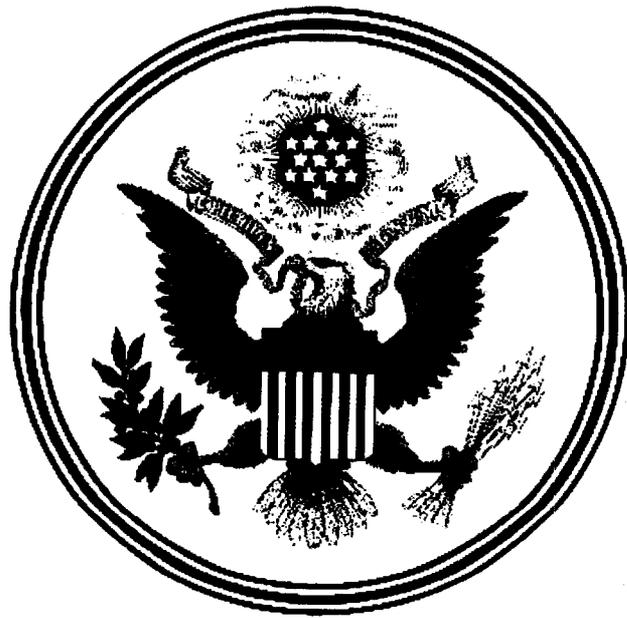


C. James Schaefer IV
Director of Communications

**DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND
REALIGNMENT COMMISSION**



MEDIA BRIEFING BOOK
CAPITOL AREA REGIONAL HEARINGS:
WASHINGTON, D.C. & PENNSYLVANIA
VIRGINIA



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DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

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Media Advisory –

**Capitol Area Regional Hearing - Washington, D.C. and
Pennsylvania**

TIME:

8:30AM-12:30PM

Media Preset 7:00AM, NO LATER THAN 7:50AM

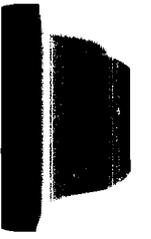
Media Availability – Foyer behind Ballroom of Sheraton National Hotel
The BRAC Commission's media availability will begin promptly 15 minutes
after the end of the Capitol Area Regional Hearing for Virginia, which will
be held at the Sheraton Hotel. Please see Virginia hearing details below.

Logistical information for media:

- Live pool feed event
- Satellite truck parking available
- 650 ft. Cable run to press risers
- 65 ft. Max camera throw
- TV quality sound and lighting

Credentialing and Media Inquiries:

Contact James Schaefer, BRAC Commission Director of Communications,
for inquiries: 703-901-7793 james.schaefer@wso.whs.mil



Media Advisory –

Capitol Area Regional Hearing - Virginia

TIME:

1:30PM-3:30PM

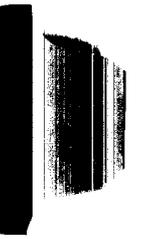
Media Availability – Foyer behind Ballroom of Sheraton National Hotel
The BRAC Commission's media availability will begin promptly 15 minutes after the end of the hearing at the Sheraton Hotel.

Logistical information for media:

- Live pool feed event
- Satellite truck parking available
- 650 ft. Cable run to press risers
- 65 ft. Max camera throw
- TV quality sound and lighting

Credentialing and Media Inquiries:

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**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Bolling Air Force Base**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to realign Bolling Air Force Base.**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure of the installation could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest Bolling AFB for realignment is military value.
 - The Commission understands the unique role of Bolling AFB plays as a military installation within the Washington, DC region. The Commission will respect the role of the Air Force at Bolling AFB while reviewing recommendations to create a joint installation with the US Navy.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to realign Bolling AFB could have and is taking this into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic impact that the installation realignment would have on the community surrounding the base, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The Commission will strongly consider the effect that moving the DIA's intelligence analysis function to Charlottesville will have on the region and the greater intelligence community.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
 - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



1
D



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Qs and As for Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC**

Q1. The current Department of Defense (DoD) recommendations move DIA intelligence analysis work to Charlottesville where they would be co-located with the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC). This move could mean a loss of 1,337 jobs in the Washington area. How will the Commission factor this into its analysis of the DoD recommendations?

A1. The statute establishes the criteria. As outlined by the statute, the Department of Defense (DoD) placed priority on military value; while also taking into consideration economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of a base would have on the community surrounding that base.

Q2. Recently, Senator John W. Warner (R-VA), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has expressed serious concern regarding the DoD's closure/realignment recommendations with regard to VA/DC military installations. In the past, Sen. Nunn (D-GA), who served in the same capacity in the Senate, was able to use his political influence to protect Georgia installations from previous BRAC rounds. Will Sen. Warner's position afford him the opportunity to influence the Commission regarding VA/DC military installations?

A2. The Congress established the BRAC Commission as an entirely non-partisan and non-political entity to independently evaluate whether DoD made its recommendations in accordance with the law. The Commission will serve to provide accountability to the public and ensure that all suggestions have been based upon the criteria set forth by statute. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis, in a completely open and transparent manner, which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Bolling AFB, but will also consider the economic, environmental and other effects that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community.

Q3. Bolling has been slated by the DoD for realignment as a joint base with the Navy taking the lead on common base-management functions. Will Bolling AFB be able to support this recommended joint mission?

A3. The Commission will perform a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions. Part of what constitutes DoD's determination of military value is jointness, ease of mobility, and the base's strategic role in today's changing global threats. The Commission is completely open and transparent, and with exception of material sensitive to national security, all information received or used by the Commission will be made publicly accessible. The purpose of the Commission is to ensure that all the pertinent factors have been evaluated as prescribed by law.

Q4. As an installation located within the National Capitol Region (NCR), Bolling AFB has an important mission to serve in the defense of Washington, DC. Will the current realignment recommendations improve Bolling AFB's effectiveness in the defense of the capitol?

A4. The Commission recognizes that Bolling AFB, due to its location, has certain responsibilities that distinguish it from many other military installations. As such, the Commission will evaluate the DoD's recommendations placing paramount importance on the military value of the installation. The criteria that determine military value are jointness, ease of mobility, and the base's strategic role in the changing global threat. The Commission will place great importance on Bolling AFB's location in evaluating the DoD's recommendations regarding the base.

Q5. If the DIA's intelligence analysis function moves to Charlottesville, VA, there is a sizeable risk that the agency will lose personnel who are not willing to move out of the DC-area. How will the Commission consider this potential loss of employment at the DIA in analyzing the DoD's recommendations?

A5. Although military value is paramount in the Commission's analysis of BRAC recommendations, the Commission will also consider other factors such as human impact and economic ramifications. A major change in location will have decided effects on the labor base of an agency. The Commission will consider the macro effects that the recommended move to Charlottesville might have on the DIA and its ability to effectively perform its intelligence analysis function.

Q6. How can members of the community make the Commission aware of factors that they feel have been overlooked by DoD in DoD's evaluation and analysis?

A6. Public input is not only welcomed by the Commission, the input is vitally important to the process. Members of the Community are encouraged to contact the Commission through the official Commission website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



E



BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE WASHINGTON D.C.

National News Articles

BRAC Commission to Meeting in Washington

Local News Articles

Pentagon Aims to Disperse Facilities; Rumsfeld's Strategy For Capital Region Embedded in Report

PENTAGON PROPOSES RELOCATION FOR WASHINGTON-AREA INTEL OPERATIONS

Some Call for About-face of Military Shuffle Plan; While Md. Stands to Gain from Loss of Bases, Other States to Feel the Crunch

33 U.S. Bases Chosen for Closing

Bush Nominated Eight to Base Closure Panel

Washington Window; Bolling's Plan: Reform or Realignment?

Meeting Set to Discuss Futures of Walter Reed and Bolling

11th Wing 'not going away' under BRAC realignment

DOD Recommends Bolling Become Joint Base

Editorial/Opinion Articles

National News Articles

BRAC Commission to meeting Washington

Associated Press

June 7, 2005

WASHINGTON

The Pentagon's Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission will hold a hearing in Washington next month to discuss the proposed closures of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and **Bolling** Air Force Base.

The Pentagon wants to merge Walter Reed with the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and move other operations to a community hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va. Officials believe the moves would improve military medical care and save billions of dollars.

When the base closing commission announced its decisions last month, no hearing was scheduled in Washington. But the panel decided on the July 9 hearing at the urging of Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC. Commission staff will also tour both installations on Friday and meet with neighborhood residents afterward.

"I intend to look for ways for the district to benefit, not lose, from the Walter Reed proposal, and I believe citizens can help with their testimony," Norton said. "The fight to retain Walter Reed here is the first order of business."

Mayor Anthony A. Williams also applauded the decision to hold hearings on the Washington base closings.

"The members of the commission need to hear from residents who work at Walter Reed and who live near the facility regarding how important the hospital is to them and to their neighborhood," said Williams.

PENTAGON PROPOSES RELOCATION FOR WASHINGTON-AREA INTEL OPERATIONS

Homeland Defense Watch
Sebastian Sprenger
May 30, 2005

Defense Department officials are proposing to relocate and consolidate a number of intelligence-related operations in the Washington area, according to DOD's May 13 base closure and **realignment** report.

In one move, the Pentagon plans to relocate parts of the Defense Intelligence Agency's analysis workforce from **Bolling** Air Force Base, DC, to a new facility near Charlottesville, VA, while other DIA components would be moved from Arlington, VA, to **Bolling** AFB.

The shuffle is expected to save the Defense Department \$10.1 million per year, with an expected "current net present savings value" of \$52.8 million, calculated over a period of 20 years, the report states.

The total one-time cost to execute the move is estimated to be \$96.7 million, according to the study.

By moving DIA intelligence analysis work to Charlottesville, DOD officials would co-locate DIA components with the National Ground Intelligence Center there. The NGIC is part of the Army's Intelligence and Security Command. It conducts intelligence operations on foreign ground forces for the Army, according to the center's Web site.

Putting parts of DIA and NGIC in one spot would improve "information flow and mission synergy" between the two organizations, says the report.

Moreover, the move follows Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's guidelines to relocate critical defense assets to secure DOD-owned locations outside the national capital region, according to the report.

The move of DIA personnel from Arlington to **Bolling** AFB has a similar justification. The **realignment** "reduces vulnerable leased space while addressing antiterrorism/force protection deficiencies by relocating functions onto a secure [DOD-owned] location," states the report.

Combined, the Charlottesville and **Bolling** moves could mean a loss of 1,337 jobs in the Washington area over the 2006 to 2011 time period, according to the document.

In another move, DOD plans to shift components of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in the Washington, Bethesda, MD, and Reston, VA, region to Fort Belvoir, VA. The move would locate 22 NGA "legacy organizations into a new geospatial intelligence consolidated campus" there, says the report.

The BRAC report cites "mission efficiency," "improved readiness," "enhanced mission partner coordination" and improved antiterrorism and force protection as the reasons for the proposal.

The NGA move would cost \$1.1 billion, according to DOD estimates. Yearly, DOD hopes to save \$127.7 million through the consolidation, "with a payback expected in eight years." The net present value of costs and savings calculated over 20 years amounts to a savings of \$535.1 million, according to the report.

The NGA move could result in a loss of 5,260 jobs in the areas around Bethesda, Frederick, MD, and Gaithersburg, MD, reads the report.

The BRAC recommendations were developed by a joint cross-service group for intelligence, chaired by the deputy under secretary of defense for counterintelligence and security. After its deliberations, that group presented a total of six proposals to an outfit called the so-called infrastructure steering group, chaired by the under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics.

Of those six, ISG ultimately approved the DIA and NGA recommendations. A third recommendation was referred to another group.

The Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission has begun deliberations on the Pentagon's report earlier this month. The commissioners have until September to determine which measures they want to keep or strike in their report to the president.

The president then has 45 days to approve or reject the commission's work.

Local News Articles

Pentagon Aims to Disperse Facilities; Rumsfeld's Strategy For Capital Region Embedded in Report

Washington Post

Spencer S. Hsu, Washington Post Staff Writer

The Pentagon's recommendation to move more than 20,000 defense jobs from sites in the Washington area is based in part on Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's goal of shifting operations out of the capital region, according to the base **realignment** and closure plan released last week.

The dispersal strategy, which had not been announced previously, is mentioned numerous times in the base-closings report as a justification for abandoning leased office space in Northern

Virginia and transferring some facilities from Maryland and the District.

The report does not explain why Rumsfeld wants to reduce the concentration of Defense Department activities in and near Washington, and Pentagon officials declined to elaborate yesterday. Several local members of Congress said the policy appears to be an effort to make the department less vulnerable in the event of another terror attack or a natural disaster in the nation's capital.

Several of the lawmakers, including John W. Warner (R-Va.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, expressed concern about Rumsfeld's goal. A Warner spokesman said yesterday that the senator questions the security standards the Pentagon has developed both for buildings and for the metropolitan area. He also said the guidelines could increase defense costs by requiring new construction elsewhere.

"Senator Warner is very concerned about the proposed closures. He has not seen a justification from DOD for the savings that these closures are expected to produce," Warner spokesman John Ulliot said. "He intends to very closely scrutinize the standards -- the force-protection standards and the savings rationale for the closure of leased office space."

Rep. James P. Moran Jr. (D), who represents Arlington County and Alexandria, called the decision to move defense jobs outside the region "arbitrary" and said the dispersal goal was not included in the criteria the Pentagon had said would guide the new round of base closings.

"What do they accomplish by moving away from the very center of decision-making they have to be a part of?" Moran asked, noting that the Defense Department's headquarters -- the Pentagon -- is not moving.

The plan released Friday would eliminate or reduce forces at more than 800 military installations across the country, with the aim of consolidating far-flung operations and saving \$49 billion over 20 years. A nine-member commission is reviewing the plan and has until Sept. 8 to produce a final list that President Bush must accept or reject in its entirety and forward to Congress.

The Washington area would have a net loss of 14,459 defense jobs, more than any other metropolitan region in the country, according to the Pentagon's calculations. Its definition of the D.C. area, however, does not include some outer counties that would gain employment, such as Anne Arundel, where Fort Meade would get an additional 5,361 military and civilian jobs.

Arlington and Alexandria would be the hardest-hit jurisdictions, losing almost 23,000 defense workers now housed in leased office space.

Northern Virginia officials had expected job losses because those office buildings do not meet new Pentagon requirements that structures be set back at least 82 feet from traffic to protect against truck bombs. But the Pentagon's broader goal of moving jobs outside the region presents local officials with an additional obstacle as they lobby against the loss of the leases.

Moran and Northern Virginia Reps. Thomas M. Davis III (R) and Frank R. Wolf (R) said the military risks a brain drain because many of its skilled technical workers would take other jobs rather than leave the area. They also argued that moving defense operations out of the region would decrease coordination with other federal agencies involved in security and homeland defense.

The 754-page report on base **realignment** and closure invokes the goal of dispersing Washington area facilities to help justify scores of moves by defense agencies that would affect thousands of jobs.

For instance, in recommending the transfer of the Defense Contract Management Agency headquarters from Alexandria to Fort Lee, Va., which is south of Richmond, the report cites a desire to achieve "a dispersion of DOD activities away from a dense concentration within the National Capital Region."

The same justification is given for moving the Air Force Real Property Administration from Arlington to Lackland Air Force Base, near San Antonio.

The report says that transferring the Air Force Flight Standards Agency and two C-21 aircraft from Andrews Air Force Base to Will Rogers Air National Guard Base in Oklahoma City "moves federal assets out of the National Capital Region, reducing the nation's vulnerability."

And it says that moving defense intelligence analysts from **Bolling** Air Force Base in Washington to Rivanna Station near Charlottesville "meets the spirit of the Secretary of Defense's guidelines for relocation outside the National Capital Region."

In an interview yesterday, Philip W. Grone, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, would not elaborate on the guidelines mentioned in the document. But he said the recommendations involving Washington area operations were based not only on security considerations but also on such factors as cost savings -- achieved by moving from leased to department-owned facilities -- consolidation of related activities and better use of vacant space.

"No recommendation . . . was based solely on anti-terrorism, force-protection arguments," Grone said. "There is no one-size-fits-all approach."

In fall 2002, Rumsfeld issued what has become known as the "100-mile memo," in which he reserved authority over any real estate purchase, construction or leasing action greater than \$500,000 within a 100-mile radius of the Pentagon. The department also has given jurisdiction over real estate issues in that area to its Washington Headquarters Service.

Some call for about-face of military shuffle plan; While Md. stands to gain from loss of bases, other states to feel the crunch

Baltimore Sun

Robert Little and Tom Bowman

May 14, 2005

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon unveiled a sweeping plan to reorganize America's armed forces yesterday, a proposal that would close 33 major defense installations, shuffle more than 218,000 military and civilian jobs around the country and reach deep into the economies of nearly every state in the nation.

Few states fared better than Maryland, which would gain 6,624 jobs at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Meade and other locations without losing any of its large military facilities.

And, few places were battered worse than Washington, D.C., which would give up almost 6,500 jobs through the near-closure of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and job losses at **Bolling** Air Force Base and Navy offices in the district.

The **realignment**, which still needs presidential and congressional approval and would not be fully implemented until 2012, eliminates a net total of 26,187 military and civilian jobs around the world and saves the federal government \$48.8 billion over the next two decades, Pentagon officials said yesterday.

It also takes one of the largest steps to date away from the Soviet-era military structure and closer to the lean, consolidated and fast-moving armed force that Pentagon planners envision for the coming century.

Besides trimming the military's overhead and payroll, the changes would also rearrange the armed services so that forces with the same specialty more often live and train together - sometimes even across different branches.

The Army's Armor Center and School at Fort Knox, Ky. would move to Fort Benning, Ga., to merge with the Infantry Center and School, forming a new Maneuver Center for Excellence. The Army medical training program at Fort Sam Houston in Texas would absorb similar programs from four Air Force and Navy facilities, becoming a joint training center for all the services.

The changes would also vastly alter the footprint of the nation's reserve and National Guard troops, managing them more like active military units. The Army plans to close 387 small reserve and National Guard facilities, while seven of 10 Air Force installations targeted for closure house Guard and Reserve elements.

Those units would consolidate into 125 new multi-service reserve centers that the Pentagon expects to build throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

The Navy proposes to close a submarine base in Connecticut, a shipyard in Maine and a naval station in Mississippi, among other places, with an eye toward dispersing its fleet to avoid terrorist attacks and also eliminating "excess capacity."

The Air Force, which anticipates a smaller but more lethal fleet of aircraft in the coming decades, plans to realign more than three-quarters of its installations around the country, consolidating into fewer but larger units.

The proposals met some criticism yesterday, particularly from lawmakers in the affected areas or from skeptics who questioned shrinking the military in wartime. But government watchdog groups generally applauded the plan as a genuine attempt to find efficiencies within one of government's most notoriously intractable bureaucracies.

Tom Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste, praised the effort as "the careful work and judgment of our nation's most knowledgeable military leaders."

"Members of Congress should resist the urge to intervene on behalf of their home districts and states," Schatz said.

Yet intervention from members of Congress - or attempted intervention - is precisely what is

expected next. The plan was submitted yesterday to the nine-member Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, which will review it and hold hearings before passing its recommended list to President Bush in September.

The White House can then either reject the entire list or send it to Congress, which then must reject it within 45 days to prevent it from being implemented.

The Pentagon's 28-page list of proposed closings and consolidations, while built around military strategy, also read like a catalog of political winners and losers, in many cases targeting bases and job centers that lawmakers have fought for years to preserve.

States in the Northeast suffered the most, particularly Connecticut, which would lose more than 8,500 civilian and military jobs upon closure of the submarine base in New London. Maine stands to lose 6,938 jobs with the closure of the naval shipyard in Portsmouth and a naval air station in Brunswick. New Jersey gives up 3,760 jobs, mostly from shutting down Fort Monmouth.

Lawmakers from those states were among the first to lash out, including Maine Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, a Republican, who called the plan "a travesty and strategic blunder of epic proportions." Connecticut Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, a Democrat, called the plan "irrational and irresponsible." The Maine and New Hampshire congressional delegations released a joint statement promising to fight the decisions, saying that "this effort did not begin today, and it will not end today."

Other states that would be adversely affected include Alaska, which gives up more than 4,600 jobs; Kentucky, which drops 3,658 jobs in **realignments** at Fort Knox; and Missouri, which loses 3,679 military and civilian positions.

Besides Maryland, the biggest winners include Colorado, with more than 4,000 military jobs at Fort Carson; Georgia, which gains 9,893 positions at Fort Benning; and Texas, which loses jobs throughout the state but more than offsets them by gaining 9,364 at Fort Sam Houston and 11,501 at Fort Bliss.

One big loss would be the proposed closure of Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, the state's second-largest employer and a source of nearly 4,000 military and civilian jobs. Sen. John Thune, a Republican from South Dakota who defeated Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle last year, touted his ability to prevent base closings during last year's campaign. He pledged yesterday to keep fighting.

"We're going to make our case as forcefully as we can," Thune said. "The Pentagon is flat wrong."

Opposition from affected lawmakers was bipartisan yesterday, often framed as a matter of national security during a "war on terror."

