide a major platform for his critics. Against this backdrop, the aides said the speech was designed to portray a stark choice between completing the mission in Iraq and showing weakness to terrorists who are prepared to strike in the United States -- suggesting dire consequences at home from a hasty withdrawal abroad.

Sheehan, whose son Casey died in an attack of his Army unit in Iraq last year, returned to Crawford, Tex., late Wednesday -- shortly before Bush returned from Idaho -- and resumed a peace vigil that she broke off last week to care for her ailing mother. Sheehan has served as a galvanizing force for opponents of the war, drawing hundreds of activists to rural Crawford in support of her demand to meet with Bush and call for a complete pullout from Iraq.

"This is where I belong, until August 31st, like I told the president," Sheehan said in Waco, before being driven about 25 miles to Crawford.

While Bush did not mention her by name, he broke with his two-year policy of avoiding specific mention of casualties and gave a figure about the losses for the second speech in a row. "In this war, we have

As the Iraqi National Assembly considers the latest draft of the country's proposed constitution, Tuesday's headlines in Baghdad suggested a capital city close to meltdown.

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Key provisions of a copy of Iraq's draft constitution from the office of Prime Minister Ibrahim Jafari.

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said farewell to some very good men and women, including 491 heroes of the National Guard and reserves," he said. "These brave men and women gave their lives for a cause that is just and necessary for the security of our country, and now we will honor their sacrifice by completing their mission."

By unmistakable implication, he offered Pruett as a counterpoint to Sheehan. She has four sons serving in Iraq with Idaho's National Guard. A fifth son and her husband, Leon Pruett, returned last year from the country.

"There are few things in life more difficult than seeing a loved one go off to war," he said. "Tammy says this -- and I want you to hear this: 'I know that if something happens to one of the boys, they would leave this world doing what they believe, what they think is right for our country. And I guess you couldn't ask for a better way of life than giving it for something that you believe in.' America lives in freedom because of families like the Pruetts."

After the speech, the president spent nearly three hours with 19 families, mostly from Idaho, that lost relatives in Iraq and Afghanistan. The families were selected by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne (R), who telephoned them on Sunday night, officials said.

White House spokesman Trent Duffy said that as in all similar meetings with the president, "Sometimes they share tears, sometimes they share laughter, sometimes they share both. The president is just there to console them and thank them for their sacrifice."

During his speech, to huge applause, Bush promised to minimize extensions and repeat mobilizations. He said reservists would now get 30 days of notice "in most cases" before mobilizing for duty, greater access to the military medical system before and after reporting for duty, and funds for education.

These pledges come during one of the deadliest months among the National Guard and reserves. The National Guard has been stretched to its limits by battles in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Idaho National Guard has had eight casualties in Iraq, and the Defense Department estimated that an additional 128 have been injured. Last December, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, head of the Guard, said that his troops were "under-resourced" and "under-equipped."

In his remarks, Bush noted that he is one of 19 presidents who have served in the National Guard -- in Bush's case, as a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War era. That tenure, and questions over whether Bush met his responsibilities, erupted in Bush's reelection effort last year.

Locals lined up before dawn to get some of the leftover tickets for the speech, and they gave the president more than a dozen standing ovations during his 43-minute speech. Jill Blue, whose brother Marty is serving in the Air Force, said she was reassured by Bush's words. "I'm glad that he's seeing out the job. I liked what he said about honoring the people who have died by not pulling out. It was a good comment."

Allen reported from Washington.

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Walter Reed Medical Center to Be Closed

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Aug 25, 11:09 AM (ET)

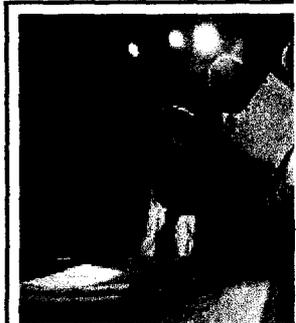
By LIZ SIDOTI

WASHINGTON (AP) - A federal commission voted to close the crown jewel of Army hospitals as it began its second day of decision-making on sweeping plans to restructure military bases across the country.

Located in the nation's capital, century-old Walter Reed Army Medical Center has treated presidents and foreign leaders as well as veterans and soldiers, including those returning from the Iraq war.

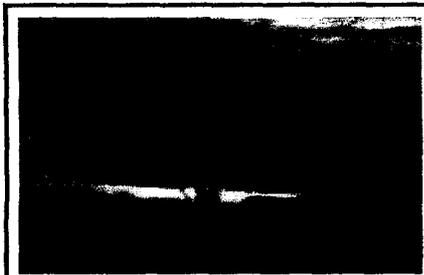
Most of Walter Reed's work would be relocated to a more modern, expanded hospital in Bethesda, Md., that will be renamed Walter Reed in a nod to the old facility's heritage.

