

22 July 2005
BRAC Commission

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3920

JUL 25 2005

Received

Sir:

Please reconsider the recommended realignment of the Air Guard Units stationed at Jefferson Barracks Air National Guard Station, Missouri. It does not make good sense to consolidate these units into the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport ANG Base.

First, without a flying mission, to keep Air Guard units at the airport under the center-line of the new runway is unnecessary. It would make more sense to use the ample space available at Jefferson Barracks (JB) and bring the 131st Expeditionary Combat Support units here. Significant infrastructure improvements (capital investment of over 10 million dollars) would be abandoned at JB and require duplication at the Lambert base.

Second, Jefferson Barracks is ideally suited to support all Air Guard missions that would remain in St. Louis. No research was done in the BRAC process to evaluate the resources available at JB. With 135 acres and numerous useful structures, we can support current missions and future expansion here. (There is already an anticipated expansion of the JB units.) The airport will always be constrained by the limited availability of land.

Finally, JB is the heart of the Jefferson Barracks National Historic District. The State Historic Preservation Office has already deplored the adverse effect of this realignment on the district. There will be a meeting in August which will explore their position stating a major portion of JB is eligible for listing as a National Historic Landmark. The Air Guard has been the operator and custodian of the oldest operating military installation west of the Mississippi river since the Army Air Corps left after WWII. We shouldn't abandon this treasure now.

I am attaching a position paper as further explanation of this letter. I would be happy to provide additional information, as I feel this small part of realignment is not supported by research into the facts of Jefferson Barracks. Thanks for your consideration.



Arthur F. Schuermann
Environmental Manager
Jefferson Barracks ANGS
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Attachment: Position Paper

Facts on Base Realignment for Jefferson Barracks, Missouri

Department of Defense (DoD) proposes under Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) that the F-15 Fighter package be removed from the Air Guard Base at Lambert International Airport. It then proposes several actions at the Air National Guard Station at Jefferson Barracks in south St. Louis County. If the F-15s somehow can be saved from removal, this paper loses much of its meaning. Then the major action proposed at Jefferson Barracks (JB) cannot happen. BRAC proposes to move both Air Guard units at JB to the vacated space at the Lambert Base. It also proposes to move the Army reserves from their buildings on JB. While not stated directly, the Army Reserves will probably move into the new Army Reserve Forces Center that BRAC indicates to be built at JB.

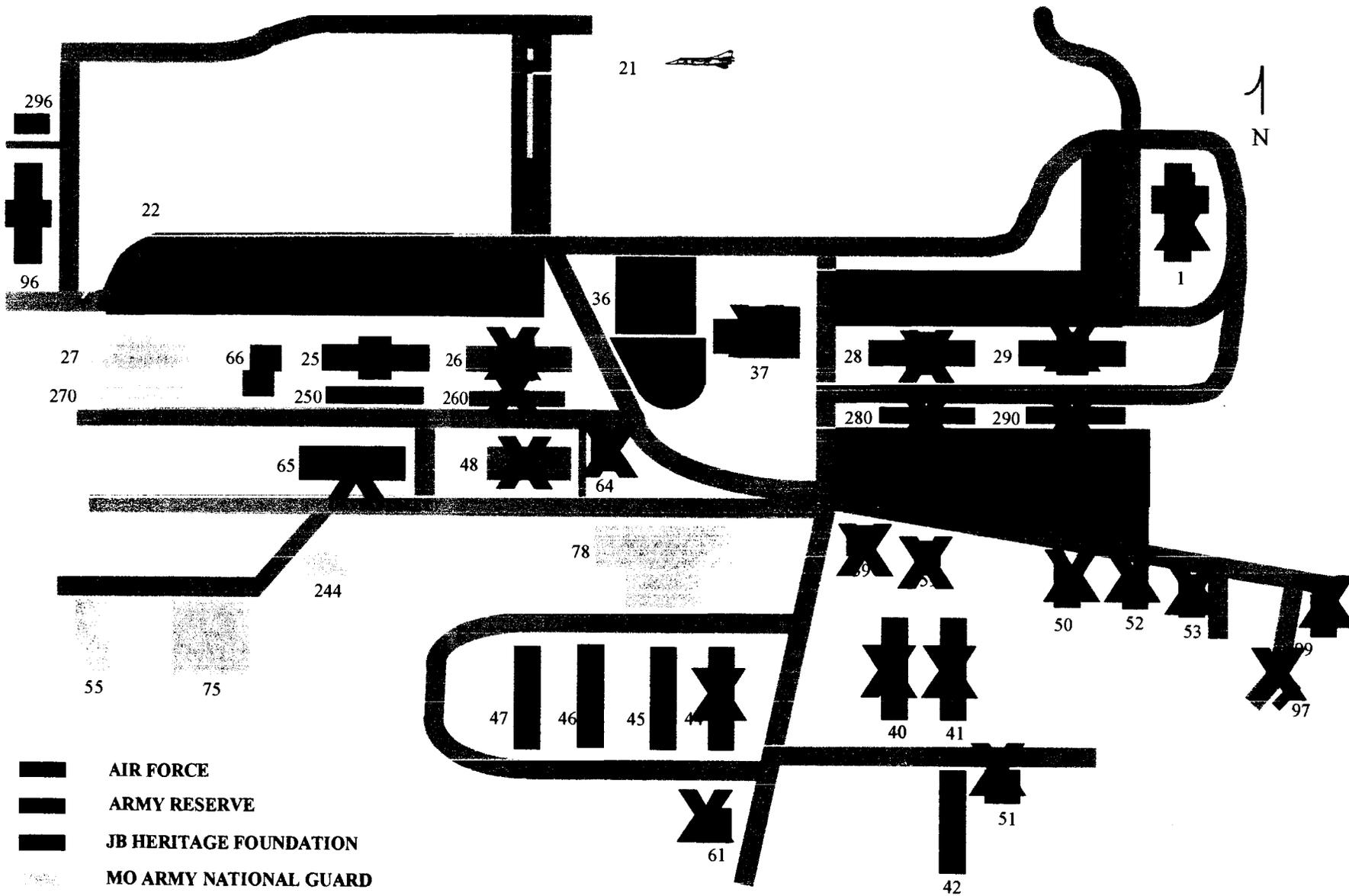
This paper addresses a response to these proposals if as is likely the F-15s are moved from the Airport. There should be a plan that focuses on the best future for the units at Jefferson Barracks and the remainder of the support forces at the airport. The following supports the further usage of Jefferson Barracks rather than trying to keep an Air Guard presence at the airport after they have nothing to fly. The key issues are:

Economic Impact

--The South County will lose the value of 57 full time employees, almost 400 traditional guardsmen (present one weekend per month and for some annual training). It will also lose the value of the Air Force investment in the capital improvement and maintenance of the 20 buildings that they currently occupy. These structures and the four buildings used by the Army Reserves will become vacant. BRAC proposes no military reuse of these while JB will remain a military installation. Thus the vacant property only becomes a liability to the base at JB.

--The base at the airport would gain the Air Guard units from JB (occupying vacated space after the F-15s are removed). This space would need extensive investment to make it suitable to use by the Air Guard. The Air Guard has invested well over 10 million dollars for capital improvements to provide state-of-the-art facilities for the JB units. Much of these improvements will need to be duplicated in the square footage allotted for the move to the airport. This duplication of effort is hard to justify.

--Jefferson Barracks sits on 135 Acres and can support any foreseeable expansion. There is a considerable amount of vacant building space that could support substantial growth, as well as vacant land for new structures. It would make more sense to move the remaining Air Guard support units from the Airport to JB. The acreage and space at the Airport would welcome an economic reuse that would benefit the entire metropolitan area. This is the opposite of the consequences of vacating Jefferson Barracks (no beneficial economic reuse).



Jefferson Barracks ANG

X = Vacated per BRAC

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director

www.dnr.mo.gov

July 1, 2005

Arthur F. Schuermann, Civ, MOANG
Environmental Manager
157 AOG/EM
65 Kearney Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63125-4185

Re: Base Realignment & Closure, Jefferson Barracks (USDOD) St. Louis County, Missouri

Dear Mr. Schuermann:

Thank you for submitting information on the above referenced project for our review pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (P.O. 89-665, as amended) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulation 36 CFR Part 800, which require identification and evaluation of cultural resources.

We understand that the Base Realignment and Closure process has placed Jefferson Barracks on the list of military installations to be considered for realignment. While we have not received specific detailed information, we do understand that the proposed relocation of the Air Guard and of the Army Reserves from Jefferson Barracks may vacate twenty-two (22) buildings all of which are contributing properties to the Jefferson Barracks National Register District, including the Parade Ground and surrounding buildings, which have been determined eligible for listing as a National Historic Landmark.

We concur with your opinion that any actions that would leave any or all of these buildings vacant may have an adverse effect on Jefferson Barracks. We suggest that alternatives should be explored that would allow for the continued use of the buildings, or that will outline the process for the on-going maintenance and eventual re-use of these historic properties. The development of a formal Historic Properties Management Plan would be a significant step towards the preservation of this nationally significant historic district.

If you have any questions, please Judith Deel at 573/751-7862 or Alison Dubbert at 573/751-7958 or write State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or call 573/751-7862. Please be sure to include the SHPO Log Number (113-SL-05) on all future correspondence or inquiries relating to this project.

Sincerely,

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



Mark A. Miles
Director and Deputy State
Historic Preservation Officer

MAM:jd