"Closing bases is a short-sighted, ill-advised, and stupid thing to do," said Rep. Gene Taylor, a Democrat from Mississippi, where the proposed closure of Naval Station Pascagoula would mean the loss of 963 jobs. The Navy said it has room to berth ships in nearby Mayport, Fla., and has an adequate presence on the Gulf Coast with other bases in Key West and Pensacola, Fla.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld "should have backed down and retracted his plans for this round," of closings, Taylor said. "But he's stubborn, and on this issue, he's just plain wrong."

33 U.S. bases chosen for closing

The Washington Times

S.A. Miller and Tarron Lively

Walter Reed a target under Pentagon plan

The Pentagon yesterday proposed closing Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which has operated for nearly a century in the District, and several small installations in Virginia and Maryland as part of its base restructuring plan.

Maryland would see several small bases closed but would gain more than 9,000 jobs at installations such as Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Ground under recommendations by the Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission (BRAC).

In addition, Virginia would gain military jobs but would lose some civilian jobs overall under the plan, which includes closing Fort Monroe, the third-largest employer in Hampton.

Defense officials said the government could eventually save \$100 million a year by closing Walter Reed Medical Center, arguably the military's most famous hospital. Hundreds of soldiers have been treated there for wounds they suffered during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

More than 2,600 military personnel and 2,300 civilian workers would be transferred or lose their jobs at Walter Reed under the BRAC plan.

D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams said it would be a "terrible shame" to see the hospital close, adding that he hopes to persuade Congress to keep it open.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld yesterday announced the base closings and consolidations, which must be approved by Congress and the president to take effect. However, Congress is required to accept or reject the BRAC plan in its entirety.

Closing Walter Reed would require moving some of its staff and services to an expanded health care facility at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. The new facility would retain the Walter Reed name, officials said.

"We remain committed to taking care of our people, doing what's right for our soldiers, our military and our nation," said Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Farmer Jr., commander of the North Atlantic Region Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The proposed closure was a blow to some of Walter Reed's workers and neighbors.

"It's mind-boggling," said Navy veteran Harold Thompson, 25, who lives across the street from the hospital, where he visits his doctor. "It will be a real issue for me and other people in the neighborhood if Walter Reed shuts down."

Walter Reed is by far the largest D.C. facility on the **realignment** list. But the Pentagon also

wants to realign **Bolling** Air Force Base, the Potomac Annex, the Naval District of Washington and some leased office space.

In all, the moves would affect 6,538 military and civilian employees - the vast majority at Walter Reed.

Virginia, which has the most military installations per capita in the nation, would gain more than 5,000 military jobs and lose nearly 9,000 civilian jobs. "I think we did pretty well," Gov. Mark Warner said.

Mr. Warner, a Democrat, vowed to lobby to save Fort Monroe, which dates to the early 1800s and employs more than 6,800 people as headquarters for the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. But he said the base, situated on a peninsula extending into the Chesapeake Bay, could be put to other use.

"[Y]ou have to remember, that is probably some of the most valuable real estate in the state," he said. "It is not like it is in a rural, isolated area."

In Northern Virginia, Rep. James P. Moran said the plan would not only cost that region more than 20,000 jobs and billions of dollars, it would compromise national security.

"We've created a successful brain trust around the Pentagon ... to break up that nexus will leave our military on shakier ground, thereby hampering the robust defense of our country," the Virginia Democrat said.

Proposed closures in Maryland include the Patuxent River Defense Finance and Accounting Service (a loss of 53 civilian jobs), the Navy Reserve Center in Adelphi (a loss of 17 military jobs) and the PFC Flair U.S. Army Reserve Center in Frederick (a loss 20 military jobs and two civilian jobs).

The state would lose 1,570 military jobs but gain more than 9,000 civilian jobs. For example, Aberdeen Proving Ground would lose 3,411 military jobs and gain 5,371 civilian ones.

Fort Meade would gain 682 military and about 3,000 civilian jobs. Andrews Air Force Base would gain 191 military and 300 civilian jobs.

"This announcement ... reaffirms the central role our military installations play in the war on terror," said Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., a Republican. "We welcome the increased military presence coming to the state and are excited for the prospects that come with our expansions."

Bush nominates eight to base closure panel

Ventura County Star (California)

Michael Collins

WASHINGTON -- President Bush formally nominated eight people Tuesday to serve on the independent panel that will recommend which military installations should be shuttered in the next round of base closings.

All but three of the nominees to the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission already had been made public.

The new names on the list:

- Retired Gen. James T. Hill of Florida, who served in the Army for 36 years. His last assignment was as combatant commander of the U.S. Southern Command.

- Retired Lt. Gen. Claude M. Kicklighter of Georgia, who served in the Army for nearly 36 years and is currently the assistant secretary for policy and planning at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Retired Brig. Gen. Sue Ellen Turner of Texas, who served in the Air Force for 30 years, most recently as the director of nursing services in the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General at **Bolling** Air Force Base in Washington, D.C.

Also nominated to serve on the nine-member panel are former U.S. Rep. James Bilbray, D-Nev.; Philip Coyle III, a defense consultant from Los Angeles; Harold W. Gehman Jr, a retired Navy admiral from Virginia; former U.S. Rep. James V. Hansen, R-Utah; and Samuel K. Skinner of Illinois, who served as chief of staff and transportation secretary under President George H.W. Bush.

Earlier, the president nominated California native Anthony J. Principi to serve as chairman of the commission. Principi is a former San Diego businessman who served as Veterans Affairs secretary during Bush's first term.

All nine commissioners must be confirmed by the Senate.

Washington Window; Bolling's plan: reform or realignment?

United Press International
Arnold Sawilslak

Most members of the House or Senate learn just enough about the labyrinthine rules to get along. Those who actually understand them are rare. Those who know them so well that they try to change them usually are considered half-baked.

That, sadly, is the way many of his colleagues regarded Dick **Bolling** during his 34-year House career. Even those who conceded that the Missouri Democrat was one of the most intelligent and thoughtful men in Congress thought he was either naive or arrogant for believing he could improve its operation.

Bolling was placed on the House Rules Committee in the 1950s as a protege of Sam Rayburn, even though he was identified as a liberal and the Speaker was anything but. There he saw how "The Coalition" of Republicans and conservative Democrats could use the rules to throttle legislation that had the least whiff of liberal ancestry.

When Rayburn died, **Bolling** tried to move into the Democratic leadership. He was repeatedly rejected. He tried to work within the committee system to reform the House. He won a few; he lost most.

When he finally got to be chairman of the Rules Committee, he saw the old GOP-Dixiecrat coalition reborn in 1981 to run Ronald Reagan's program over the House Democratic majority.

Bolling finally gave up attempting to reform the House from the inside. He retired in 1983 and has been teaching since. But he hasn't given up on reform.

Writing in the current journal of the Public Affairs Council, **Bolling** said "the legislative mechanism that is the House of Representatives does not work" and "much as it pains me to say it, it is my party -- the Democratic Party -- that is responsible."

Bolling said despite recent reforms in such areas as seniority and continued Democratic majorities, "members who think like Republicans" still control the House.

"There is no system that calls for support of party on either issues or agenda," he said. "There is, therefore, no agenda."

Bolling says what is needed is for the majority party in the House to adopt a list of issues it wants to deal with at the beginning of a session, an agenda, and, with a "supermajority" of 60 percent or more in its caucus, to require party members to support it. Those who refused would lose their committee assignments.

Bolling's proposal is not new. The binding caucus vote was used in Congress for decades and it took years for reformers -- then regarded as radicals -- to abolish it. A form of the practice is used in parliamentary government still.

There is no doubt that **Bolling's** proposal would make congressional work tidier. It probably even would give the liberal majority in the Democratic caucus control of the legislative program.

But, as **Bolling** surely has taken into account, it might also encourage political **realignment** by disintegrating the Democratic Party as now constituted -- generally liberal in the East and North, conservative in the South and much of the West.

Inasmuch as Democratic liberals have controlled the nomination of presidential candidates and the writing of party platforms since the 1930s, the **Bolling** plan might just be the last straw for conservatives, transforming a flight of a few Democratic elected officials to the Republican Party into the political equivalent of the autumn migration that drives flocks of ducks and geese from the chilly North to the warm and welcoming South.

Meeting Set to Discuss Futures of Walter Reed and Bolling

WTOP Radio

June 8, 2005

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure Commission will hold a hearing in Washington next month to discuss the proposed closures of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bolling Air Force Base.

The Pentagon wants to merge Walter Reed with the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and move other operations to a community hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va. Officials believe the moves would improve military medical care and save billions of dollars.

When the base closing commission announced its decisions last month, no hearing was scheduled in Washington. But the panel decided on the July 9 hearing at the urging of Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC. Commission staff will also tour both installations on Friday and meet with neighborhood residents afterward.

"I intend to look for ways for the district to benefit, not lose, from the Walter Reed proposal, and I believe citizens can help with their testimony," Norton said. "The fight to retain Walter Reed here is the first order of business."

Mayor Tony Williams also applauded the decision to hold hearings on the Washington base closings.

"The members of the commission need to hear from residents who work at Walter Reed and who live near the facility regarding how important the hospital is to them and to their neighborhood," Williams said.

11th Wing 'not going away' under BRAC realignment

The Beam

Maj. Elizabeth A. Ortiz

May 27, 2005

Bolling's realignment as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure was outlined to "The Chief's Own" in a wing commander's call May 19 at the U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Lawn on Bolling.

"BRAC is the big topic of the day," Col. Duane A. Jones, Air Force District of Washington and 11th Wing commander, told the stands filled to overflowing with military and civilian members.

"What's going to happen to the 11th Wing team?"

Colonel Jones quickly pointed out that while jointness is the best way to go, it must be approached slowly, smartly and thoughtfully. BRAC is a very, very long process, he noted.

(Realignment will not start until fiscal year 2007.)

"A joint base does not mean a Navy base," the commander said, laying to rest the misperception there won't be an Air Force mission (or a mission support group) at Bolling if it realigns with the Naval District Washington and the Naval Research Laboratory, which the Department of Defense has recommended to the BRAC Commission.

"There's a lot we can do if we bind our bases together," Colonel Jones added.

Common base access and one contract for standard base-support functions in the three-base area such as waste removal and school busing are a few examples of what realignment will bring. In essence, realignment will further enhance a commonality between the Air Force and Navy that already exists here. For instance, both bases share the commissary and base main exchange; Navy families currently live in Air Force military family housing.

"That's what we're talking about here," Colonel Jones said.

In addition, the commander shared with the wing Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper's vision for joint basing at Bolling. General Jumper is already laying the groundwork with his Navy counterpart, Adm. Vern Clark, the chief of naval operations.

Both service leaders, who are committed to joint basing, met May 18 to discuss the issue. Both recognized there will be challenges involved. Each service has its own distinct culture and is proud of it. However, there are commonalities that can be built on that will produce operational and fiscal benefits without sacrificing service identity.

According to the Air Force chief of staff, Bolling remains viable due to the support the 11th Wing provides the Air and Space Expeditionary Force structure.

"The 11th Wing is not going away, the 11th Mission Support Group is not going away," Colonel Jones said. "Right now, we have folks from MSG deployed on the front line supporting AEF. That's not going away."

Standing in front of the men and women of "The Chief's Own," Colonel Jones pledged to inform the wing as critical information about the base associated with BRAC is made available.

"A tremendous amount (of information) is yet to be determined," he said.

DOD recommends Bolling become joint base

The Beam

Maj. Elizabeth Ortiz

May 20, 2005

Bolling has been slated for realignment as a joint base with the Navy taking the lead on common base-management functions as part of the Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure recommendations released May 13.

For Bolling, DOD recommends assigning the base's common installation management functions to the Naval District Washington, which is headquartered at the Washington Navy Yard, and establishing an overall joint base called Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling-Naval Research Laboratory.

"Realignment will make Bolling more capable and efficient, and better able to meet the future threats in defense of the National Capital Region," wrote Col. Duane A. Jones, Air Force District of Washington and 11th Wing commander, in a letter sent electronically to the men and women of "The Chief's Own" shortly after the midmorning DOD release of BRAC recommendations.

"We're eager to see the efficiencies BRAC will bring as we become better stewards of limited tax dollars."

Air Force and Bolling leadership are committed to providing information as it becomes available to minimize confusion, speculation and anxiety about BRAC. Available resources include the following DOD and Air Force Web sites: www.defenselink.mil/brac and www.af.mil/brac, and a dedicated telephone line, 888-473-6120 and DSN 222-7348/49, available from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. EDT.

"Staying informed becomes more critical as we flow through the BRAC process," Colonel Jones said. "The best way to ease transition is with information, and people can access it online or over the phone."

Overall, 27 active Air Force and 35 Reserve installations are slated for realignment. DOD is implementing BRAC to realign and reshape the military to better face the threats of the 21st century.

BRAC also helps accelerate the move toward joint operations and training, a key part of overall military transformation.

"Jointness has already enhanced our ability to prosecute the war on terrorism," said Colonel Jones, "and this new base jointness will enhance our ability to ensure a reliable security environment here at home as well."

No decision on closure or realignment will be arbitrary or made in a vacuum, explained Commission Chairman Anthony J. Principi, former secretary of Veterans Affairs.

"The words 'closure' and 'realignment' are easy to write on paper, but they do have profound effects on communities and the people who bring those communities to life," he said.

"We will do everything we can to make any transition as smooth as possible," Colonel Jones wrote in his letter to the wing. "People are important to us, and we will strive to mitigate any difficult effects resulting from BRAC decisions." (*For a transcript of the entire letter, see page 2.*)

In a wing commander's call May 19 at Bolling, Colonel Jones relayed Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper's vision of joint basing based on his recent discussion with his Navy counterpart, Adm. Vern Clark, chief of naval operations. (*See related article in next week's issue of The Beam.*)

BRAC Timeline:

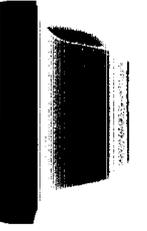
€ Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld forwarded the department's recommendations to the BRAC Commission May 13.

€ The commission must forward its report on the recommendations to the president by Sept. 8.

€ The president must accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety and forward to Congress by Sept. 13.

€ If accepted, Congress will have 45 legislative days to reject the recommendations in their entirety or they become binding on the department

Editorial/Opinion Articles



2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close Walter Reed Army Medical Center.**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure of the installation could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest Walter Reed for closure is military value.
 - The Commission understands the long history of Walter Reed--dating back over 100 years--but the Commission will evaluate the current military value of the medical center as the DoD seeks to streamline and transform our military to meet changing global threats.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to close Walter Reed could have and is taking this into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission understands that while some see the opportunity for development and community growth through a different use of the land and facilities which the hospital now occupies, for others it would be at least temporary strain and hardship. The Commission will evaluate the economic impact that the installation closure would have on the community surrounding the medical center, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The local community and the nation have woven a rich history around Walter Reed. For the past century, Walter Reed has treated hundreds of thousands of our nation's soldiers. The hospital was also the place where President Dwight Eisenhower and General Douglas MacArthur died. The care provided, as well as the long-standing ties to the hospital, will be taken into account.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
 - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.



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**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center**

Q1. Over its 100-year history, Walter Reed has reached iconic status in the Washington, D.C. area. In addition to recognition as the hospital where President Dwight Eisenhower and General Douglas MacArthur died, the hospital has treated hundreds of thousands of troops over the last century. Will the Commission consider the historic value of Walter Reed in its final recommendation?

A1. The Commission takes all pertinent factors into account, as prescribed by statute, as it performs an evaluation of the suggestions made by the Department of Defense (DoD) and formulates its own suggestions. The Commission is keenly aware of the human impact had by the closure or realignment of a base, and although current military value is the most important consideration, the Commission will also consider the effects that the closure of an installation would have on the surrounding community.

Q2. Estimates are that Washington, D.C. will lose more than 5,000 jobs if Walter Reed closes. Will the Commission consider the possible economic effect on D.C. as the Commission reaches its final conclusion?

A2. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Walter Reed Medical Center, but will also consider the impact that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q3. Fort Belvoir is slated to receive some of Walter Reed's personnel in addition to personnel from other installation closings and realignments. Estimates state that Fort Belvoir may receive up to 18,000 new workers. Some have suggested that the community surrounding Ft. Belvoir does not have the infrastructure to cope with such a large increase in personnel. Will the Commission consider this factor as it makes its suggestion regarding Walter Reed?

A3. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the base, but will also consider other factors. The ability of the community to support a military installation is very important, as is the effect that the closure of that installation would have on the community. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q4. Walter Reed Medical Center is situated on 113-acres in a developing and increasingly affluent neighborhood. If the medical center is closed, will the property be used for another federal agency (some have suggested that DHS be based there) or will the property sold to the D.C. government or private developers?

A4. The question of what will happen with a base after its closure is under the purview of the Federal Government and DoD rather than the BRAC Commission. Applicable laws dictate that federal property must first be made available to other federal agencies.

A4. Continued

If the property is deemed excess by the federal government then it will be made available to homeless assistance groups. It is only after this point that the land may be offered to the District government or to private developers at market value.

Q5. Over its lifespan, Walter Reed has become recognized as one of the frontrunners in medical care. Will the military be able to adequately meet the healthcare needs of our troops if the medical center is closed?

A5. Military value is the paramount criteria in the Commission's review of the Defense Department's recommendations. As such, good healthcare and proper treatment of our soldiers is important in the analysis of the military value of an installation. Walter Reed has served the military with distinction for over 100 years. However, it is now the responsibility of this Commission to determine its current military value and whether DoD has taken this into account in its suggestion to close the medical center. You can be confident that the Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and precise evaluation before reaching its conclusions regarding Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Q6. In past closings, studies have shown that 60 to 75 percent of skilled technical workers in defense facilities typically leave their jobs if forced to relocate. How does the Commission view this with regard to the suggested closing of Walter Reed?

A6. Currently, the plan calls for a realignment of personnel to both the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda and Fort Belvoir in Virginia. Both hospitals are located in close proximity to Walter Reed. While military value remains paramount, the Commission is very aware of the human impact that the suggestions made by DoD to close or realign a military installation could have.

Q7. How can the Community inform the Commission of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A7. The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER WASHINGTON D.C.

National News Articles

US Military Recommends Closing Storied Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Washington Area Reacts to Walter Reed Proposal

Del. Norton Brief by Pentagon Brass on Current, Future Uses of Walter Reed

Local News Articles

2010 Closing Projected for Walter Reed: Commission Members Question Pentagon Plans to Move Thousands to Belvoir

Community Fears Loss of a D.C. Institution

No Scarcity Of Suitors For Walter Reed Site: Complex Is Coveted For Its Location, Size

Outrage Expressed At Proposed Walter Reed Closing: Neighbors, Patients Concerned

Neighborhood Will Change

Pentagon Plans to Close 180 Sites, Shift Area Jobs to Outer Suburbs; Md., Va. to Gain Federal Agencies Eying Walter Reed Site

Editorial/Opinion Articles

National News Articles

US military recommends closing storied Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Turkish Press

May 14, 2005

Among the money-saving military base closings the Pentagon has advised is that of the storied Walter Reed Army Medical Center in the US capital, where president Dwight Eisenhower died and where, of late, nearly 1,200 front-line troops just back from Iraq have been treated. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld unveiled the closing proposals, including 33 military bases, on Friday.

Among the towering historic figures who spent their final days at the renowned hospital are Eisenhower and General Douglas MacArthur.

"Despite its iconic status, it could not measure up in location, accessibility and research and expansion potential," The Washington Post reported. No plans for the facility or the large plot of land on which it sits -- a highly valuable piece of property -- were immediately announced.

The closing of the facility, where hundreds of thousands of troops were treated in the last century, would mean 5,630 positions would be redeployed.

Most of the closures affected army, navy and some air force regional reserve bases and centers, reflecting the Pentagon's desire to move reserve units onto active-duty bases so their personnel can train more closely with the active-duty military.

The list will go to an independent nine-member commission for review and possible changes. When the commission finishes, President George W. Bush will submit the final list to Congress to approve or reject the list in its entirety.

Washington area reacts to Walter Reed proposal

Associated Press

Lisa Goddard

May 13, 2005

Washington-area officials, residents and workers scrambled to react after the Pentagon released a barrage of shutdowns and changes for local military installations, including the **closure of Walter Reed Army Medical Center**.

The plan to move all of Walter Reed's programs brought gasps from employees and strong words from Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C, the city's nonvoting House member.

"No city could make up for that loss in one fell swoop," Norton said. The proposal estimates that 5,067 Walter Reed jobs would be sent out of the District.

Norton said she will demand that Congress either keep Walter Reed open or compensate the city for the move. "With our population...this is a loss the District simply cannot bear," she said.

The Pentagon said while it is closing Walter Reed's campus in the District of Columbia, it plans to expand the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., which stands to gain 1,900 jobs. The new center would be called the Walter Reed Medical Center at Bethesda. Military officials insisted that it would rival the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins and the best hospitals in the world.

Despite the expansion in Bethesda, Montgomery County stands to lose jobs overall under the Pentagon plan.

Hundreds of pages inside the proposal, the Pentagon announced it wants to close the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and move the agency to Fort Belvoir. The department watches intelligence movements from space. Federal government sources said the agency has wanted to move for security reasons. Such a change would drain 2800 jobs from Montgomery County.

"It's obviously a concern," said County Executive Doug Duncan.

Other Washington-area installations recommended for **closure** or consolidation include Bolling Air Force Base, the Potomac Annex, the Naval District of Washington and some leased office space.