The nine-member panel was voting on a host of big-ticket items in its second day of votes. Later Thursday it was to begin debating the Air Force's plans, arguably the most contentious of the group, as it steamrolled through hundreds of Pentagon proposals at a brisk pace after four months of study and preparation.



(AP) Anthony J. Principi, chairman of the Defense Base and Realignment Commission
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(AP) A decommissioned B-1 bomber with the markings of the 28th bomb wing is seen against the sunset, ...
[Full Image](#)

Under the Walter Reed plan, most of the staff and services would move from the old hospital's main post to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, to create the expanded facility. The remaining personnel and operations would move to a community hospital at Fort Belvoir in Virginia.

The Pentagon calls this "jointness" - the services combining their strengths rather than working separately, part of an ambitious effort to save money by streamlining support services armed forces. Walter Reed's care is considered first-rate but the fa

showing its age, the commission found.

"Kids coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, all of them in harm's way, deserve to come back to century medical care," Commission Chairman Anthony Principi said Thursday, adding that the hospo "It needs to be modernized."

One-time costs, including construction and renovations, would total \$989 million. The Pentagon would spend \$301 million over 20 years, the commission said. The current hospital has about 185 beds, but the facility would have 340.

Principi said he expected to finish all voting no later than Friday, a day earlier than planned. The commission must send its final report to President Bush by Sept. 8.

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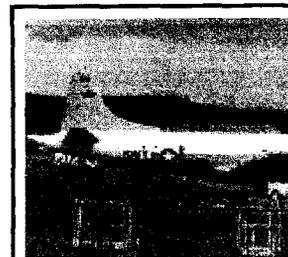
The president can accept it, reject it, or send it back to the commission for revisions. Congress also will have a chance to veto the plan in its entirety but it has not taken that step in four previous rounds of base closings. If ultimately approved, the changes would occur over the next six years.

On Wednesday, the panel breezed through proposals to shutter hundreds of small and large facilities in all corners of the country, and, ahead of schedule, began taking up recommendations that would streamline support, education, training and medical services across the military branches.

After finishing those joint-service proposals, the commission was moving next to the Air Force plan, much of which includes recommendations to shake up the Air National Guard, a highly controversial effort. The Air Force also proposes closing Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico.

"We're doing some very large muscle movements," Gen. Gary Heckman, a top Air Force official who lead the service's base-closing analysis team, said in an interview.

He said his service branch wasn't hit in previous rounds of closures as hard as the Army and Navy overhauling the Air Force's structure - which is what has been proposed this time around - is very



(AP) An EP-3E Aries surveillance aircraft sits on the tarmac at the Naval Station Whidbey Island at...
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(AP) Flags flap in the wind at the gate at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township, Mich....
Full Image

Ellsworth's proposed closing has caused the most political consternation because Sen. John Thune, a freshman senator, had argued during his campaign that he - rather than his Democratic opponent, then-Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle - would be in a better position to save the facility. Nonetheless, it showed up on the Pentagon's closure list.

Closing Cannon would cost Clovis, N.M., a small town on the Texas-Mexico line, nearly 3,000 jobs.

Overall, the Pentagon has proposed closing or consolidating a record number of major military bases and 775 smaller installations to save \$48.8 billion over 20 years, streamline the services and reposition the armed forces.

Since the Pentagon announced its proposal in May, commissioners had voiced concerns about several aspects of it, including the estimate of how much money would be saved.

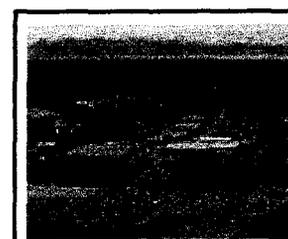
By far, the most controversy - both on the commission and off - has surrounded the Air Force.

Most of its proposals cover the Air National Guard and would shift people, equipment and aircraft around at 54 or more sites where Guard units are stationed.

Aircraft would be taken away from 25 Air National Guard units. Instead of flying missions, those units would get other missions such as expeditionary combat support roles. They also would retain their state missions of aiding governors during civil disturbances and natural disasters.

Several states have sued to stop the shake-up, the commission itself has voiced concern that the plan would compromise homeland security, and the Justice Department was brought in to settle arguments over whether the Pentagon could relocate Air National Guard units without a governor's consent. The ruling said it could

The Pentagon says as a package, the Air Force proposals represent an effort to reshape the service into a more effective fighting force by consolidating both weapons systems and personnel, given that they will have a smaller but smarter aircraft fleet in the future.



(AP) This May, 13, 2005 file photo provided by Topcover.com shows an aerial view of Kulis Air National Guard Base.
Full Image

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Pentagon's base closing plan: <http://www.defenselink.mil/brac/>

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