Residents and employees at Walter Reed reacted with disbelief.

"The Pentagon is definitely making a mistake," said Harold Thompson, 25, who lives and grew up directly across the street. He looked out over the three small U.S. flags on his porch to Walter Reed's wide green lawn and hospital. Thompson got his first job there and, as a Navy veteran, it's where he sees the doctor.

"It's mind boggling," Thompson said, "It will be a real issue for me and other people in the neighborhood if Walter Reed shuts down."

Thompson said he's worried about losing jobs and plummeting housing values.

But the D.C. councilman representing the area predicted the **closure** of Walter Reed will have minimal impact and could be a huge opportunity. Adrian Fenty, D-Ward 4, said the property is prime real estate and could be a good housing site.

According to the Pentagon, the **closure** would ultimately save the military \$100 million a year. But the Defense Department also said the Washington region will lose more than 14,000 military and civilian jobs at the affected installations. It predicted that another 10,000 jobs in supporting businesses could also be lost.

At least one Walter Reed employee said that's OK with her. Diane Lee has worked as a nurse at Walter Reed for seven years and said, as a taxpayer, she wants the government to save money.

"You have to go with the flow. And the real estate could definitely be used by the city," Lee said.

If Walter Reed is closed the military would hold lengthy discussions with city leaders over what will happen to the property, Norton said.

After a few months of getting public input, the proposal goes to the President in September. He is expected to send it to Congress for their approval.

Thompson, for one, said he hopes lawmakers keep Walter Reed open.

"I can't even imagine this part of the city without it."

DEL. NORTON BRIEFED BY MILITARY BRASS ON CURRENT, FUTURE USES OF WALTER REED

US States News
WASHINGTON
May 25, 2005

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., issued the following press release:

The top officers at **Walter Reed Army Medical Center** gave Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) a detailed briefing yesterday on the Base Realignment and **Closure** (BRAC) process, and on the status of Walter Reed Hospital and the Department of Defense (DoD) recommendation for **closure** and transfer of operations to a consolidated Bethesda Naval Hospital. Del. Norton met with Major General Kenneth Farmer, Commanding General of the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Colonel Jeffrey Davies, Garrison Commander of **Walter Reed Army Medical Center**. She also has called BRAC chair Anthony Principi, to request a hearing in the District of Columbia on the proposed closing, just as hearings are to be held in other districts that are proposed to lose facilities.

"The closing is not a done deal," Norton said. However, while seeking to maintain Walter Reed here because of its jobs and other significant economic benefits to the city, the Congresswoman already is investigating a number of other options in case the DoD recommendation for **closure** is endorsed by BRAC. The President will be able to make recommendations, but Congress will be limited to an up or down vote on the entire BRAC package in September. However, during the last BRAC process in 1995, Norton worked with President Clinton when his recommendations were due in order to get the Naval Sea Systems Command that was scheduled to go to California transferred instead to the Navy Yard, as a less costly alternative that would preserve skilled jobs in the region. As a result, agreement was reached for the Navy Yard to undergo a historic renovation of the facility and 10,000 jobs were brought to D.C. "We benefited from the last BRAC process," Norton said. "I hope to find benefits this time too."

Walter Reed will remain in operation for about another six years. The Congresswoman is therefore focused on both the immediate and future uses of Walter Reed, including a number of construction projects now underway. Working with the community, the Congresswoman already has stopped the construction of a large office building fronting 16th Street that was proposed for hospital-related pathology personnel. Yesterday, she was assured by the officers in charge that this building, known as Building 50, will not be constructed under any circumstances. However, Norton expressed her concern about Building 40, the original medical school, where a ground lease was given to a private developer for renovation of space for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research before the proposed **closure**. That structure will not be built now, but Norton said that she was concerned about the developer's possession of a 50-year ground lease. At her meeting, she discussed possible options, including a buyback. Norton stressed that Army or other government retention of the site for uses inconsistent with the residential portions of the neighborhood was inappropriate, and that she would strenuously fight an office complex to cover the site if the government chooses to retain the space.

As much as 50% of the Walter Reed properties are historic buildings, raising special concerns in case of any disposition of the land. Norton warned it was too early to have designs on the property because any federal agency could have first call. If the federal government does not desire to use the property, it will be turned over to the General Services Administration (GSA). Norton is the ranking member of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over the GSA. If there is no federal use of the property, the District of Columbia would have the opportunity to negotiate for the site for public uses, such as parks and schools. If other uses were contemplated, the transaction would be more complicated and costly because of the requirements of the Federal Property Act. However, uses for other than public purposes are possible, as Cameron Station in Virginia, where private condominiums are located, shows. Yesterday, Norton introduced a bill that would transfer valuable federal land, Reservation 13 and Poplar Point, to the District as in-kind partial payment for funds due the city because of the structural imbalance. The Congresswoman will look for similar or other alternatives if Walter Reed is closed.

Local News Articles

2010 Closing Projected for Walter Reed: Commission Members Question Pentagon Plans to Move Thousands to Belvoir

Washington Post Staff Writer

Spencer S. Hsu

May 20, 2005

Walter Reed Army Medical Center will close about five years from now if the Pentagon's new round of base closings is approved, Defense Department officials said yesterday, adding that no new military activity is planned on the historic District campus.

Testifying before the nine-member Base Realignment and Closure Commission that is weighing the Pentagon's nationwide streamlining plan, officials said that Walter Reed's 113-acre site in Northwest Washington would be offered to other federal agencies or possibly to the District for reuse under applicable federal law.

D.C. and Northern Virginia leaders have mobilized against the Pentagon's recommendations, seeking to prevent the shift of tens of thousands of defense jobs from Washington area sites. Their efforts earned some sympathetic questions yesterday from commissioners, who probed whether the disruption caused to workers and to the bases they would be sent to, such as Fort Belvoir in southeastern Fairfax County, would offset predicted savings and other efficiencies. "We have to be sure that the potential gain from the move is worth the potential cost," said commission member Harold W. Gehman Jr., a retired Navy admiral and former commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command.

Gehman said that 60 to 75 percent of skilled technical workers in defense facilities typically leave their jobs if forced to relocate, "so it obviously is a loss of skill and continuity, and no one can predict in advance of moving a facility from one place to another how many people might move." Gehman, who previously served as an unpaid adviser to a Virginia base closure study panel established by Gov. Mark R. Warner (D), has recused himself from discussions regarding the state. Three other commissioners who formerly served in Congress or on a California base closure study panel also have recused themselves from projects involving their home states. Commissioner James T. Hill, a retired Army general and former commander of U.S. Southern Command, singled out traffic congestion around Fort Belvoir, which is slated to receive as many as 18,400 additional workers under the Pentagon's plan.

"I'm having a hard time understanding how 11,000 more people are absorbed into Belvoir and in the surrounding communities and into the traffic pattern out there," he said, using the figure initially released by the Pentagon and later revised by the post. "Did you all look at that?"

Army official Donald C. Tison said Pentagon analysts were assured by Army engineers that there is plenty of room on the post. As for the surrounding area, Tison said that he did not have specifics but that the Army has budgeted \$125 million for infrastructure improvements there. He also cited talks regarding light rail, commuter rail and Interstate 95 access through the Franconia-Springfield Parkway extension.

The surgeon general of the Air Force, Lt. Gen. George P. Taylor, addressed plans to close the Walter Reed hospital and expand the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda into a new facility called the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The District would lose 5,630 jobs in the move.

The Pentagon also would build a 165-bed community hospital at Fort Belvoir to handle some of Walter Reed's functions.

Because of the complexity of medical construction, Taylor said, the project would be completed "in the 2010 timeframe."

At Walter Reed's current home between Rock Creek Park and Georgia Avenue NW, "no military activity will remain there, no sir. . . . The garrison is gone, the post closes," save for some affiliated housing nearby, Taylor said.

Under federal law, the property would be offered to other federal agencies. If deemed excess, the land would be offered to homeless assistance groups, then potentially to local authorities by negotiation or for sale for reuse.

A spokesman for Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) said yesterday that military officials will brief her next week and that "an upscale residential neighborhood makes it necessary for her to focus on all options, from economic loss to the District to the future of the site itself."

Community Fears Loss of a D.C. Institution

Washington Post

Susan Levine and Debbi Wilgoren

May 14, 2005

For almost a century, wounded combatants have arrived at **Walter Reed Army Medical Center**, the campus of rose-brick buildings serving as a haven from the horrors of war. It has been the hospital for those who lead and those who follow and, most recently, nearly 1,200 troops from the front lines in Iraq.

Yesterday, the hospital where President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Gen. Douglas MacArthur spent their final days was declared expendable by the Pentagon and targeted for closure. Despite its iconic status, it could not measure up in location, accessibility and research and expansion potential. If the recommendation is accepted, 5,630 positions will be redeployed, with the future of the 113-acre Northwest campus, bounded by Rock Creek Park and Georgia Avenue, still to be determined.

The prime beneficiaries of Walter Reed's demise would be Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, where a large community hospital focusing on primary and specialty care would be built, and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, which would become the military's new "world-class flagship facility," a joint research, training and teaching locus.

Walter Reed's revered namesake, an Army physician who tackled typhoid and yellow fever during the late 1800s, would remain prominent. The Pentagon proposes renaming the Bethesda complex the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

"It will bring together the very best for all military medicine," said William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The announcement stunned many of the hospital's neighbors, who talked of how Walter Reed's presence is woven into the fabric of their lives. It is the landmark they use when giving visitors directions to their homes, the place that draws the presidential motorcade when the commander-in-chief pays a visit.

"I just can't imagine Walter Reed not being on Georgia Avenue," said Tonya Taylor, who lives and works a few blocks away. "It's just part of D.C."

In the last two years, residents have grown accustomed to the sight of recuperating troops, in wheelchairs or on crutches, being escorted by loved ones around the grounds. Arletha McPherson, who will turn 60 next week, knows when an injured soldier is being flown in or out because the helicopter roars right over her roof. Evenings, she likes to sit on her front porch to hear taps as the American flag is hoisted down.

"We would be lost without it," said McPherson, whose rowhouse sits directly across from the hospital's front door. "I wouldn't want them to put anything else there."

In a broader sense, Walter Reed is also woven into the fabric of the country. Founded in 1909, it expanded quickly from 80 beds to 2,500 when World War I began. Through the 20th century, it welcomed hundreds of thousands of troops, its reputation growing along with its size and ultimately drawing patients and dignitaries from around the world.

"The clinical center of gravity of American military medicine," the center billed itself.

But as the Base Realignment and Closure Commission looked at current medical needs in the Washington region, Walter Reed did not measure up. Its proximity to the National Naval Medical Center and its age -- the last capital update was 1977 -- were factors.

"It is very expensive to run a hospital. It just did not make sense to have two tertiary facilities within seven miles of each other," Winkenwerder said in an interview yesterday afternoon.

Over 20 years, the Pentagon projects savings of \$301 million. Construction at Fort Belvoir and Bethesda probably would not begin until about 2009, Winkenwerder said, and the last medical programs would have to move from Walter Reed by 2011.

Any decision about what would happen to the Georgia Avenue property is years off, too. D.C. Council member Adrian M. Fenty (D-Ward 4) said the tract should revert to the city, "so we can have some control over what happens."

Lt. Gen. George P. Taylor, surgeon general of the Air Force and, with Winkenwerder, integrally involved in the closure recommendation, noted the "deliberative process the [defense] department goes through in disposing of or returning facilities and land. . . . The plan is there's not going to be a military requirement for the main post."

The announcement was the talk of the complex yesterday. Hundreds packed a gymnasium for a town hall-style meeting led by Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Farmer, Walter Reed's commanding general. They emerged an hour later clutching information sheets titled "**BRAC 2005.**"

In the hospital cafeteria, Master Sgt. Osvaldo Ponzo pondered the summary details as he ate lunch. Ponzo, who works in preventive medicine, said the realignment plan seemed innovative and more efficient. "I think it's important to take a look at how to better utilize our assets," he said.

Staff writers Theola S. Labbe and Chris L. Jenkins and news researchers Bobbye Pratt, Meg Smith, Madonna Lebling and Robert Lyford contributed to this report.

No Scarcity Of Suitors For Walter Reed Site: Complex Is Coveted For Its Location, Size

Washington Post Staff Writer

Dana Hedgpeth

May 23, 2005

The Pentagon's proposal to close Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Northwest Washington could touch off intense competition for a rare prize: more than 100 acres in a city where real estate values are soaring and space for new development is scarce.

Barely a week after the Pentagon said it planned to close the 96-year-old hospital between Rock Creek Park and Georgia Avenue, real estate brokers, D.C. planners, developers and politicians were laying claim to the property, a sign of the complicated discussions that ensue when the federal government pulls up stakes.

The 113-acre complex is in the middle of an increasingly affluent neighborhood convenient to downtown and also is near the burgeoning commercial area of Silver Spring -- factors that argue for dense residential, retail or office development. But it is also a historic place, where war heroes and presidents have recuperated, and its redevelopment could trigger a preservation fight. And as a federal property, its decommissioning as a military hospital would be governed by tight restrictions, such as that the campus must first be offered to other government agencies.

D.C. officials and neighborhood residents also would want a say.

"What's attractive about Walter Reed is its size," said Thomas R. Maskey, a senior vice president at Peterson Cos., a Northern Virginia developer of mixed-use projects. "There's not 113 acres anywhere around here that's going to be available. The size allows you to do a lot of different things that can really have an impact."

With congressional review of the Pentagon's base-closing plan ahead, it could be years before Walter Reed closes, and it may not happen at all if local officials succeed in blocking the proposed transfer of hospital staff to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda and Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County. And it could take years more before a plan for the property took shape. "There's a lot of legwork that has to be done before you can break ground and start redeveloping a site," said Tim Ford, executive director of the Association of Defense Communities, a nonprofit group that tracks base closings and redevelopments across the country. "Just getting the land from the federal government is tough."

The Washington region is no stranger to the federal government rearranging its land use, but the aftermath isn't always consistent.

The Cameron Station military base in Alexandria was quickly redeveloped into a mostly residential neighborhood after it was closed in the late 1990s. The District, in contrast, has been in a protracted debate over the fate of the federally operated and largely defunct St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Southeast. The 40-acre Southeast Federal Center was turned over to the District -- sort of. It is being redeveloped as a new headquarters for the Transportation Department, with some of the property slated for a private housing, retail and office development.

Walter Reed, based on its size, history and location, would probably pose an even more complicated development problem. Ford said that when the military vacated its prime piece of real estate in San Francisco's Presidio, for example, there was a "constant battle" among residents, developers and D.C. officials before a compromise was reached to keep part of the 1,480-acre site as parkland and use other parts for commercial space.

Developers said there would be no shortage of interest or ideas for the Walter Reed campus, which brokers said is worth \$80 million to \$100 million.

Developer John Shooshan of Arlington, who has done office buildings and housing projects, said that because Walter Reed sits in a mostly residential area, bordering Rock Creek Park, it could be developed into a combination of single-family homes, condominiums and apartments.

"It won't become a dormant piece of property," he said. "It will get redeveloped."

District officials have made it clear that they want a say in Walter Reed's future.

D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton has said she would first try to stop Walter Reed from closing. But if she can't, she said, she wants the District to control the land and help decide how it is developed.

"In a strange way, the closing of Walter Reed could be the start of bringing some real economic development to this part of the city," said D.C. Council member Adrian M. Fenty (D-Ward 4),

who represents the area. "Usually a base closing is a loss of revenue, but in this case you could put some revenue-generating uses there."

The Georgia Avenue area has successfully attracted condos and apartments in recent years but has struggled to attract retail, including sit-down restaurants.

"I don't think the city should own it for a city use," Fenty said. "I think the city should have the rights to develop it so the community can decide what should be there."

Sharon Gang, a spokeswoman for Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D), said: "We'd want to make sure that whatever was put there is in the best interest of the neighborhood. We would like for Walter Reed to stay, but we would want to see [the property] become something useful. It's valuable land." Gang declined to elaborate on what the District might like to see there.

The neighbors around the military hospital have had a love-hate relationship with the facility over the years, according to Stephen Whatley, an advisory neighborhood commissioner for the area. Neighbors fought hard when Walter Reed proposed constructing a 550-space parking garage and a seven-story office building near 16th Street and Alaska Avenue, saying it wouldn't fit into the neighborhood. Walter Reed dropped the plans.

Whatley said he was polling neighbors about what they want the campus to become. Of the about 40 comments he has received so far, preferences include turning it into a gated, private housing community or developing townhouses, shops and restaurants.

"The feelings are mixed," Whatley said. "Some of the veterans want it to stay open, while some of the community wants to see it closed and become something else."

Walter Reed was founded in 1909 as a military hospital and expanded rapidly from 80 beds to 2,500 when World War I began. Through the 20th century, it welcomed several presidents and hundreds of thousands of troops. But Pentagon officials say they are targeting it for closing because it is outdated and they are consolidating health facilities across military branches.

The property is part of the military's list of about 180 military installations nationwide that could be closed or realigned. The closings must be approved by a base-closing commission, and then the list must be accepted in all-or-nothing decisions by the president and Congress later this year.

If the Pentagon vacates Walter Reed, it would be offered first to other federal agencies. If they don't need it, federal law requires that the property be offered to homeless-assistance groups.

After that, the land would be offered to the District or possibly for direct sale at market value, depending on the terms of a deal between the District and the Pentagon.

Walter Reed would have to be zoned for commercial development as military bases aren't zoned. And some of its historic buildings probably would need to be preserved, D.C. planners said. The main hospital probably would be torn down, D.C. planners and developers said.

Old Post Office Possibilities

The General Services Administration, the real estate arm of the federal government, is looking for developers interested in the Old Post Office building on Pennsylvania Avenue NW. The 12-story building houses three small federal agencies with about 200 employees in its upper floors, but the lower floors have been mostly empty because a food court never took off.

Local developers say that the roughly 200,000-square-foot building with its glass, 100,000-square-foot annex is one of the few properties that could be redeveloped along Pennsylvania Avenue NW between Capitol Hill and the White House. The federal government and real estate brokers said the property could become a complex similar to the Hotel Monaco at Seventh and F streets NW. The San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotel & Restaurant Group bought the former Tariff Building and spent \$50 million to turn it into a 188-room luxury hotel.

But the Old Post Office property presents challenges.

The building needs substantial renovations to its heating and air conditioning systems and its roof. There is limited parking, so attracting high-end retailers would be difficult, real estate brokers said.

"The question is whether a hotel is best for the site, or is it better for residential?" said Wayne Quin, a real estate lawyer at Holland & Knight. "There are a lot of people who are going to be nosing around on it."

One group that has long been interested in redeveloping part of the complex is the National Women's History Museum. The group has offices in Annandale but has been trying since 2003 to get legislation passed in Congress that would compel the GSA to negotiate a long-term lease with the museum.

Joan Wages, a senior vice president of the museum, said the group had not decided whether to put in an offer to redevelop the site. "Maybe we will, and then an act of Congress won't be needed," she said.

Offers to the government are due in July.

Site by Stadium in Limbo

The site in Southeast is only about three acres and has a chiller plant, a bus repair garage and parking lots. But because it's barely a half-block from the baseball stadium planned for South Capitol Street SE, some developers groaned last week when the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority pulled its request for offers on the site.

The WMATA said the District asked it to postpone action on the site, which is next to the Navy Yard Metro station. Proposals were due May 13, but the WMATA withdrew the solicitation two days before. D.C. officials are working on a master plan for about 50 acres around the stadium and expects to finish it in June.

"WMATA wanting to coordinate their efforts with the District makes perfect sense," said F. Russell Hines, executive vice president of Monument Realty, which had planned to submit an offer to turn the WMATA property into an office, housing and retail complex.

Monument recently completed a \$10 million deal that includes land just across from the stadium site at N and Half streets SE. Monument said it was negotiating at least six other deals on the same block

Outrage Expressed At Proposed Walter Reed Closing:Neighbors, Patients Concerned Neighborhood Will Change

NBC News 4

May 26, 2005

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Neighbors of Walter Reed Army Medical Center voiced strong opposition Thursday night to federal plans to close the installation and move its jobs elsewhere. Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Farmer Jr., Walter Reed's commanding officer, told a community meeting that the Pentagon wants to merge Walter Reed with the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and move other operations to a community hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va. Officials believe the moves would improve military medical care and save billions of dollars.

But in a question and answer session that followed, more than 50 neighbors and patients were more concerned that their neighborhood would change for the worse without a military base that has been a Northwest Washington landmark for 100 years.

"Walter Reed is the history of Georgia Avenue," said a woman who identified herself only as Ms. Williams. "Without Walter Reed, there will be no Georgia Avenue."

Tony Tomlinson, 40, a neighbor and retired member of the military, drew applause when he voiced his objection.

"It shocks me no end that they would ever consider moving Walter Reed from the District of Columbia," he said, emphasizing the economic stability that the hospital brings to the community.

Farmer could not offer anything to those who pleaded to keep the hospital open but his thanks for their support. When one man asked if there was any internal opposition to the proposed closing, Farmer explained that it can't be done.

"That is not our place," he said. "Our place is not to disagree, not to refute and get this overturned."

Farmer did promise to work with the community to get information out as soon as it could be made public, and offered reassurances that the military was working on problems like traffic and helping workers make the transition to a new workplace.

D.C Council member Adrian Fenty, D-Ward 4, promised to work to make sure that the community has a say on how the property is used after the Army moves out by 2010 or later.

"The deck is stacked," said Fenty, a possible candidate for mayor next year, "If they start letting communities weigh in, it could undermine the process."

Fenty said there is an excellent chance for the property to be locally controlled. Land for development is scarce in upper Northwest, he said.

"Having a big parcel become available is a great opportunity to do some of the development that has never happened in recent history," Fenty said.

Pentagon Plans to Close 180 Sites, Shift Area Jobs to Outer Suburbs; Md., Va. to Gain

Washington Post

Spencer S. Hsu and D'Vera Cohn

May 14, 2005

D.C. Would Lose Walter Reed

The Pentagon announced plans yesterday to close the District's **Walter Reed Army Medical Center** and abandon more than 4 million square feet of leased office space in Arlington and Alexandria, proposing a massive shift of defense workers and economic investment toward communities outside the Capital Beltway.

The dislocations within the Washington region are part of a new round of base closings and realignments that would eliminate about 180 military installations nationwide with the goal of saving nearly \$49 billion over 20 years. If approved by Congress and President Bush, the changes would take effect over the next six years.

Overall, Maryland emerged as one of the biggest winners in the country under the plan, and Virginia also would experience a net gain statewide in military and civilian jobs. But the close-in Northern Virginia suburbs would lose more than 20,000 jobs, victims of the Pentagon's effort to move out of aging office buildings that do not meet security requirements imposed since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Walter Reed, the 96-year-old flagship of military medicine and hospital to several U.S. presidents, is targeted for **closure** because it is old and underused, Pentagon officials said. Some of its 5,630 workers would move to a renamed Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda.

Communities near military bases outside the Beltway, meanwhile, stand to gain from a shift of billions of dollars in Pentagon payrolls, defense contractor spending and construction. The

Pentagon's plan would move more than 18,000 jobs to Fort Belvoir in southeastern Fairfax County, 5,361 to Fort Meade in Anne Arundel County and 3,013 to the Marine Corps base at Quantico.

Nationwide, 33 major bases would be shuttered, including Fort Monroe in Virginia, Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, the 200-year-old Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine, Fort McPherson in Georgia and Naval Submarine Base New London in Connecticut.

"Our current arrangements, designed for the Cold War, must give way to the new demands of the war against extremism and other evolving 21st-century challenges," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in releasing the list.

The plan now goes before the nine-member Base Realignment and **Closure** Commission, which will make its recommendation Sept. 8 to Bush, who must accept or reject the list in full and submit it to Congress by Sept. 23. Roughly 85 percent of the changes proposed in earlier rounds of base closings have stuck.

For the Washington area, the net loss would be about 10,000 jobs, an insignificant drop in a region that employs about 2.9 million. But in some jurisdictions, officials were braced for huge changes.

Arlington leaders said the county will lose about 10 percent of its employee and commercial office base if the plan to move workers out of leased space near the Pentagon goes through. They had been expecting such a move because of new Defense Department requirements that its workers be housed in buildings set back at least 82 feet from traffic to protect against truck bombs.

Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner (D), while upbeat about the picture statewide, vowed to fight the loss of the leases.

"My view is we need to work with the commercial landowners and help . . . retrofit the buildings so we can meet the security concerns," he said. "It's going to be uphill."

In Fairfax County, officials were worried about the opposite problem: how to accommodate a surge in workers and residents in and near Fort Belvoir, which is the county's largest employer with about 23,000 civilian and military personnel. Nearby roads already are clogged, and officials talked yesterday with members of Congress about extending Metrorail to the area.

Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald E. Connolly predicted that the base realignment and **closure** process would affect Fairfax more than any rezoning in history. "This is a seismic kind of event that creates its own tsunami," he said.

Stephen Fuller, a regional economist at George Mason University, said the Pentagon's proposal could damage the economies in Arlington and Alexandria. But he said the Northern Virginia economy would remain strong because the Pentagon needs facilities in the area and so do other government agencies.

"If fully implemented, it's going to be very disruptive and hurt Arlington the worst, because its office space is not as new," he said. "But it may also be that those buildings are prime candidates for demolition and reconstruction."

Fuller said the impact of the Pentagon's plans will depend in part on whether its moves are spread out over time or done all at once. As a cautionary tale, he mentioned the Navy's decision to move offices from Crystal City to Southern Maryland several years ago. "A lot of that space emptied at the end of the '90s, and some of it is still vacant," he said.

Reps. James P. Moran Jr. (D) and Thomas M. Davis III (R) of Northern Virginia said that if jobs leave the region, the military risks a brain drain because skilled technical workers would take other jobs rather than uproot their families.

Land-use and transportation experts said the recommendations would add to the region's sprawl.

"It will be one more contributor to the dispersal of jobs away from the city," said Alan E. Pisarski, a travel behavior analyst and author of "Commuting in America."

Many of the defense-related jobs being eliminated in Arlington and Alexandria are easily accessible by bus and rail, and most jobs being added in outer locations are not. But the Pentagon's plan to move jobs outward echoes where residential development is going, so some commuters may end up with a short neighborhood drive to work rather than a long slog up Shirley Highway.

"There will be fewer people who can get to work on Metrorail," said Ron Kirby, director of transportation planning for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. "But there also will be a number of people who are driving who will be closer to their jobs. That's the positive side of it."

At the Crystal Gateway complex in Arlington, one of the affected office buildings, workers who live near Fort Belvoir or Quantico welcomed the news that many defense jobs would be moved there.

"I wouldn't mind moving," said Donald Neher, a software engineer who works for defense contractor Anteon Corp. "Fort Belvoir is only two miles away from home."

Neher carried a copy of the Pentagon report, with all the Crystal City office buildings highlighted in yellow. He said feelings about the moves tended to break along geographic lines -- with workers who live in Maryland groaning about longer commutes and workers in Virginia happy about shorter ones.

In the District, where job losses would total nearly 6,500, Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) called the cuts "a terrible shame," while Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) vowed to fight "a big, unprecedented bite" out of the city's economy. "A city without a state cannot simply absorb the loss," Norton said. "Step one is to turn this proposal back. If that fails, we must insist on appropriate compensation."

Pentagon officials said that they are weighing the future of the 113-acre Walter Reed campus in Northwest Washington and that it could be converted to military housing and research. Most of Walter Reed's services would be moved to the Bethesda military hospital, which would get a \$200 million expansion to 300 beds, or to a new \$500 million, 165-bed Fort Belvoir hospital.

The changes in military medical care in the region could save more than \$100 million a year, said Air Force Surgeon General George P. Taylor. The reorganized military medical center in Bethesda "will be the centerpiece of military health care," he said, rivaling "Mayo Clinic, Johns

Hopkins and the other great medical institutions of the world."

State and local leaders said it will take weeks to sort out all the details in the plan. Late yesterday, Maryland officials discovered a change initially concealed because of secrecy provisions: the proposed shift to Fort Belvoir of 2,800 jobs from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency headquarters in Bethesda.

Virginia officials also warned that an additional 27,000 workers remain in leased space that does not meet the new security requirements but was not affected by yesterday's announcement. Those jobs may be moved once those leases expire.

Marine Lt. Col. Rose-Ann L. Lynch, a Pentagon spokeswoman, suggested that the Defense Department might ease the setback rule at "existing buildings where the required level of protection can be mitigated and shown to be achieved." A Pentagon spokesman added, however, that studies and assessments need to be done at each location.

Federal agencies eyeing Walter Reed site

The Washington Times

Tom Ramstack

May 24, 2005

Walter Reed Army Medical Center is likely to become the offices of a federal agency, such as the Department of Homeland Security, under procedures that the U.S. Army plans to follow to dispose of the property.

"I think the fact that it would be well-secured and set back from the road are certainly valuable assets for that kind of a federal agency," said Sandy Paul, vice president of Delta Associates, an Alexandria real estate research firm. "I'm not going to say it would be perfect, but I think it would be considered."

Homeland Security's operations have been spread among federal agencies throughout the area since Congress created the department after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. A former naval base called the Nebraska Avenue Complex, near American University, is serving as its headquarters.

"The Department of Homeland Security will remain at the Nebraska Avenue Complex for the foreseeable future," agency spokeswoman Valerie Smith said.

Under realignment procedures, Walter Reed would have to be closed within six years.

If no federal agency claims the site, the 113-acre campus would be turned over to the District for charitable purposes, which real estate executives said would be unlikely because of its value for urban development.

A final option is to sell the property to private developers or the District.

Walter Reed would be consolidated into the planned Walter Reed National Military Medical

Center on the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda under a Defense Department plan announced last week to close or reduce 62 military bases and "realign" hundreds of other facilities.

"It's like any federal property - it's offered up to federal agencies first," said Glenn Flood, Defense Department spokesman.

If Homeland Security takes the property, it would end several years of speculation over whether the agency would move to the campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital or a new site that would be built in Northern Virginia.

"Homeland Security has been thinking about consolidating at some point in the future," said Joe Delogu, director of the federal services group for Spaulding & Slye/Colliers, a Washington real estate services firm. "Walter Reed could present a unique opportunity for a group like that."

Behind its iron bars, the Walter Reed campus features the main hospital, a military barracks, the National Museum of Health and Medicine, a hotel, more than a dozen brick support buildings and open space with trails and trees.

D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams told editors and reporters at The Washington Times last week that it would be "good to have a federal presence on that site."

He also said he would be interested in using the hospital campus as a "mixed-use, multipurpose site."

However, he said any decisions on using the property depend on the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, which is scheduled to give its assessment of the Defense Department's recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8.

Mr. Bush is supposed to accept or reject the recommendations by Sept. 23. If he accepts them, Congress could modify them before the Army disposes of any property.

"We're really early in the process," Mr. Williams said.

The Army plans to follow procedures similar to the General Services Administration in disposing of the property, Mr. Flood said.

First, a notice would be published in the Federal Register giving federal agencies an opportunity to claim it.

If no federal agency wants the property, the District would get the next chance for ownership.

The 1987 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act would require that the District get an opportunity to use it for charitable purposes.

Title V of the act says federal agencies must make "surplus federal property," such as buildings and land, available to states, local governments and nonprofit agencies to assist homeless people.

They also could use it for other charitable purposes.

If the District fails to find a worthwhile function for the campus, the Army could seek bidders to

buy it at fair-market value. The bidders could include private developers.

"Within six years, it has to be done," Mr. Flood said. "We don't want to be a landlord of vacant property."

Editorial/Opinion Articles



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Naval Air Station Willow Grove**

- 1. While the Commission is very aware of the potential human impact that the suggestion by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close NAS Willow Grove could have, should the suggestion be enacted, the Commission will base its final decision almost entirely upon military value.**
 - The Commission will take into full account the economic effect that would be had by the loss of more than 1200 jobs that would result from the closure of NAS Willow Grove, but will maintain military value as the Commission's preeminent consideration.
 - The Commission is well-aware of the contribution made by the 913th Air Wing, but will evaluate the current military value of the installation as DoD seeks to streamline our military to be able to effectively meet changing global threats.

- 2. The Congress established the BRAC Commission and the process to be followed by the Commission has been specifically outlined by statute.**
 - The factors to be included in the Commission's evaluation have been specifically prescribed by law.
 - The Congress established the Commission to ensure that the economic, environmental, and other effects that the decision to close or realign an installation would have are taken into full account, while basing the final decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - As the Commission was established to ensure that that human impact had been taken into account, public input is very important and members of the community are encouraged to contact the Commission through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

- 3. The Commission is entirely non-partisan and non-political in nature.**
 - The Congress established the Commission to provide accountability for the decisions to close or realign various military installations and to ensure that DoD has made its suggestions in accordance with the law and after all pertinent factors had been taken into full consideration.
 - The process followed by the Commission is entirely transparent and open to the public.
 - Members of the Commission were appointed from both different parties and will base their decisions upon the criteria set forth by law.

Facts compiled from included clippings.



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Qs & As for Naval Air Station Willow Grove**

Q1. Historically, the state of Pennsylvania has lost approximately 16,500 jobs through previous BRAC rounds, and specifically, the region surrounding Naval Air Station Willow Grove (NAS), was impacted with the closure of the Philadelphia Naval Yard. NAS Willow Grove employs over 1200 people. Will the commission take into account the effect that these previous job losses have had on the state as it considers the Department of Defense's (DoD) recommendation to close this installation?

A1. The Congress established the Commission to perform an independent, objective, thorough, and transparent analysis of the suggestions by DoD to close or realign various installations across the country. The process followed by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC), as well as the factors to be included in the Commission's analysis, have been specifically outlined by law. The Commission will perform a full evaluation prior to coming to its conclusions, and while holding military value as the preeminent consideration, will take the economic effects that the suggestions made by DoD would have on the local community, should those suggestions be enacted.

Q2. NAS Willow Grove has served as the home of the 913th Airlift Wing. The tasks of this wing have been to provide logistical support for active and reserve Navy units and to transport and equip reservists for aerial re-supply. Will the Commission take this into its consideration of the military value of NAS Willow Grove?

A2. The Commission will perform a full evaluation, basing its final decision almost entirely upon military value. While the Commission recognizes the valuable role that NAS Willow Grove has played in the past, the Commission will assess the current military value, as DoD seeks to streamline our forces such that they are able to efficiently and effectively meet modern global threats. The process followed by the Commission is entirely transparent, and with the exception of documents sensitive to national security, all information either submitted to or used by the Commission, will be available for public access.

Q3. While streamlining--in theory--is good, could there be such a thing as too much efficiency in a time of war, such that we are crippled when we need the bases the most?

A3. The Commission will perform a very thorough, detailed and objective analysis, as prescribed by law, before coming to any conclusions. The Congress established the BRAC Commission for the purpose of evaluating the suggestions made by DoD in order to ensure that our forces were best prepared to meet these changing global threats without having to support ineffective, excess infrastructure.

Q4. \$4.5 million has been appropriated over the last two years in the state of Pennsylvania for the purpose preventing the closure or realign of military installations within the state. Some have hinted that Pennsylvania has “suffered a disproportionate share” of the job losses over the different rounds of BRAC and that the political inclinations of a state may have influenced whether or not its bases were suggested for closure or realignment by DoD. Do political considerations or does political influence have any sway with the Commission?

A4. The Commission is an entirely non-political, non-partisan, independent entity, established by the Congress to evaluate the suggestions by DoD to close or realign various installations and ensure that those suggestions were made in accordance with the law and after all pertinent factors had been taken into consideration. The factors to be taken into account, as well as the process to be followed, by the Commission, have been specifically prescribed by law, and the final decisions of the Commission will be based almost entirely upon military value. The Commission is entirely transparent, open, and objective and was established, in part, to serve as accountability to the public for the decisions made to close or realign various military installations across the country.

Q5. While many are working to prevent the closing of the installation, others see the economic opportunity available in creating housing developments on the land, increasing the tax base in this Philadelphia suburb that has already-rising real estate values. Will the Commission take the full possible economic effects of the suggestion by DoD to close NAS Willow Grove into account, prior to making its decision?

A5. While the Commission will take the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure of NAS Willow Grove could have on the surrounding community into account, the Commission will base its final decision almost entirely upon military value. The Criteria to be included in the Commission’s evaluation have been specifically prescribed by statute.

Q6. How can the community make the BRAC Commission aware of factors that may have been overlooked by DoD in DoD’s analysis and suggestion to close NAS Willow Grove?

A6. Public input is not only welcomed by the Commission, but is a vital part of the process of evaluation performed by the Commission. Members of the community are encouraged to contact the Commission directly through the Commission’s official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from include press clippings.



NAVAL AIR STATION WILLOW GROVE PENNSYLVANIA

National News Articles

Senators Demand Base Closing Data, Prepare For Base Visit

Panel Recommends Closing Willow Grove, Pittsburgh Airport Bases

News In Brief From The Philadelphia Area

Governor Rendell Meets With Western Pa Coalition To Plan Appeal For Military

Facilities Marked For Closure

Pennsylvania Devises Strategies For Base-Closing Fight

Local News Articles

Base's Location Ripe For Jobs, Official Says;

Commissioner Sees Businesses, Not Homes, If Willow Grove Closes.

From Base Panel, A Word Of Caution;

A Member Of The Realignment Commission Said Previous Overhauls Might Have Cut
Needed Facilities.

Do The Math, And Get Provincialism Out Of Closings

Rumsfeld Defends Bases Plan;

He Said Things Could Be Hard For Communities Affected But A Better Military Was
The Payoff.

Rendell:;911th;Closure;'Ludicrous'

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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.

Panel Recommends Closing Willow Grove, Pittsburgh Airport Bases
The Associated Press

Patrick Walters
May 13, 2005

WILLOW GROVE, Pa. (AP) — Two large military bases near the state's two biggest cities would be closed under recommendations issued Friday by a Pentagon panel trying to streamline the nation's military.

The Willow Grove Naval Air Station outside Philadelphia and the Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station employ about 1,550, but officials worried that their closure would have a wider impact on local businesses.

In total, the Pentagon panel recommended closing 13 military installations in Pennsylvania, downsizing five others and adding workers to five more. Pennsylvania would see a net loss of 1,658 military and civilian jobs, according to the proposal.

Reserve centers in Scranton, Williamsport, Bloomsburg and Reading also would close but two major Army depots, Letterkenny and Tobyhanna, would be expanded.

Politicians were pleased to see some facilities would grow, but expressed dismay that so many jobs would be lost.

"This is not good news, but I can tell you the entire congressional delegation, the governor, all of us will go to bat," U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum said.

The Willow Grove station, which employs more than 1,200 people, covers 1,100 acres just outside Philadelphia. It is home to the 913th Airlift Wing, which trains and equips reservists to perform aerial resupply, and also provides air logistic support for active and reserve Navy units.

Businesses near the sprawling facility said they would feel the impact if it closed.

At Quicklane Tire & Auto Center, just across the street from the base, manager Tim Hartman said military personnel account for about 10-15 percent of his work. In an average week, he services about 10 to 15 private vehicles owned by base personnel, in addition to a few government vehicles.

"It would definitely be a loss for me," he said. "We'd definitely have to recoup."

Military and civilian base employees also are frequent customers at Lee's Hoagie House, where manager Jeff Brill said he would especially feel the loss on the weekends. But if the base closed, he said, some of that loss would likely be offset by whatever takes its place.

The Pittsburgh airport base in Coraopolis is home to the Air Force's 911th Tactical Airlift Group, which recruits and trains Air Force reserve personnel and provides airlift of airborne forces and equipment.

Politicians across the state jumped in front of microphones to pledge opposition to the cuts.

"I have reason to believe we have a good chance to get this reversed," Gov. Ed Rendell said at an afternoon news conference at Willow Grove. "We're ready to fight."

The state has set aside \$1 million to oppose the closures.

That fight, however, is likely to be tough. In four previous rounds of closures, commissions have accepted 85 percent of bases the Pentagon recommended for closure or consolidation.

U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter said Willow Grove should have been spared because the region took a major hit in the 1990s when the Philadelphia Navy Yard was closed. He said if the base couldn't be saved, he would pursue federal economic aid for communities like Willow Grove.

Letterkenny Army Depot in Franklin County, the Tobyhanna Army Depot in the Poconos and the Naval Support Activity center in Philadelphia would gain a combined 1,000 jobs under the plan.

The Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, which had been considered a possible target, escaped unscathed.

Near Pittsburgh, the military proposed closing the 911th in Coraopolis and the Army's Charles E. Kelly Support Facility in Oakdale, which has a commissary used by many retirees in the region. The Army's 99th Regional Readiness Command in Coraopolis would also be realigned.

The 911th employs 322 people, according to the military. The base, located just outside the airport, is surrounded by new development, including industrial parks and hotels.

U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Pa., said the job losses would hurt a local economy already struggling because of cuts and layoffs by nearby U.S. Airways.

Carol Capo, whose family owns Suburban Dry Cleaners near the 911th, said the business has many customers who work at the base.

"It would be really terrible to see them leave," she said.

Sign-a-rama owner Kathy Ciesielski said she is concerned, because "there's a lot of military people around here that are customers of all of us."

This is the fifth base closure round since 1988, and the first in a decade. In the other four base closure rounds, Pennsylvania lost 16,500 jobs.

News In Brief From The Philadelphia Area

The Associated Press

May 18, 2005

Even if the Pentagon's recommendation to close the **Willow Grove** Naval Air Station moves forward, the military plans to maintain a presence at the joint reserve base, documents indicate.

The Pentagon's proposal calls for consolidating several regional reserve centers into one and locating "essential facilities" for those reservists at **Willow Grove**.

The Pentagon made its recommendations Friday to the nine-member Base **Realignment** and Closure commission. The panel must report its decisions to the president by Sept. 8. Congress then has 45 days to accept or reject the recommendations.

In addition to closing **Willow Grove**, the Pentagon recommends combining several reserve facilities, including the Horsham Memorial U.S. Army Reserve Center across Route 611 from **Willow Grove**.

About 190 reservists report to the Horsham center for training, said Maj. Greg Yesko, a public affairs officer with the Army Reserve's 99th Regional Readiness Command.

He said they would be joined by at least 500 others who now report to sites in Norristown, Chester and Germantown, and reservists from other branches of the military could join them.

Governor Rendell Meets With Western Pa Coalition To Plan Appeal For Military Facilities Marked For Closure

Global News Wire

May 16, 2005

ALLEGHENY COUNTY, Pa., May 16 /PRNewswire/ -- Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell today met with a coalition of local elected officials and community groups in Allegheny County to reaffirm his commitment to retaining jobs at military installations throughout Pennsylvania. The Governor has begun making plans to appeal Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's recommendations to the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission that Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Center, the Kelly Support Center in Pittsburgh, the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Coraopolis and other smaller reserve military stations across the Commonwealth be marked for closure. The recommendations mean the loss of 1,435 military jobs and 429 civilian jobs. Governor Rendell met with officials at **Willow Grove** on Friday.

"Pennsylvania's long and proud tradition of dedication at our depots and installations during both peace and wartime is unmatched across the nation," Governor Rendell said. "I have joined with leaders from across the state to continue our fight on behalf of the men and women working at our military installations who help support our special forces in Iraq and in Afghanistan, and will continue to throughout this important appeal process."

The Governor met with representatives at the local Chamber of Commerce and elected officials from Allegheny County immediately following a morning press conference to discuss plans to avoid closure at the three Western Pennsylvania bases. Pennsylvania maintains a fund in excess of \$ 1 million that Governor Rendell will dedicate to helping to fund local defense groups and Chambers of Commerce as they try to persuade the BRAC Commission to remove local installations from the closure list.

"We have been working for more than a year in anticipation of today, and have fought hard to minimize impact on the Commonwealth as much as possible," said Governor Rendell. "This is just the beginning of phase two when we will double our efforts to defend the jobs of the men and women across Pennsylvania who serve us with great distinction."

The Governor welcomed news on Friday that nearly 1,000 jobs will be gained in the Commonwealth at Letterkenny Army Depot, the Naval Support Activity in Philadelphia and Tobyhanna Army Depot. The Commonwealth has undergone Base **Realignment** and Closure processes in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995. During the previous four rounds, Pennsylvania lost 3,009 military positions and 13,024 civilian jobs statewide. Though Pennsylvania will gain nearly 1,000 jobs under the current recommendations, the Governor noted that during the two previous BRAC rounds alone, more than 16,000 positions have been eliminated statewide.

"Over the last four BRAC rounds, Pennsylvania has suffered a disproportionate share of BRAC cuts and we have paid more than our fair share," Governor Rendell said. "The Department of Defense must recognize this cruel fact and the significant military value of all of Pennsylvania's military facilities."

Pennsylvania is home to several critical logistics and supply facilities, including the Tobyhanna Army Depot in Monroe County, Letterkenny Army Depot in Franklin County, the Naval Support Activity in Philadelphia, the Defense Distribution Center in New Cumberland and the Naval Support Activity in Mechanicsburg. Accessible rail and highway systems, and the Port of Philadelphia, designated by the Department of Defense as a strategic port, directly support facilities. The Port has already demonstrated its tremendous ability to move military cargo in a quick, efficient and secure fashion.

Pennsylvania Devises Strategies For Base-Closing Fight

Knight-Ridder Tribune Business News - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette - Pennsylvania

James O'Toole

May 15, 2005

The Pentagon's proposal to close or downsize scores of military units nationwide will spur a summer of lobbying by states and communities desperate to hold onto the jobs and businesses surrounding those installations.

The supplicants face long odds. Only about 15 percent of the Defense Department's base-closing recommendations have been reversed in the four rounds of contraction that have occurred since 1988.

But Western Pennsylvania officials, confronted Friday with major losses on the latest list, took hope from one part of that history. The Moon operations of the Air National Guard's 911th Tactical Airlift Group, again in the budget cutters' cross-hairs, were removed from a similar list in the last volley of base closings a decade ago.

The Defense Department also called for elimination of the Army's Charles E. Kelly Support Facility in Collier, which includes a commissary and post-exchange facility used by thousands of military personnel and retirees in the region.

And major functions and personnel of the Army's 99th Regional Readiness Command in Coraopolis would be shifted to New Jersey, although some military personnel from the Kelly facility could be transferred to the 99th's nearby base.

In news conferences replicated across the country Friday, politicians rushed to reassure their constituents that they would fight the base closings. But they will do so in a process designed to insulate the inevitably controversial process -- insofar as practically possible -- from the tug of politics.

"I'm not about to say that the decisions were by any means totally political," Gov. Ed Rendell said Friday. But he added, recalling the state's previous experience, particularly his own efforts to preserve the Philadelphia Navy Yard, "There's always politics involved in this process at some level."

State politicians made their initial arguments with a show of bipartisanship.

Rendell, a Democrat, appeared Friday with Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., near Philadelphia to protest the inclusion of the **Willow Grove** Naval Air Station on the Pentagon list. He is scheduled to be in Pittsburgh tomorrow to plot strategy with business and community groups anxious to make the case for local reprieves from the closure list.

Santorum arrived in Pittsburgh later Friday, sharing a microphone with members of Congress from the region and with the Democratic chief executive of Allegheny County, Dan Onorato.

Overall, the state faces a proposed net loss of about 1,600 jobs from the Pentagon recommendations. It was small consolation to the holders of those jobs that the state fared relatively better on Friday's list than in the four prior rounds of closings, the largest of which erased an estimated 10,000 jobs from the Commonwealth.

The first task for politicians and civic leaders is to submit the closing list to a triage process, deciding which decisions are worth contesting and which are unlikely to be reversed, and building their appeals accordingly.

"You have to be careful you don't try to make a case for everything or you'll end up with nothing," said Rep. John Murtha, D-Johnstown, a senior congressional voice on defense issues.

Judging by the initial reactions to Friday's announcement, the 911th appeared to be a chief priority for state politicians and business leaders.

"Given the hit that Pittsburgh and **Willow Grove** took, it is likely that those will be our two main areas of concentration," Rendell said.

Santorum was among a chorus of state voices criticizing the Defense Department's explanation for closing the 911th. The Defense Department said one reason for its elimination was that it did not have adequate room for expansion, a point rebutted again and again Friday.

"The reasoning has a lot of us perplexed," Santorum said as he stood in Moon's Airside Business Park with the 911th base, and several of its C-130 cargo planes, visible behind him.

"Look over our shoulders and you see a lot of concrete, a lot of very expensive concrete," he said.

Santorum noted that the Allegheny County Airport Authority had made several overtures to the Defense Department offering surplus land for expansion.

Murtha said he wanted to investigate how many of the Reserve unit's pilots had civilian jobs with US Airways. He argued that consolidation of planes and physical facilities in Ft. Bragg, Ga., as the department plans, might prove a false economy if it were more difficult to recruit pilots for a relocated facility.

"What I worry about is they want to move those [C-130s] to Ft. Bragg and Ft. Bragg can't take care of the people they have now from an infrastructure standpoint," said Murtha. "That just doesn't make sense to me, to move that unit when the [Air] National Guard is going to stay there."

The Pennsylvania delegation and its counterparts across the nation will make their pleas to the nine-member Base **Realignment** and Closing Commission.

Members of the presidential panel are to visit all the bases over the next three months, hold regional hearings and make a final report to President Bush in September. They can remove a base or unit from the Defense Department list with a majority vote.

They can also add bases for closing beyond the list with a supermajority of seven of the nine members. Bush can accept or reject their final list, but he cannot make individual changes to it. Congress then must act on it by a simple up or down vote, with no amendments permitted.

The rigid process was created during the Reagan administration to counter a political dynamic in which it had become almost impossible to close bases over the inevitable opposition of members of Congress understandably determined to protect their constituents. Legislation passed in the late 1970s had mandated a cumbersome sequence of notifications to affected communities and members of Congress.

"We got so frustrated because we basically couldn't close any bases because of this law that [President] Carter had signed," recalled Lawrence Korb, a defense expert and former dean of Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs who served as assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, installation and logistics during the Reagan administration.

Korb has a skeptical view of the appeals process that will be the focus of so much public and lobbyist attention over the next four months.

"My message to people is, 'Save your money,'" Korb said of the efforts to influence the base list. "A lot of Washington lobbyists will make a lot of money, but historically, the list doesn't change much."

Of the costs to communities, Korb added, "I'd say two things: First, for every dollar you're not spending on a base that isn't needed, you could be buying body armor for a soldier or armoring a Humvee ... The second thing is that if communities take advantage of the [retraining] programs offered by the federal government, you are going to be better off in four or five years."

While Friday's announcement galvanized attention to the base-lobbying process, it is one that has actually been under way for some time.

Rendell, for example, will meet tomorrow with members of the Military Affairs Council, a group of civic leaders headed by retired state Superior Court Judge John Brosky and former USX Chairman David Roderick. F. Michael Langley, the chief executive of the Allegheny Conference, said the group was formed after the last round of base closings and was concerned with highlighting and supporting military facilities and personnel throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Rendell said the state had roughly \$ 1 million available to spend on the lobbying effort over the next four months. That is the balance of a \$ 4 million appropriation made in anticipation of the base-closing process, with most of the money already spent in assessing the state's military facilities and organizing the lobbying campaign to preserve them.

While vowing to battle at least some of the recommendations, Rendell and members of the state's congressional delegation expressed relief that the toll hadn't been heavier.

Increased employment was proposed for several major defense facilities in the center of the state and in Philadelphia. In addition, the Army War College in Carlisle, a rumored target of the

cutbacks, was preserved.

In contrast to prior rounds of cuts, Pennsylvania fared better than many other states. Across the country, the hardest-hit states were Connecticut, with potential losses of 8,586 jobs; Maine, 6,938; and Alaska, 4,619.

Local News Articles

Base's Location Ripe For Jobs, Official Says; Commissioner Sees Businesses, Not Homes, If Willow Grove Closes.

Morning Call (Allentown, Pennsylvania)

Pamela Lehman

May 20, 2005

Montgomery County's first priority is to keep the **Willow Grove** Naval Air Station open, but if it closes, opening the site to housing developments would be a mistake, the county's commissioner chairman said Thursday.

Real estate developers are salivating at the prospect that 1,100 acres of prime suburban Philadelphia land could be available if the Pentagon succeeds in closing the Horsham Township base.

Chairman Jim Matthews said the county does not have a plan for studying potential uses for the property. "I don't want anyone to conclude there's anything but a heated desire to keep that base open," he said.

"I would say [a development study] is going to be very complicated, because I think there's going to be environmental questions because I'm sure there's spillage up there and soil contamination."

Willow Grove would be ripe for housing development, but Matthews said that's the one thing he doesn't want. The area is already clogged with traffic, and additional housing would strain area school districts and lead to higher taxes.

"I don't envision it as an area for housing, but more for commercial development," he said. "It's right by the Turnpike, and for commercial development, you couldn't ask for a better location."

Real estate developers are excited at that prospect.

"It's an incredible, incredible location," said Dave Barnhart, vice president at real estate brokerage and research firm Grubb & Ellis in King of Prussia. "It's a once-in-a-generation kind of opportunity."

Barnhart said if the base closes, it will probably be redeveloped as retail, office, light industrial, residential and open space.

Though they don't want the base to go, nearby business owners have said new development would increase the tax base and bring in new customers.

Rob Franzia, owner of Century 21 across from the base, last week recalled how nearby Warminster Township went through similar circumstances in the 1990s when the Navy closed the

Naval Air Warfare Center. Business in the Bucks County community is now booming, he said.

"Everybody initially was worried because there were 2,000 civilian jobs up there," Franzia said. "The final result ended up being good. It provided parks, elderly housing and commercial development."

Willow Grove is one of 13 military facilities in Pennsylvania and 33 across the country that the Pentagon wants to close. Savings are projected at \$50 billion over the next 20 years.

The Defense Department's Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission will review the data and hold field meetings before presenting its findings to President Bush by Sept. 8. If Bush agrees, he'll forward the recommendations to Congress.

Closing **Willow Grove** would eliminate more than 1,200 military and civilian jobs.

"This is not something we're going to sit back and wait to happen," Matthews said. "[The base] is really key to the community and the area."

What is needed most for the area, he said, is jobs.

"You never know. Maybe it's the next biotechnology center on the East Coast. We'll have to look at all of these opportunities."

If a study group is organized to begin making plans for the property, all areas need to be represented, including members of the Horsham community, Matthews said.

"Everyone is going to have a voice in this in what direction we'd like to see it go."

**From Base Panel, A Word Of Caution;
A Member Of The Realignment Commission Said Previous Overhauls Might Have
Cut Needed Facilities.**

Philadelphia Inquirer
Dave Montgomery
May 19, 2005

A member of the nation's base-closing commission suggested yesterday that the military should proceed cautiously.

"We shouldn't rush into closing down facilities that we may need in the future," James Bilbray, a former House member from Nevada, said as the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission continued an opening round of hearings into the Pentagon's plan to close nearly 180 military installations, including 33 major facilities.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld last week submitted recommendations to the commission, which is using them as a starting point for a base-restructuring package to send to President Bush by Sept. 8.

Members are holding four days of hearings, concluding today, as they begin a four-month review that will include at least 15 regional hearings and visits to affected bases. (Pennsylvania would lose 1,878 jobs under the plan, which includes the closing of the **Willow Grove** Naval Air

Station. New Jersey could lose 3,760 jobs; its closures would include Fort Monmouth.)

Bilbray said yesterday that closing several bases in earlier overhauls may have been unwise and suggested that the military could repeat the mistake.

He said he was particularly concerned about proposed closure of Forts Gillem and McPherson in Georgia, asking top Army officials, "What is the logic of closing those?"

In an interview afterward, Bilbray said he was also concerned that Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and Cannon Air Force Base in New Mexico were on the list, suggesting that they might be needed for aircraft returning from overseas military bases that are being closed or downsized.

South Dakota Sens. Tim Johnson, a Democrat, and John Thune, a Republican, have proposed delaying the process in an attempt to save Ellsworth.

Maine Sens. Olympia J. Snowe and Susan Collins, both Republicans, said yesterday that they supported a delay, saying it made no sense to close military installations in wartime. They want to save Maine's Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey and Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army's chief of staff, defended closure of 15 Army installations and a far-reaching consolidation of Reserve and National Guard units. Schoomaker said the moves were part of "once-in-a-generation" restructuring to transform the Army into a leaner, more agile force to confront post-9/11 challenges.

Chairman Anthony J. Principi, resurrecting a theme that surfaced Monday, questioned plans to close 176 Army Reserve installations and 211 Army National Guard centers.

The Army plans to build 125 new reserve centers, but Principi expressed concern that the consolidation could force reservists and National Guard members to drive longer distances for training, discouraging many from reenlisting.

Harvey said the consolidation would result in minimal inconvenience, explaining that the maximum distance from a regional center would be 50 miles.

Previous base-closing commissions have accepted at least 85 percent of the Pentagon's recommendations, but Principi is promising a "clear-eyed reality check" of the latest proposals.

Do The Math, And Get Provincialism Out Of Closings

Morning Call (Allentown, Pennsylvania)

Paul Carpenter

May 17, 2005

It was sad to see Clark Air Base go. It was a fascinating place. But its demise could not be blamed on budget cuts.

Clark was abandoned in 1991 because Mount Pinatubo blew its volcanic top, a year before all U.S. military presence in the Philippines ended.

Haneda Air Base is gone, too, but in its place is Tokyo International Airport. Bossier Base no longer exists; its awesome security ramparts were torn down, but many buildings remain as a part of Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

The 1994 closing of Lowry Air Force Base in Denver hurt the most. I revisited the area in December and the Big Black Hangar, the site of our super-secret nuclear weapons school, is still there. It now houses ice skating rinks.

I checked after seeing the weekend stories about base closings, and many of my other old bases are still going. They include Kadena Air Base in Japan, Kunsan Air Base in Korea and Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma, where I learned to appreciate how nice the rest of America is.

Another thing I learned is that nothing the military ever does is cheap. (I worked on hundreds of weapons, each of which used a big gold contact ring, because gold conducts electricity a bit more dependably than do other materials.)

One story said the closing of the **Willow Grove** Naval Air Station will mean the loss of 362 civilian jobs, although expansions at the Tobyhanna Army Depot in Monroe County will mean a gain of 273 jobs.

Gov. Ed. Rendell was quoted as saying it was a "dark day" for **Willow Grove**. He and other politicians gathered near the main gate to vow a lobbying effort aimed at the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, which will review Pentagon plans for closings, etc., and forward them to President Bush and Congress for a decision in September.

The lobbying effort is "to make the case and hopefully reverse the decision," U.S. Rep. Allyson Schwartz, D-Pa., was quoted as saying. Also there was Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., whom Democrats are bashing for voting, earlier, in favor of overall base closings.

Democrats also are miffed because many shifts favor Republicans. For example, Florida, where the president's brother is governor, will see enormous gains in defense jobs, while New Mexico, where a Democratic governor and congressmen face re-election, will see big base closings.

Such decisions always have been viewed as political. Over the years, the most entrenched members of Congress, mainly in the South, became the most powerful, and the Pentagon carried their favor by packing their districts with pork.

That does not make it right, and I've always thought politics should be taken out of the process. Military installations should be placed where they do the most good for the country's defense and not where they do the most good for politicians or local economies.

Consider some simple math.

The Pentagon's budgets run around \$400 billion a year. That represents a tax burden of nearly \$4,000 for every household in America. Does each household in eastern Pennsylvania, on average, get \$4,000 worth of economic benefit from having a military installation at **Willow Grove**?

Its closing may be a hardship for some, but for the vast majority -- if you weigh your \$4,000 tax burden against the economic benefits you derive from that base -- the Pentagon's first responsibility should be to fulfill its missions as efficiently as possible.

It hurts to see some bases go. Military missions, however, are no less crucial now that global terrorism has replaced the threat of a global nuclear conflict -- and tax burdens are approaching crippling levels.

It is time for politicians to get their provincial noses out of the decisions of where the military can do its job best.

**Rumsfeld Defends Bases Plan;
He Said Things Could Be Hard For Communities Affected But A Better Military
Was The Payoff.**

Philadelphia Inquirer
Dave Montgomery
May 17, 2005

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld yesterday defended the Pentagon's plan to close nearly 180 military installations, but acknowledged the impact on scores of communities that are facing the loss of nearby bases.

"Change is never easy," Rumsfeld told the nine-member commission charged with reviewing the controversial proposal. "When communities are impacted, change is particularly hard."

Rumsfeld, speaking before the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, outlined a sweeping restructuring plan that would close 33 major installations and reduce the size of hundreds of others. The defense chief received a polite reception, although two commissioners expressed concerns that the base restructuring could drastically weaken the Air National Guard and Air Reserve.

"Do you really think this is a smart move?" commissioner James Bilbray asked. Guard and reserve centers make up many of the proposed closures, he said.

Gen. Richard B. Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that even with consolidations, the reserve forces still would have "a robust capacity."

The 2005 base-closing plan, the fifth round of base closings since 1988, hits hardest in sections of New England and the Midwest. Pennsylvania would have a net loss of 1,878 jobs, including the closing of the **Willow Grove** Naval Air Station. New Jersey could lose 3,760 jobs, including the closing of Fort Monmouth.

The commission will spend four months reviewing the Pentagon's list and preparing final recommendations for Congress and President Bush.

Although previous base-closing panels have endorsed most of the Pentagon's recommendations, commission Chairman Anthony Principi told Rumsfeld that the upcoming review would subject the Pentagon's latest plan to a "clear-eyed reality check."

"If accepted by the President and the Congress, what you propose will have profound effects on communities and on the people who bring them to life. They will also shape our military capabilities for decades to come," said Principi, a former secretary of veterans affairs.

Rumsfeld said the Department of Labor and the Pentagon's Office of Economic Adjustment were gearing up to offer economic assistance to affected communities.

Acknowledging that some might question the rationale of closing bases during wartime, Rumsfeld said the restructuring would create a leaner, more efficient wartime fighting force. Myers said the plan "converts excess capacity to war-fighting capacity."

Rumsfeld said he "did not make a single change" in the plan after it was drafted by the military leadership and senior Pentagon officials, explaining that any single change could have an impact on other aspects of the plan. He urged the commissioners to be equally cautious in their base-by-base review.

Rumsfeld mentioned only one specific proposed closure, that of Washington's Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which would merge with the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. The consolidation would result in an even better medical facility, Rumsfeld said.

Rendell; 911th; Closure; 'Ludicrous'

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

Mark Belko

May 17, 2005

* Independents have a chance to vote on two questions. Page B-3

Gov. Ed Rendell believes the Pentagon made "one whopper of a mistake" in targeting the U.S. Air Force Reserve 911th Airlift Wing in Moon for closing.

Picking up on a criticism that began late Friday after the latest round of base closings was announced, Rendell chastised the Pentagon yesterday for citing land constraints as justification for the 911th's demise when 53 acres of property are available for expansion at Pittsburgh International Airport.

The Pentagon is looking for a facility big enough to host 16 to 18 C-130 tactical airlifters. Rendell said it was "absolutely ludicrous" that it would consider closing the 911th given the opportunities for expansion and Western Pennsylvania's key strategic location.

He also said the Air Force could lose valuable expertise and experience by closing the base because many reservists, including some US Airways employees, may not want to move elsewhere.

"No guarantees, but we think we've got some real good arguments to make and we're going to make them," he said as he stood in a parking lot with the 911th serving as a backdrop.

Rendell joined a host of local and state politicians and officials at the news conference to pledge support in efforts to save the 911th and two other bases, the Army's Charles E. Kelly Support Facility in Collier and the 99th Regional Readiness Command in Moon.

The Kelly Support Facility near Oakdale is scheduled to close and the 99th is targeted for **realignment**, with personnel most likely to move to Fort Dix, N.J. The move and closings could cost the region close to 700 jobs.

"The fighting's just begun," said Rendell, a Democrat, noting he intends to work with the other

officials, congressmen, and U.S. Sens. Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter, both high-ranking Republicans in the Senate, to save those bases.

Rendell said the initial strategy would be to try to convince the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission appointed by President Bush to review the Pentagon recommendations and to consolidate the three facilities at one location in Pittsburgh.

A similar strategy worked in 1995 in Philadelphia when three military supply facilities were targeted for closing. Rendell, then Philadelphia mayor, and others convinced the BRAC Commission to consolidate the facilities, saving 7,000 jobs.

"I believe we have a chance to sell our consolidation proposal here," Rendell said.

Even before the closings were announced, a study done for the Military Affairs Council of Western Pennsylvania discussed the creation of a Regional Joint Readiness Center that would include the consolidation of the three facilities and others.

In addition to saving money, such a center could become a key asset for the government in terms of homeland security and defense because of its strategic location, the study said.

Rendell said \$1.2 million in state money will be available to hire experts to analyze the data and rationale used by the U.S. Department of Defense in its recommendations involving the three local facilities and to help devise a strategy for saving bases.

After yesterday's news conference, Rendell met with Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato; F. Michael Langley, chief executive officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and a Military Affairs Council representative; various state senators and legislators; and others to begin discussing and coordinating a game plan.

He said he hoped to firm up a strategy over the next six weeks in preparation for BRAC Commission hearings, which he expects to be held in July.

Even as political, civic and business leaders geared up for action, Rendell cautioned that the region may have to be selective in choosing which battle to fight. In fact, only about 15 percent of the Pentagon's base-closing recommendations have been reversed in the four rounds that have taken place since 1988.

Rendell is also battling to save other facilities throughout the state, including a naval air station at **Willow Grove**, Montgomery County. Overall, the Pentagon recommendations could result in the loss of 1,435 military and 429 civilian jobs in Pennsylvania.

Making A Case For 911th

Pittsburgh Tribune Review

Brian Bowling

May 17, 2005

Leaky hangars, a crumbling main runway and rusty water lines plague the North Carolina air base targeted as the new home for cargo planes from the 911th Airlift Wing in Moon, according to a government report.

That's one of the reasons the Pentagon should consider expanding the 911th rather than closing it

and moving aircraft to Pope Air Force Base at Fort Bragg, N.C., U.S. Rep. Jack Murtha, D-Johnstown, said Monday.

"It doesn't make any sense to me," said Murtha, the ranking Democrat on the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Pentagon on Friday recommended closing the 911th and the Army's Charles E. Kelly Support Facility in Collier and moving the 99th Regional Readiness Command from Moon to Fort Dix, N.J. Those were among 33 major bases and 120 smaller facilities ticketed for closure nationwide.

The nine-member Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission has until Sept. 8 to review the Pentagon proposal and ship its own recommendations to the White House. In the meantime, politicians and lobbyists across the country are scrambling to get bases in their district off the hit list.

Part of that effort, Murtha said, will include touting the 911th as a base with good facilities and room for expansion -- in contrast to Pope Air Force Base.

A 2003 report by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, described Pope as a base in disrepair.

"While we saw buildings at Pope that appeared to be in good condition on the outside, officials advised us to drink only bottled water because the installation's water pipes were so thoroughly clogged with rust and sediment that the water was considered unsafe to drink," the report says.

The report says the base's main runway had to be shut down for repairs in February 2002 and crews regularly walk the runway to remove crumbled pavement.

Pope spokesman Ed Drohan said the water problem was limited to a few buildings. The base has built one new hangar, is building another and is renovating its runway area, he said.

"We do have problems, just like any other air base has problems, but nothing that's overwhelming," he said.

Thirteen Pennsylvania bases are scheduled to be closed, and six are to be downsized. The Pentagon estimates that the Pittsburgh area would lose 1,416 jobs -- 845 on the bases plus 571 from suppliers and other businesses.

Gov. Ed Rendell met yesterday in Moon with local officials and members of the Military Affairs Council of Western Pennsylvania to discuss a strategy to try to save the local bases.

Keeping them all is a virtual impossibility, he conceded. Appeals will focus on larger facilities such as the 911th or the **Willow Grove** Naval Air Station near Philadelphia, the governor said.

"We have to pick our best shots," Rendell said.

For Western Pennsylvania, the best shot may be to combine the Kelly center and the 99th into an expanded 911th, which would then serve as a regional military base and staging area for responding to domestic terror attacks, Rendell said.

Homeland security didn't figure into the Pentagon's analysis of bases, but the state -- relying on \$1.2 million reserved for the lobbying effort -- plans to argue that it should be a factor, he said.

"No guarantees, but we think we've got some real good arguments to make," Rendell said.

The 911th figures prominently in the local political fight, at least in part because officials believe they can prove the Pentagon's analysis of the facility is flawed. A Pentagon report says the 911th can handle only 10 C-130 cargo planes; the Air Force believes a 16-plane squadron would be more cost-effective.

Local leaders said the Defense Department failed to consider that 53 acres of tarmac are available to expand the 911th at Pittsburgh International Airport.

Pittsburgh's military-friendly nature also gives the Pentagon reason to keep units stationed here, said Michael Langley, chief executive officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

"This area has long been a hotbed for military expertise," he said.

That could change if there's no longer a large local base here, Murtha said.

Concentrating reserve units in fewer locations could pose other problems, Murtha said. He compared it to the Navy building a ship that requires so few crew that it no longer has enough sailors on hand to fight a fire or handle other emergencies.

"You can be too efficient," he said. "It's not good to have them all from one place, that's for sure."

Opinions/ Editorials

Turn Closure Into A Good Thing

Philadelphia Inquirer
May 19, 2005

Jonathan E. Rinde and Jonathan H. Spergel

are partners at the law firm of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP of Bala Cynwyd

With the recent announcement by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld of the next round of military bases to be closed under the Base **Realignment** and Closure Act, commonly known as BRAC, communities that surround these military bases are panicked about the loss of revenue resulting from base closures. In our backyard, residents of Horsham Township, home to the **Willow Grove** Naval Air Station, are looking with anxiety to the actions of the President and Congress regarding the base closure recommendations.

Rightfully so. The short-term, adverse effects of a closed military base ripple throughout the local economy.

But, as environmental and land-use lawyers who have assisted in the redevelopment of several closed military bases, we know that a closed military base also brings, in many instances, exciting long-term redevelopment opportunities.

In the coming months, the politically charged atmosphere regarding the proposed list of closed bases will give way to realization among many communities that their local base will fall victim to a shrinking military budget. The community's energies should then focus on this question: "How do we want to redevelop the site?"

One of the main tasks in planning the redevelopment of a former base site is assessing environmental conditions at the site and resolving any concerns to stay consistent with the chosen redevelopment plan. According to the General Accounting Office, 28 percent of the property subject to previous rounds of BRAC still has not been transferred from the federal government "due primarily to the need for environmental cleanup."

Two principal federal provisions require the U.S. Department of Defense to assure the new owners that the site of any closed military base has some level of environmental protection. One such provision protects subsequent owners and users from environmental conditions caused by the military's use of the site. The other provision requires that the military undertake necessary studies and cleanups, and then conclude the site is environmentally suitable, before transferring the base to the new owners.

We have been involved in the redevelopment of three closed military bases in various stages of redevelopment. The old Defense Personnel Support Center in South Philadelphia has been redeveloped into a retail center called the Quartermaster Plaza, even though the military continues to conduct the remediation of petroleum contamination at the site. In Massachusetts, the former Watertown Arsenal located in Watertown, adjacent to Cambridge, has been turned into a commercial office complex that was recently acquired by Harvard University for faculty offices and campus expansion, and has helped to revitalize the entire town of Watertown. Finally, at the old Philadelphia Navy Yard, which itself is the size of Center City, the city has recently announced an ambitious redevelopment plan that creates whole new neighborhoods, including industrial, commercial and residential components.

In each of these communities, the prospect of military base closure was initially met with much anguish and skepticism. But in all these examples, initial dread gave way to optimism and sound economic development. With a focus on creative problem-solving and thoughtful planning, communities can turn the sites of former military bases into productive and economically viable facilities that add to the vibrance of their community. There is life after BRAC.

Closing Willow Grove Air Station Pain, But Perhaps Gain

Philadelphia Inquirer

May 18, 2005

U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (D., N.J.) has vowed to "fight like hell" against the Defense Department's base-closing list, which includes the Army's Fort Monmouth in New Jersey.

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell says he, too, will battle the plan, which proposes shutting down the **Willow Grove** Naval Air Station in Montgomery County.

Their rage to wage war is understandable given the potential job losses. But statistics about jobs and tax revenue aren't the only ones that matter in this fight.

The United States has evolving national security needs, and it has a budget that's deep in the red. No base should remain open if it doesn't make sense militarily or fiscally.

And that goes for Fort Monmouth and **Willow Grove** Naval Air Station.

Willow Grove, with 865 military and 362 civilian full-time employees, is the largest among 13 military installations in Pennsylvania that would be closed under recommendations made Friday by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Fort Monmouth, with 620 military and 4,652 civilian workers, is the largest among four New Jersey bases designated to be shut down.

Base closings are always hard on the employees and their families, but sometimes they turn into positives for communities in the long run.

Developers have long coveted the Montgomery County land where **Willow Grove** sprang up more than 60 years ago. If the base closes, residents would no longer have to fear a catastrophe such as the fatal crash of a fighter jet during an air show five years ago. The values of nearby houses would probably rise. The 1,100-acre base in Horsham could become a mixed-use development that could add to the appeal of an already popular Philadelphia suburb.

Politicians need to keep those possibilities in mind as they consider their next steps.

Adrian King, a deputy chief of staff to Rendell, says the governor won't oppose shutting down **Willow Grove** if the data suggest that is the best course militarily. But he says the Pentagon sometimes makes mistakes.

For example, the Defense Department has proposed closing the Air Force Reserve's 911th Airlift Wing near Pittsburgh, allegedly because there's no room to expand to a full squadron, 16 planes instead of eight. But Allegheny County officials have committed land for the expansion.

The Defense Department list has been given to the nine-member federal Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, which was created in the 1980s to take the politics out of base-closing decisions. Commission members peppered Rumsfeld with skeptical questions about the plan Monday.

BRAC will make its recommendations to President Bush in September. He must either accept the entire list or reject it. If he accepts it, it becomes final unless Congress passes a joint resolution to block it.

Some states have been active for months trying to keep their bases off the Pentagon list. New Jersey officials say their lobbying helped keep 125-year-old Picatinny Arsenal in Morris County off the list. Rendell's office says \$1.2 million remains of \$4.5 million appropriated over the last two years to oppose base closings in Pennsylvania.

As this process continues, the Bush administration must not abandon past Pentagon procedures to help communities where bases close. King says there are fears that the Pentagon will no longer pay to clean up pollution from military use, or that the feds will try to sell the base sites at high, market-rate prices.

When the Pentagon decides a site no longer has military value, it should do all it can to help find the best civilian uses for the base.

Battle Of The Bases Local Allies Close Ranks To Resist Pentagon Cuts

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)
May 17, 2005

Friday the 13th brought potentially bad luck to this region, a part of the country that has long done its part in proudly populating the ranks of the nation's military forces. But when Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld announced the Pentagon's recommendations to close or realign bases, history did not count for much in any part of Pennsylvania.

That the fifth round of base closings since 1988 -- conducted by the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission -- did not spare the state is cause for alarm but not despair. These are just recommendations, the first salvo in a larger battle now joined by communities across the nation that understandably want to keep their bases and the jobs that go with them.

The BRAC process is a big undertaking, involving the closing of 33 major bases and the **realignment** of 29 more at a potential savings of nearly \$50 billion over two decades.

This is perhaps to Pennsylvania's advantage, because the big savings are going to come elsewhere, at places that employ thousands such as Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Conn. As painful as local cuts may be, they are small potatoes in the larger scheme of things and the ax may be more easily stayed because the potential returns are smaller.

In Allegheny County, the Air Force Reserve's 911th Tactical Airlift Group base near Pittsburgh International Airport in Moon and operations at the Army's Charles E. Kelly Support Facility in Collier are recommended for closing. Additionally, it is proposed that the Army's 99th Regional Readiness Command in Moon be sent elsewhere.

In total, 13 military installations in Pennsylvania are recommended for closing -- including the **Willow Grove** Naval Air Station outside Philadelphia. Five others would be downsized. According to The Associated Press, Pennsylvania would see a net loss of 1,658 military and civilian jobs under the proposal.

It is important to remember no closings will occur until a review is completed and Congress votes. That presents an opportunity.

In this situation, military metaphors suggest themselves. The way to win battles is to:

1. Be well prepared. Fortunately, Gov. Ed Rendell has made a good start, anticipating the problem by appointing the Pennsylvania Base Development Committee, which is dedicated to resisting any further base closings in the state. The Allegheny County Airport Authority has also been proactive. Some years ago it set aside land adjacent to the military base at the airport for possible expansion. Moreover, a local coalition of public and private figures has also been studying the economic value of the bases here.
2. Rely on experience. This region has the advantage of having been previously successful in this process. That the 911th Tactical Airlift Group is still out at the airport is due to a specially appointed committee building an excellent case on its behalf concerning its military usefulness.
3. Show a united front. The BRAC process is supposed to be nonpolitical, and making the best military argument is still the best strategy. But an energetic response from the political leadership and the community must complement the presentation of the local case.

It was heartening Friday to see public officials -- Democrats and Republicans -- all united in the common cause of saving the local bases. Sen. Rick Santorum, Rep. Melissa Hart, Rep. Tim Murphy and Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato were among those gathered together. Others stand ready to help.

4. Have a battle plan. Several speakers at the press conference indicated that the recommendations did not accurately reflect the reality on the ground here, including the available land for expansion at the airport. The important role of local reserve units in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan was also noted. Good arguments to keep local facilities open should not be hard to find.

The good news is that first shots rarely decide the battle, and this region has only just begun to fight.



2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Defense Finance and Accounting Service Arlington

1. **The Congress established the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) to evaluate the suggestions, made by the Department of Defense (DoD), to close or realign various military installations across the country. The process followed by the Commission has been specifically outlined by law and is completely transparent to the public.**
 - The Commission will perform a full evaluation, as prescribed by statute, before reaching its conclusion regarding DFAS Arlington.
 - While military value is the preeminent consideration of the Commission, the Commission will also consider the economic, environmental, and other effects that the suggestion to realign DFAS Arlington would have on the surrounding community.
 - The Commission is aware of the cost of making the changes proposed by DoD, consolidating the DFAS installations into 3 locations, and will take the economic ramifications of this decision into full account, while basing the Commission's final decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The Commission is aware of the record of performance had by DFAS Arlington and will take this into account as it evaluates DoD's decision to close the installation as a part of DoD's strategy for ensuring that our military is as streamlined as possible to meet changing global threats.

2. **The Commission is keenly aware of the human impact that the suggestion by DoD to realign DFAS Arlington would have, should the suggestion be enacted.**
 - The Commission is aware of the effects of the potential job loss, should DoD's suggestion to close the DFAS be enacted, and will take these into full consideration, while basing its final decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The Commission is aware of the economic and human impact of the decision to realign DFAS Arlington to a minimal liaison staff. While the effect on communities that these decisions could have is very important to the Commission, the factors to be taken into account have been set forth by law and the Commission will hold military value as its most important consideration.

3. **The Commission is entirely non-partisan and non-political in nature.**
 - The factors to be considered by the Commission, as well as the process to be followed, have been specifically set forth by law.
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to evaluate the suggestions made by DoD to close or realign various military installations across the country, and to ensure that those suggestions were made in keeping with the law and after all pertinent factors were taken into account.
 - The Commission was established partly to serve as a source of public accountability and after conducting a thorough, transparent and open evaluation, will base its final decision almost entirely upon military value.

Facts taken from included press clippings.



2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Qs and As for Defense Finance and Accounting Service Arlington

Q1. The current Department of Defense (DoD) recommendations, including DFAS Arlington, would displace some 23,000 workers out of commercial real estate in the Northern Virginia area. The cost on the local economy would be immense as newly-constructed buildings would become vacant. How will the Commission factor the economic cost of the DoD's recommendations on the local VA economy?

A1. The statute establishes the criteria. As outlined by the statute, the Department of Defense (DoD) placed priority on military value; while also taking into consideration economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of a base would have on the community surrounding that base. The Commission recognizes that the DoD recommendations regarding leased space will affect a large number of people. As such, the Commission will strongly consider the economic ramifications of the Pentagon's proposal.

Q2. Recently, Senator John W. Warner (R-VA), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has expressed serious concern regarding the DoD's closure/realignment recommendations with regard to VA/DC military installations. In the past, Sen. Nunn (D-GA), who served in the same capacity in the Senate, was able to use his political influence to protect Georgia installations from previous BRAC rounds. Will Sen. Warner's position afford him the opportunity to influence the Commission regarding VA/DC military installations?

A2. The Congress established the BRAC Commission as an entirely non-partisan and non-political entity to independently evaluate whether DoD made its recommendations in accordance with the law. The Commission will serve to provide accountability to the public and ensure that all suggestions have been based upon the criteria set forth by statute. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis, in a completely open and transparent manner, which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the lease space in northern Virginia, but will also consider the economic, environmental and other effects that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community.

Q3. Under the Pentagon's plan, the majority of the displaced workers would be moved to the corporate and administrative functions at the Defense Supply Center in Columbus, OH, the Buckley Air Base in Denver, or the Federal Center in Indianapolis. Will the Commission consider the ability of these installations to accept personnel in its evaluation of the DFAS Arlington?

A3. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the base, but will also consider other factors. The ability of the community to support a military installation is very important, as is the effect that the closure of that installation would have on the community. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q4. Overall, the DoD's recommendations with regard to DFAS—a 16,000 member accounting cadre that processes payrolls and invoices and administers military trust funds for the armed forces—could potentially result in 13,000 layoffs by 2011. These efforts are part of the DoD's goal of consolidating military missions/functions across the country. Will the Commission consider the economic costs of consolidating DFAS?

A4. The Commission will take all pertinent factors into consideration, as prescribed by law. While military value is the preeminent consideration, the Commission will also take other factors, such as the economic and environmental impact on the local communities, into full account.

Q5. How can members of the local community make the Commission aware of their concerns?

A5. The BRAC Commission welcomes public input; it is a vital part of the Commission's process of evaluation. Members of the community are encouraged to contact the Commission with any factors that they feel were overlooked by DoD in the DoD's evaluation and suggestions.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



**DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE
ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA**

National News Articles

Virginia lawmakers discuss base closures

DoD accountants targeted for layoffs; United States. Department of Defense; United States. Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Local News Articles

BRAC Panel Sets Hearing on N. VA; Many Arlington Workers Oppose Pentagon Proposed Relocation; Forum is July 7

In Defense of Arlington, A Heads-Up to Pentagon

Study to look at what more Ft. Belvoir jobs would mean for traffic

Citizens Speak Out About BRAC Plan

Editorial/Opinion Articles

National News Articles

Virginia lawmakers discuss base closures

Federal Computer Week

Frank Tiboni

June 21, 2005

Three Virginia congressmen met with Defense Department employees and the public June 20 to discuss the Pentagon's base realignment decision to move more than 20,000 DOD workers in Northern Virginia to other forts and facilities in Virginia and Maryland.

Almost 400 people attended the 90-minute event hosted by Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.) that included Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.) and Sen. John Warner (R-Va.). DOD workers expressed concerns about longer commutes to work and relocation to remote bases in the region because of the May 13 decision, according to an announcement this week on Moran's Web site.

"As you know, the recommendations include the dislocation of nearly 23,000 employees from leased office space in Northern Virginia and the infusion of 18,000 employees to Fort Belvoir," Va., Moran said in a survey issued at the town hall meeting. "The recommendations would have serious economic, workforce and traffic implications in this region."

Many of the DOD employees in Northern Virginia affected by base realignment and closure work in information technology and research and development. The Defense Information Systems Agency and the Joint Task Force for Global Network Operations will move from Arlington, Va., to Fort Meade, Md., and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency will relocate from Arlington to the Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Maryland.

Other DOD IT organizations impacted by base closures include:

* The Army's Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command will move from Fort Monmouth, N.J., to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

* The Army's Small Computer Program Office will move from Fort Monmouth to Fort Belvoir.

* The Air Force's Operations and Sustainment Systems Group and the Engineering and Integration Systems Squadron, formerly called the Headquarters Standard Systems Group will move from Montgomery, Ala., to the Electronic Systems Center near Boston. The center houses the Operations Support Systems Wing, which oversees procurement of the service's business or combat support IT systems and also manages the two organizations.

DoD accountants targeted for layoffs; United States. Department of Defense; United States. Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Accounting Today

June 6, 2005

Washington -- The Defense Finance and Accounting Service - a 16,000-member accounting cadre that processes payrolls and invoices and administers military trust funds for the armed forces - will face a massive restructuring that includes site closures and layoffs. The **DFAS** cutback, announced as part of mid-May's decision by the Department of Defense to close 33 military bases, includes shuttering more than 20 locations across the country and instituting layoffs that could potentially approach 13,000 by the year 2011. Most of those furloughed would be civilians.

The closures would affect **DFAS** sites such as Rock Island, Ill., Patuxent River, Md., Charleston, S.C., Orlando, Fla., San Bernardino and Oakland, Calif., and Kansas City, Mo. The plan also calls for a **realignment of DFAS** locations in **Arlington, Va.**, and Cleveland, by relocating and consolidating the offices' corporate and administrative functions to the Defense Supply Center in Columbus, Ohio, the Buckley Air Base in Denver, or the Federal Center in Indianapolis. A minimal liaison staff would remain in both **Arlington** and Cleveland.

The DoD estimated that it would absorb a one-time charge of \$ 282.1 million and realize an annual savings of roughly \$ 120.5 million through fiscal 2011. Over a 20-year period, the DoD estimated savings of \$ 1.3 million via the **DFAS** consolidation.

Local News Articles

BRAC Panel Sets Hearing on N. VA; Many Arlington Workers Oppose Pentagon Proposed Relocation; Forum is July 7

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Paul Bradley

July 21, 2005

Northern Virginia officials can claim at least one victory as they fight Pentagon recommendations that would cost Arlington County more than 23,000 jobs.

The federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission has changed course and agreed to hold a public hearing July 7 about the impact of the Defense Department recommendations on Northern Virginia and the Washington region.

Republican U.S. Sen. John W. Warner of Virginia, who chairs the Senate Committee on Armed Services, said the commission hearing will allow residents and officials to directly air their concerns as the panel considers the Pentagon recommendations.

Those concerns primarily stem from the Pentagon's plan to move 23,000 employees from leased

office space in Rosslyn, Crystal City and other areas near the Pentagon. The plan would also affect thousands of government contractors.

The jobs would shift to places both near and far. Some would go to Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County or Fort Meade near Baltimore. But others would move to such places as Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, Buckley Air Force Base in Colorado, Scott Air Force Base in Illinois and Fort Knox in Kentucky.

This impact was the subject of a town-hall-style meeting yesterday. Led by U.S. Rep. James P. Moran, D-8th, the meeting at George Mason University law school in Arlington was attended by 250 people concerned that the proposed changes will severely disrupt their lives. Their concerns included pulling their children from schools, asking a spouse to give up a job, coping with a long commute or moving away from family and friends.

Moran said initial feedback from Pentagon officials indicates that up to three-quarters of employees affected by the base closings might balk at moving.

"We are not just looking into the economic impact," he said. "We are looking at the impact on the families in this community."

Typical of those in attendance was Thomas F. Hafer, a contractor who works closely with the Office of Naval Research, which would move from Crystal City to Bethesda, Md.

"Hell, no, I won't go," the Arlington resident said. "I'll flip hamburgers in Arlington before I'll commute to Bethesda."

U.S. Rep. Thomas M. Davis III, R-11th, said the Pentagon erred in its recommendations when it did not account for such things as morale and recruitment.

"Some of the decisions ... will affect the work product of the Department of Defense," he said. "It will hinder their ability to retain the best and the brightest."

Warner and Davis said they believe the Pentagon's recommendations were based on factors other than those included in the federal law establishing the commission.

The law says base-closing decisions must be based on such factors as military readiness and the economic impact of military installations on host communities. But in the case of Arlington County, other factors entered the equation, including security concerns and an overall shift toward moving defense facilities out of the National Capital Region.

Jay Fisette, chairman of the Arlington County Board, noted that none of the earlier rounds of military-base closings dealt with the question of leased space.

"There is no model for this," he said. "The implications are very significant for our community, but also for other communities down the road if this isn't handled properly."

In Defense of Arlington, A Heads-Up to Pentagon

Stephen Barr

The Washington Post

June 19, 2005

Arlington County leads the hit parade on the Defense Department's base-closing list.

The Pentagon's proposed base closings, announced last month, would eliminate almost all of the department's leased office space in **Arlington**, according to an analysis prepared by Moody's Investors Service.

About 23,000 Defense employees would be moved out of the leased space in Rosslyn, in Crystal City, along Columbia Pike and in other locations. Their jobs would be shifted to area forts, such as Belvoir and Meade, and to places out of state, such as Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, Buckley Air Force Base in Colorado, Scott Air Force Base in Illinois and Fort Knox in Kentucky. Several thousand contractors also would find their work lives disrupted.

Rep. James P. Moran Jr. (D-Va.), who represents **Arlington**, said the initial feedback from Defense officials indicates that half to three-quarters of employees caught up in the base closings might balk at moving.

Some of the employees would face longer commutes, and others would have to decide whether to ask a spouse to give up a job, pull kids out of schools and move away from friends, Moran said.

The Pentagon recommendations, if approved, probably would create "a serious brain drain" at Defense agencies leaving **Arlington**, Moran said. "It just doesn't make sense to break down the synergy we have achieved in Northern Virginia between DOD agencies, the contract personnel and the other parts of the federal government that they work so closely with," he said.

In an attempt to learn what federal employees think about the Pentagon recommendations and to discuss Pentagon criteria for the use of leased space, Moran, Rep. Thomas M. Davis III (R-Va.) and Sen. John W. Warner (R-Va.) have scheduled a town hall meeting at noon Monday in the law school atrium at George Mason University in **Arlington**. (For details, call 202-225-4376.)

Davis said he is concerned that when the time comes to make a decision, Defense employees might opt out of the government rather than ask their families to move. "Smart people who are working for the government can easily find jobs in the private sector," Davis said.

Employees who have security clearances, in particular, are in demand. "It's like being a left-handed relief pitcher," Davis quipped.

Defense agencies support the Pentagon recommendations but acknowledge that they probably will face staffing disruptions if the proposed moves are not changed by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, known as **BRAC**, or the president or Congress.

For example, the Defense Information Systems Agency and Joint Task Force-Global Network Operations would move out of buildings on Columbia Pike and in the Skyline complex and relocate to Fort Meade in Maryland. The two organizations have nearly 2,600 military and civilian personnel in the Washington area, and 75 percent of them live in Northern Virginia.

DISA officials estimate that they would lose at least 50 percent of their workforce because of the

relocation. "This loss will have an impact on DISA's ability to meet mission requirements because of the time required to reconstitute the workforce," an agency spokesman said.

About 2,000 of the 3,600 Washington area employees and contractors for the Missile Defense Agency would move to Huntsville, Ala. Many work in 11 sites in Northern Virginia. David Altwegg, deputy director for business management at Missile Defense, said experiences with **BRAC** and other relocations indicate that 60 percent to 70 percent of the agency's staff "may decide they prefer to stay here in the Washington area or not go to Huntsville." But he said the agency believes it would be able to "manage through that," if necessary, and hire qualified replacements in the Huntsville region.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency has about 240 employees and nearly 600 contractors in two buildings in **Arlington's** Virginia Square. They are supported by 900 contractors in the Ballston corridor. DARPA would move to Bethesda under the Pentagon plan.

The majority of DARPA employees come from industry, usually at some personal sacrifice, for three- to five-year projects. Program managers are critical to DARPA's success, and officials predict that recruitment will be difficult during the **BRAC** transition.

One agency official, in a **BRAC** presentation, said, "It may take years for DARPA to recover."

Study to look at what more Ft. Belvoir jobs would mean for traffic

The Associated Press
Heather Greenfield
June 15, 2005

Regional leaders want to know about the traffic problems could come with the proposed move of thousands of military jobs to Fort Belvoir in Northern Virginia.

The Transportation Planning Board approved funding Wednesday for a study by George Mason University that will look at the number of jobs relocated, how the move will affect traffic patterns and the cost of expanding roads or public transit.

Paul DesJardin, the chief of housing and planning for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, promised board members the study would also examine what will happen if contractors moved near the expanded military locations in southern Fairfax county.

"If the (Department of Defense) gets its way, I don't want them to have a free ride literally or figuratively," said board member David Snyder of Falls Church. He said the federal government should cover any increased transportation costs for the region.

The Pentagon's base closure plan could move 18,000 jobs to the southern Fairfax County base. They would come from several locations, including **Arlington** County, Va., Bethesda, Md., and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Northwest Washington.

The plan is not official yet. The Pentagon's recommendations are being reviewed by the independent base Realignment and Closure Commission, and then must be approved by the

president and Congress.

Members of the affected communities will also get a chance to voice their concerns. The **BRAC** Commission will hold a public hearing in the Washington area July 7, said Doxie McCoy, a spokeswoman for Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC. A time and location have not been set. Another hearing is set for Baltimore on July 8.

COG officials hope to have the study finished in time for the July 8 hearing and to spend the summer lobbying against the proposed base closings.

One group is already applauding the decision to quantify the cost of moving the jobs.

"We expect development and transportation impacts on jurisdictions as far out as Caroline County in Virginia and Carroll County in Maryland," said Coalition for Smarter Growth spokesman Stewart Schwartz.

Citizens Speak Out About BRAC Plan

WTOP Radio

Monday, Jun. 20, 2005 - 5:31 PM

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) - Thomas Hafer is a security consultant who walks 15 minutes each day to his Arlington office near the defense agency clients he serves. But he already has decided what he'll do if the military moves those customers out of the area, as the Pentagon has suggested.

"Hell no, I won't go," he told an audience of some 200 gathered at George Mason University Law School for a town hall meeting about northern Virginia base closures. "I'll flip hamburgers in Arlington before I have to commute or relocate over to Bethesda (Md.)."

Hafer, 56, was one of the dozen or so audience members who vented in front of a bipartisan panel of Virginia lawmakers about the relocations to beyond-the-Beltway spots like Fort Belvoir in southern Fairfax County.

"There's virtually no support for the move," U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., said after the gathering. Moran and the other lawmakers at the meeting acknowledged they couldn't directly stop the roughly 23,000 area defense jobs from being slashed or relocated if an independent commission follows the Pentagon's recommendations.

But they vowed to make sure the commission abides by the criteria it was given, which they said does not include some of the reasons the Pentagon offered for closures. The military has suggested moving the bases because of Defense Department directives, like one calling for military facilities to move out of leased spaces, that may be beyond the commission's mandate, lawmakers said.

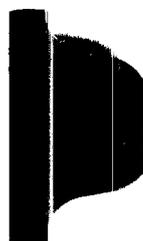
"We're going to work - and work hard - to make certain that the law is complied with by the Department of Defense," said U.S. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., who chairs the Senate's Armed Services Committee.

The concerns raised by audience members at the forum ranged from lost productivity by workers with long commutes to fears that putting more workers on the road to far-off job sites would make traffic worse in an already congested region.

Another worry was expressed by the buttons worn by many at the meeting with the words "Brain Drain!"

"If you leave some of these research areas, most of you won't be flipping hamburgers," U.S. Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., told audience members who work with the military. "You'll be going out to one of these other companies out here and probably making more money than you're making today."

Editorial/Opinion Articles



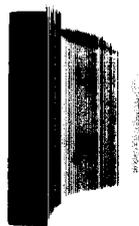
**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Fort Monroe**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close Fort Monroe**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure of the installation could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest Fort Monroe for closure is military value.
 - The Commission understands the long history of Fort Monroe--dating back over 180 years--but the Commission will evaluate the current military value of the base as the DoD seeks to streamline and transform our military to meet changing global threats.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to close Fort Monroe could have and is taking this into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission understands that while some see the opportunity for development and community growth through a different use of the land and facilities which the base now occupies, for others it would be at least temporary strain and hardship. The Commission will evaluate the economic impact that the installation closure would have on the community, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The local community and the nation have woven a rich history around Fort Monroe. For the past century, Fort Monroe has housed hundreds of thousands of our nation's soldiers. The base was visited by President Lincoln during the Civil War; it has housed a young Robert E. Lee and many runaway slaves. The base also served as a prison for the Confederate President Jefferson Davis. The Commission understands and appreciates the rich military history the Ft. Monroe has contributed to the nation and will consider this in its recommendation.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
 - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to Fort Monroe**

Q1. Over its 180-year history, Fort Monroe has reached iconic status in the Virginia region. The history of the site actually dates as far back as 1609 when the Colonials established Fort Algernourne to protect the newly founded Jamestown. Fort Monroe itself was established in the 1820's and has housed President Lincoln, a young Robert E. Lee, and runaway slaves. In addition, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was imprisoned at the fort. Will the Commission consider the historic value of Fort Monroe in its review of the recommendation to close it?

A1. The Commission takes all pertinent factors into account, as prescribed by statute, as it performs an evaluation of the suggestions made by the Department of Defense (DoD) and formulates its own suggestions. The Commission is keenly aware of the human impact had by the closure or realignment of a base, and although current military value is the most important consideration, the Commission will also consider the effects that the closure of an installation would have on the surrounding community—including the historical value of the installation.

Q2. Estimates are that Fort Monroe employs 4,175 people and maintains an annual payroll of \$182 million. Will the Commission consider the possible economic effect of closure as the Commission reaches its final conclusion?

A2. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Fort Monroe, but will also consider the impact that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q3. The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission estimates that closing Fort Monroe would cost the local community roughly \$5.1 million in net revenue. However, the realignment of personnel at installations within the vicinity would net a \$7.7 million gain. Thus, the proposed changes would not significantly hurt the region's overall economy. Will this economic outlook overshadow other pertinent arguments such as historic value?

A3. The Commission will review the DoD's recommendation primarily through the lens of military value. Secondary criteria used to evaluate the recommendation will include the economic impact on the local community. The Commission will provide a fair, objective, and independent analysis of the Pentagon's recommendations.

Q4. Fort Eustis is slated to receive some of Fort Monroe's personnel in addition to personnel from other installation closings and realignments. Some have suggested that the community surrounding Ft. Eustis does not have the infrastructure to cope with such a large increase in personnel. Will the Commission consider this factor as it makes its suggestion regarding Fort Monroe?

A4. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the base, but will also consider other

A4. Continued

factors. The ability of the community to support a military installation is very important, as is the effect that the closure of that installation would have on the community. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q5. Fort Monroe is situated on 570-acres of valuable waterfront property. Recent research has yielded information that the original lease states that the property is on loan to the Federal government from the Commonwealth of Virginia. This agreement differs from other military installations in that it will not be affected by prescribed laws concerning government property. Otherwise stated, the property will be immediately returned to Virginia following closure. Will this fact influence the Commission's decision? What will happen to the property if Ft. Monroe is closed?

A5. The question of what will happen with a base after its closure is under the purview of the Federal Government and DoD rather than the BRAC Commission. The future of the site will not influence the Commission's decision in any manner. Typically, laws dictate that federal property must first be made available to other federal agencies. If the property is deemed excess by the federal government then it will be made available to homeless assistance groups. It is only after this point that the land may be offered to the local government or to private developers at market value. However, in the case of Fort Monroe these legal parameters are not pertinent.

Q6. There are an estimated 1,300 underground sites where weapons are thought to be buried. Unexploded ordnance and pollutants will have to be removed before the base can be taken out of service. The estimated cost of doing so is \$27 million. According to the DoD BRAC report, this cost was not included in the recommendation to close Ft. Monroe because it was an effort that needed to occur in any event. Will the Commission consider this economic fact in its analysis of the recommendation?

A6. Military value is the paramount criteria in the Commission's review of the Defense Department's recommendations. However, other factors including environmental cost/feasibility will be reviewed by the Commission in its analysis. The Commission will factor any costs that may have been overlooked by the Pentagon in its recommendation.

Q7. If Ft. Monroe closes, will the Federal government provide aid for the estimated \$14 million annual cost of maintaining the historic structures on the site?

A7. Possible federal assistance is outside of the purview of the BRAC Commission. Such inquiries are better posited to the Department of Defense or other relevant federal agencies.

Q8. Fort Monroe has avoided closure in past BRAC rounds. Why should the current BRAC round yield a result different from the others?

A8. The statute, *not precedence*, establishes the criteria. As outlined by the statute, the Commission will place priority on military value; while also taking into consideration economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of a base

A8. Continued

would have on the community surrounding that base. Information that is gathered in the analysis of a base, with the exception of information that is sensitive to national security, will be made accessible to the public.

Q9. How can the Community inform the Commission of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A9. The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



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FORT MONROE VIRGINIA

National News Articles

Closing Fort Monroe Will Hurt Va. Community
BRAC: Thrill of Victory, And Agony of Defeat
State Panel To Make Recommendations To Gov. Warner

Local News Articles

The Future Of Fort Monroe: A Light At The End Of The Tunnel?
Hampton Could Benefit From Closing Fort Monroe
Pull A String, BRAC Plan Unravels
A Guide For Monroe: Former Calif. Base, Local Post Have Similarities
Monroe Closure Defended
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State Says New Monroe Should Help Region

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National News Articles

Closing Fort Monroe Will Hurt Va. Community

The Associated Press
Sue Lindsey
Saturday, May 14, 2005

Fort Monroe, surrounded by a moat and situated on a peninsula in the Chesapeake Bay, has had a rich history since being built in the 1820s, including as the site where Confederate President Jefferson Davis was imprisoned.

On Friday, the Pentagon recommended shutting down the fort, which serves as home to the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, as part a plan to save money and update the military. Thirty-two other major installations across the country are also targeted for closure.

"It's a historic place," Tracy Smith, 30, said of the fort. "They need to keep it open."

Colonials established Fort Algernourne on the site where Fort Monroe stands in 1609. The British occupied the area during the War of 1812, using a lighthouse on the grounds as a watchtower.

Fort Monroe remained in Union hands during the Civil War. In part because of the moat that surrounds the fort, it was deemed secure enough for President Lincoln to visit during the height of the war in the region.

Later, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was imprisoned at the fort.

Fort Monroe employs 4,175 people, including more than 2,700 civilians, and has an annual payroll of more than \$182 million, according to base officials.

Denise Hammond said her husband has worked at the fort for 15 years and she does not want to move and have their children change schools.

"It scares me," she said. "I don't know what we're going to do."

Restaurants and other businesses near the fort get much of their business from the soldiers and their families.

"We depend on Fort Monroe for 50 to 60 percent of our business," Jim Peach said of the Shell service station he has operated for 33 years.

If the picturesque fort is closed, Peach estimated would probably have to let some of his employees go.

But like others in the community, Peach said closing the fort would be as much of a cultural loss as an economic one.

The post has allowed the community to use its land to park cars and unload boats for a regatta every summer. Soldiers provide the main marching band for a neighborhood festival parade held each October.

"They have concerts in the summer," Peach said, "and hundreds and hundreds of people would come out every Thursday night."

State Panel To Make Recommendations To Gov. Warner

Zinie Chen Sampson

May 20, 2005

A state commission said Friday it wants Gov. Mark R. Warner to study and challenge some of the Department of Defense's proposed changes to Virginia's military installations.

Topping the list of the Virginia Commission on Military Bases' concerns is the potential loss of leased office space in northern Virginia, primarily in Arlington and Alexandria. The Pentagon's recommendations to the national Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission call for the relocation of nearly 23,000 workers to other installations. The jobs primarily would go to the Army's Fort Belvoir in southern Fairfax County, but others would move to Maryland or outside the region entirely.

The military says the urban office buildings don't meet security requirements that Defense Department employees work in buildings at least 82 feet from the street to protect them from vehicle bombs, but some argue that those standards are too stringent.

"That's hard to accomplish in suburban settings, let alone urban ones," James L. Van Zee, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission's director of the regional planning services, said in an interview. "We can work with these agencies to ensure safe locations for civilian as well as military personnel" through other means, he said.

Van Zee told the panel that transferring those jobs out of the inner suburbs would vacate nearly 4 million square feet of space inside the Beltway, which would harm the local economy - and ultimately Virginia's economy, as northern Virginia has generated 85 percent of the state's new jobs over the last five years.

Overall, Virginia would see a net gain in military and civilian jobs, and the commercial real estate market is strong. But northern Virginia officials are concerned that the market could contract, making it difficult to fill a glut in vacancies.

Arlington and Alexandria officials are still crunching the data to understand the full financial impact, but Cord Sterling, a military affairs liaison to U.S. Senator John Warner, told the panel that the effect of the proposed shift goes beyond their vacated office space and head counts. He said contractors who work on projects in the agencies affected also could end up following those who are relocating, for example.

"There are hundreds of jobs associated with each one on paper," Sterling said.

The state commission also determined that if BRAC decides that **Fort Monroe** in Hampton should be closed, the military should help move some of those jobs to nearby Fort Eustis and help the city clean up the installation and develop the site for another use.

Fort Monroe, which was built in the 1800s, employs 4,175, including more than 2,700 civilians, with an annual payroll of more than \$182 million.

The job losses on the Peninsula would be like eliminating the jobs of "all of Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary," said John W. Whaley, an economist with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.

"There's a lot of angst about this," said state Sen. Martin E. Williams, R-Newport News and a member of the state military base commission. "A lot of people are on their second or third generation of family working there."

An economic impact study by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission presented Friday shows that the Peninsula would lose about \$5.1 million in net revenue under the closing recommendations, while South Hampton Roads would have a \$7.7 million net gain, primarily as a result of the addition of thousands of jobs at Norfolk Naval Station and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth.

The study shows that the proposed changes barely would dent Hampton Roads' overall economy because the losses on the Peninsula offset gains in south Hampton Roads.

Other issues the group said the governor should examine include: the impact of 18,000 additional

workers at Fort Belvoir on the area's already clogged roads, the availability of housing there, and other issues; protecting Virginia's existing military installations; and preparing for the next round of base closings and **realignments**.

The state panel will forward its recommendations to Warner "as soon as possible," chairman Joe R. Reeder said. The BRAC Commission must make its recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8. Previous commissions have approved 85 percent of the Defense Department's recommendations.

BRAC: Thrill of Victory, And Agony of Defeat

Roll Call

Kate Ackley

May 16, 2005

The Pentagon's recommendations for base **realignments** and closures sent some Members into a fury Friday, while others took a sigh of relief.

A press release from Rep. Rob Simmons (R-Conn.) said the Congressman was "outraged" by plans to shut down a submarine base in New London, Conn. It had narrowly escaped closure in previous BRAC rounds.

"The recommendation to close the SUBASE cannot stand, and we are determined to fight, and we are going to win," Simmons said in the statement.

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) represents a district that would be hit by the closure of Fort McPherson.

"It's one of the largest military installations in Georgia and one of the oldest in the country," Lewis said in an interview. "I plan to work with our Congressional delegation, the governor, the mayor and other state officials, the business community, to mount as much pressure to save this base. We think there is a role for it to play in a modern military infrastructure."

The base, Lewis said, doesn't just provide thousands of jobs, but "it's part of the history of the state of Georgia and Atlanta and our military." Former Secretary of State Colin Powell was stationed at Fort McPherson, Lewis noted.

Other Members, however, could hardly contain their excitement in seeing their districts spared - or, even better, gaining missions.

Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) said his district had made it through the first major hurdle. "I'm thrilled for the district I represent," he said in an interview.

Wilson said he had been worried about all the installations in his district including the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, which stands to gain a modest number of employees.

In cases where bases gain missions, Wilson said, not only will those communities be spared economic losses, but they also will see an influx of military construction.

"Now there will be a significant ripple effect of hiring private contractors," Wilson said. "It's huge."

However, he added, communities where bases will close will see the opposite effect.

The base closure process now goes to the commission, which today kicks off a series of hearings.

"Whether you're a winner or a gainer, today is the end of one phase and the beginning of the next phase," said Barry Rhoads, who runs The Rhoads Group and served as deputy general counsel to the 1991 BRAC.

But Members of Congress still plan to weigh in, no matter the result in their district.

"Members of Congress do have a very significant role in mobilizing the local community, working with local government, states, chambers of commerce, to help prepare the justifications for the base along with the active duty personnel at the base," Wilson said.

John Ullyot, spokesman for Virginia Sen. John Warner (R), said the Armed Forces chairman spent Friday, the day the list came out, on the phone with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Virginia Gov. Mark Warner (D) and mayors in the state.

Although Virginia came out of the BRAC list with few proposed closures, one facility in the state - **Fort Monroe** - was selected for closure. Northern Virginia also is set to lose almost 22,000 jobs, although the Pentagon's list has slated some of those positions to move to nearby Fort Belvoir.

"As chairman," Ullyot said, Warner "will help affected communities in Virginia marshal their arguments and personally take part in helping them make their best presentation for the merits of their activities in front of the commissioners."

Rep. Jim Moran (D-Va.) said he is analyzing the changes in his Northern Virginia district.

"I think we're hit the worst," he said, pointing to the 22,000 jobs that would move out of leased office space. "I don't know of any other area whose net impact is as bad as that."

Local News Articles

The Future Of Fort Monroe: A Light At The End Of The Tunnel?

The Virginian-Pilot

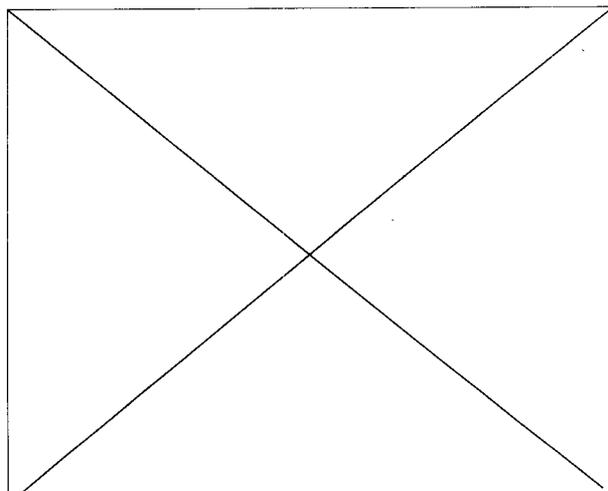
Joanne Kimberlin

May 15, 2005

FORT MONROE — There was good news in the bad news.

After centuries of standing guard, Fort Monroe may fade into history, its 3,500 jobs scattered and its fate uncertain.

But there's a contract, inked ages ago by some unknown, long-forgotten fellow.



It seems that back in the early 1800s, Virginia only loaned the federal government the bulk of the Army fort's 570-acre property. The written agreement says that if the military ever vacates, as it now proposes to do, title to the land comes home to the commonwealth.

Such things aren't always a given, especially now, as the Department of Defense seeks ways to save money in a costly time of war. Many of the land deals that established military bases across the country are a hodgepodge of federal purchases and state give aways. In those cases, the future of the property in this era of base closure and downsizing is up to Defense officials.

That could mean a sale to the highest bidder. In California, surrounding communities wrangled for years over rights to the closed El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. A private developer recently won the place for \$1 billion.

"That may be the golden parachute for Fort Monroe," Paul Taibl said, "that some legal entity back in antiquity had the foresight to write a good contract."

Taibl is the director of policy for Business Executives for National Security, a Washington, D.C.-based organization interested in balancing strong defense with efficient government. Its members keep a close eye on base closings. Calls came to Taibl from concerned communities nationwide on Friday after the Pentagon released a list of 33 bases recommended for closing under the base realignment and closure process.

"You guys are lucky in other ways, too," Taibl said of Virginia's only base targeted for closure. "Fort Monroe is a nice chunk of real estate. I just got off the phone with people from Ellsworth, S.D. There's just not that much economic activity there to replace what they might be losing."

Indeed, most agree that Fort Monroe's real estate is now worth untold millions – which could translate into a bright future even without uniforms.

The post juts out like a bent arm into the Chesapeake Bay, within sight of where the Hampton Roads Bridge-

Tunnel touches the Peninsula. It's surrounded by the city of Hampton – where leaders plan to fight to keep the base open but hope to take its property within their fold if they fail.

Mayor Ross Kearney said he's talked with Gov. Mark Warner.

"He's promised us that Hampton will be an active participant in whatever happens there," Kearney said.

Richmond is making no other pledges.

"Multiple steps will have to be gone through to see where it ends up," said George Foresman, an assistant to the governor. "The bottom line is, we want to be able to get the property into the most effective reuse as soon as possible."

Hampton's mayor said developers are tracking the BRAC process, and have been knocking on the city's door for several months now.

“Some of the proposals have been so outstanding,” Kearney said.

He declined to share any details, saying only that most ideas involved high-end homes or commercial ventures.

“It won’t be a flea market,” Kearney said. “No Get-n-Go. No Motel 8s.”

He said Hampton has formed a commission to consider the options.

The old fort is full of waterfront views, sandy beaches, weathered stone, seasoned wood and red-brick, antebellum homes. First fortified in 1609, the fort’s life span covers the entire military history of America. It’s listed as a National Historic Landmark.

“That’s the top tier in this country,” said Kathleen Kilpatrick, director of the state’s department of historic resources. “The Army has been an amazing steward of the place. Whatever happens to Fort Monroe, we must continue to take care of this treasure.”

Age does have its drawbacks. Upkeep on the old buildings runs the Army about \$14 million a year. And any developer would have to deal with preservation guidelines. Such rules, however, do not offer blanket protection against change.

“The law only requires that diligent effort be made to avoid or minimize impact upon historic structures,” Kilpatrick explained. “No one wants to see them standing empty. You can’t love them to death.”

There’s still time to firm up any plans. If Fort Monroe stays on BRAC’s hit list, the Army can’t close it for two more years. It could take up to six years to hand over the keys. Unexploded ordnance and pollutants will have to be removed before the base can be taken out of service. Estimated cost for the clean up is \$27 million.

Land can be turned over in parcels as it becomes ready, said Roxanne Yonn, a public affairs manager for URS Corporation in Sacramento. The architectural, construction and engineering firm has been involved in numerous base clean ups and turn overs.

“Getting those gates down as soon as possible is always a good idea,” Yonn said. “Don’t let it look like it’s dying when the military moves out. A tumbleweed town is a hard image to come back from.”

She has a warning: “Strong leadership is needed. Watch out for the vultures. They’ll be circling.”

Hampton’s mayor says he won’t speculate publicly on the future yet. Kearney did, say, however, that if Fort Monroe goes, it could be like “a daughter getting married.

“There’s that disappointment that you lose her,” he said, “but maybe we’re gaining a son and a whole new family, and we’re just not aware of it yet.”

Hampton Could Benefit From Closing Fort Monroe

The Virginian-Pilot
May 17, 2005

Folks on the Peninsula have counted themselves lucky to have a facility like Fort Monroe in their midst. Not only does the old stone fortress ooze history, but it's a major employer in the Hampton/Newport News area.

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission has proposed shuttering Fort Monroe, much to the consternation of local lawmakers who have fought similar bids in the past. They're right to fight again. But while the base's closure would certainly be a blow to the Peninsula, it may only be a temporary one.

Here's why.

Though the base's 3,500 jobs are slated to go elsewhere, it's not a total loss. Many of the ones associated with the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, which is headquartered at Fort Monroe, will likely move to nearby Fort Eustis. That will help soften the blow. Keeping jobs on the Peninsula means keeping them in the local economy.

And thanks to a long-ago bureaucrat with foresight, Virginia only loaned the federal government the land on which Fort Monroe sits. The agreement, which dates from the early 1800s, says that if the military ever vacates the property, the title should revert to the state.

That means Virginia and Hampton would have a treasure on their hands.

First fortified in 1609, two short years after the founding of Jamestown, Fort Monroe is the Army's only base within a moat, and it's listed as a National Historic Landmark. The fort's thick stone walls have housed runaway slaves and a young Robert E. Lee. Its prison was home to Jefferson Davis, former president of the Confederacy.

The 570-acre post jutting into the Chesapeake Bay has always been prime military real estate. But given the scarcity and desirability of land with water views, the base has morphed into prime commercial and residential real estate. Unlike bases scheduled for closure in South Dakota and other underpopulated areas, Fort Monroe could have an effective and profitable reuse.

Hampton city officials say that developers have been knocking on their door for months with "outstanding" proposals for high-end homes and commercial ventures, which would add much-needed revenue to the city's tax base. Hampton has formed a commission to consider its options. Any development would have to wait until the federal government cleans up the post.

If Fort Monroe stays on the hit list, whatever fate the Hampton commission decides for the property should preserve as much of its historic character as possible, along with its Casemate Museum.

It may well be cheaper for developers concentrating on the bottom line to consider razing the old antebellum houses to build new ones. After all, the Army now spends nearly \$14 million a year just to maintain the historic buildings. And preservation laws only require that diligent effort be made to avoid impacting those structures.

But surely Hampton and wise developers can see that it's not just water views, but the tangible history of Fort Monroe that make it so attractive. That history cannot be replicated through faux-antique houses, acres of vinyl siding or schlocky attractions.

If Fort Monroe meets its military end, Virginia and Hampton should value the Army's jewel for all its worth.

Pull A String, BRAC Plan Unravels

KRTBN Knight-Ridder Tribune Business News - The Virginian-Pilot - Norfolk

Dale Eisman

May 17, 2005

WASHINGTON -- A Pentagon plan to close or reorganize dozens of military bases is so complex that tinkering with one part likely will produce unwanted consequences in other areas, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld warned Monday.

As the Defense Base Closure and **Realignment** Commission opened four days of hearings on the proposals, Rumsfeld repeatedly cautioned members against changing the package while insisting that defense officials welcome the independent panel's review of the plan.

Though some communities will make "legitimate arguments as to why their installation should be considered essential," the commission "must be careful about taking a selective look" at the recommendations, Rumsfeld said.

To underscore his point, the famously detail-oriented Rumsfeld said even he refrained from altering the proposals after staff members presented them to him.

After careful study, he concluded that "were I to try to reach into the middle of it and pull a thread, that the interconnections and relationships were such that the... effects could be not well understood," he said.

The Defense Department proposals, released Friday, would close 33 major bases, including the Army's historic **Fort Monroe** in Hampton. The Pentagon says the closings, and **realignments** touching 29 other installations, would save taxpayers nearly \$ 49 billion over 20 years and streamline the military for the war effort.

While the plan would close **Fort Monroe** and make major reductions in the Army's presence at Fort Eustis in Newport News, it calls for moving an additional 5,600 sailors and Navy civilians into South Hampton Roads. Most of those workers would come from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, and the submarine base in New London, Conn., both targeted for closure.

"If your proposals are accepted," said commission Chairman Anthony J. Principi, "they will have profound effects on the communities and the people who bring them to life."

Rumsfeld's comments came as the nine-member commission opened hearings on the Pentagon plan. The panel has until early September to review the proposals and fashion its own set of recommendations to give to President Bush and Congress.

Nearly 100 major bases were closed in four earlier rounds, between 1988 and 1995. The base closing law requires that the president and Congress accept or reject the commission's recommendations as a package, a provision designed to keep politics out of the process.

This year's commission will operate under rules that give its members less leeway than their predecessors enjoyed in changing the Pentagon's proposals. While a simple majority -- five commissioners -- can remove a targeted base from the closing or **realignment** list, thus saving it, seven votes are required to add a base to the list.

Analysts say the change will make it more difficult for the commission to alter the Pentagon plan. Past commissions accepted more than 85 percent of the Defense Department's recommendations.

The commission announced Monday that it will hold 15 regional public hearings to solicit comments on the proposals and expects to announce a schedule for those sessions soon. Principi also has promised that at least one commission member will visit every installation targeted for closing.

The proposed closings are the product of a two-year review inside the Pentagon, Rumsfeld told commissioners. Teams set up by each service branch and special "cross-service" groups reviewed more than 25 million pieces of data about the military's existing base structure and studied about 1,000 scenarios for rearranging units and facilities.

Rumsfeld sought Monday to answer critics, including Rep. Jo Ann Davis, R-1st District, who greeted Friday's announcement with renewed complaints that the military should not be closing bases in the midst of its global war on terrorists.

"These changes are essential to helping us win" the war, the secretary argued. He added that he expects that another round of base adjustments will be needed in "five or 10 years," as the military continues to adjust to changing threats around the world.

A Guide For Monroe: Former Calif. Base, Local Post Have Similarities

Daily Press (Newport News, Virginia)

Bob Evans

May 17, 2005

Could a San Francisco site be a blueprint for mixing historic and economic needs at **Fort Monroe**?

A 19th-century Army post with fantastic views of the bay, hundreds of buildings in various states of repair and National Historic Landmark status was put on the Pentagon's base closing list.

In 1989.

Yet another went on the list Friday.

The earlier date involved The Presidio, an Army post near the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco Bay. It was established by Spain in 1776, officially became a U.S. Army post in 1850 and was one of the oldest active bases in the country when it closed in 1996.

Fort Monroe hit the Pentagon's closing list Friday. The fort, composed of hand-cut stones with a moat, once defended the Chesapeake Bay from intruders. It opened in 1823 and now has 3,500

military and civilian jobs that would be moved elsewhere, unless local politicians are able to persuade the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission otherwise. Local historians say it's the third-oldest Army post in operation.

The Presidio was empty in 1996. Today, 2,400 people live there, and 2,000 people work at 150 businesses on the site, managed by The Presidio Trust, a nonprofit creation of Congress. It began work in 1998 and also handles hundreds of acres of scenic parkland and bayside overlooks.

It generates \$40 million a year in revenue to ensure preservation of the more than 469 buildings and 300 other features designated "historic."

The trust's work at The Presidio might provide a model -- or at least a guide -- for how Hampton can balance the interests of history and economics at **Fort Monroe**.

Politicians and government officials from Washington to Hampton don't want to talk about what might happen if the post closes, though they say they're confident that they can wring some positives out of the situation. For now, they're focused on saving the base, they say.

If the worst comes, "then we'll take a look at those alternatives," says Tom Gordy, chief of staff for Rep. Thelma Drake, R-Norfolk. Monroe sits in Drake's sprawling district.

Still, Gordy's seen the job that The Presidio Trust has done working with the old post in San Francisco, and he's impressed: "What a beautiful place that is."

Ron Sonenshine, spokesman for The Presidio Trust, says the organization is proud of its success so far.

"I think we're all really optimistic," he says. "We're not popping champagne corks, though."

Some fairly unusual circumstances have helped The Presidio get to this point, he says. "I don't know if it would work in many other communities."

Tim Ford of the National Association of Installation Developers -- a trade association for businesses that help turn old bases into viable, tax-generating real estate -- agrees.

"It's in San Francisco, right next to the Golden Gate Bridge," he says. "So some of the economics might not be available in other places."

Because of the location, "they were able to do some very select development," he says.

One example is the nearly finished filmmaking campus of George Lucas of "Star Wars" fame, a \$350 million effort that pays the trust \$6 million a year in rent, Sonenshine says. But many of the others are schools, small businesses and offices.

The Presidio also had a minimal environmental problem compared with most military bases -- and no significant level of buried ordnance.

Fort Monroe, on the other hand, is plagued with 1,300 underground sites where weapons are thought to be buried.

Creation of The Presidio Trust itself wasn't easy, either, Sonenshine says. Republicans intent on

keeping the place from sucking up tax dollars indefinitely have to work with Democrats who emphasize the requirement to preserve the site's historic and natural beauty. In addition to proximity to the famous bridge, there's a 400-acre forest and park planted in the 1880s that's protected.

Not everyone is happy about what's happened. Local residents frequently complain about the overcommercialization of the park. One local neighborhood association opposes further commercial use, no matter how tasteful or well-hidden.

It took several years of congressional wrangling to create the trust and annual dogfights to secure the \$20 million to \$28 million a year that it receives from Congress to complete the task, Sonenshine says. By law, the subsidies stop in 2013.

It doesn't hurt that California's congressional delegation is large and influential and that presidential candidates desire the state's huge share of the Electoral College.

While the trust could manage without federal tax subsidies today, Sonenshine says, "there would be things that would not get done." There are still hundreds of buildings in need of repair.

"Historic buildings are very expensive to renovate," he says. "We really can't keep them empty. They'll fall down if they're not used."

The whole project would fall apart if the trust were subject to local real estate and business taxes, he says.

The starting point for The Presidio Trust was turning housing into cash flow, Sonenshine says, so it was lucky that there was base housing that people wanted to live in.

Fort Monroe has that. About 100 residences recently got a \$25 million face-lift, making them worth \$300,000 to \$2.5 million apiece if put in the civilian housing market, says Dan Hassett, regional vice president for Virtexco Inc., the company that did the work.

The base also finished an \$11 million upgrade to create a state-of-the-art fitness center in 2003. It boasts a marina and miles of beautiful beach and sits on one of the prettiest sites in Hampton Roads, real estate and political leaders say.

But it also costs about \$14 million just to maintain the historic structures so they're not lost, federal authorities say, and hundreds of buildings need repair or demolition.

All that sounds familiar to Sonenshine, who says that if Hampton wants to emulate The Presidio, it better start working with Congress.

"That's who we have to answer to," he says. *

COMPARING THE PRESIDIO AND FOR MONROE

The Presidio; San Francisco

HISTORY

* Established by Spanish colonists in 1776 ("presidio" means "walled fort" in Spanish)

- * Was a U.S. Army base, 1850 to 1996
- * Became a National Historic Landmark district, 1962

PROPERTY

- * 1,491 acres; 500 of them wooded
- * 768 structures, 469 of which are historic
- * 280 native plant species, including 16 listed as "rare" or "endangered"
- * Contains a 300-acre historic planted forest dating to the 1880s
- * Showcases architectural styles from every major military construction period since 1848, along with Mission Revival style
- * 28.5 miles of hiking, biking and nature trails
- * Has a golf course, bowling alley, campground, picnic sites, tennis courts, ball fields, and indoor swimming and gymnastics sites
- * Overlooks the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco Bay

AFTER THE ARMY

- * Managed by The Presidio Trust, a nonprofit organization created by Congress in 1996 to manage the site in conjunction with the National Park Service (the Park Service handles only beachfront land)
- * Now home to 2,400 people in 1,000 households
- * 150 businesses are on the site -- a mix of private, for-profit and nonprofit, including several private schools, shops, offices and a physical therapy clinic -- employing 2,000 people.

Source: The Presidio Trust *

Fort Monroe; Hampton

HISTORY

- * Established as a fort by English settlers in the early 1600s
- * The hand-cut stone fort was built from 1819 to 1834 and is the last remaining stone fort with a moat.
- * Location of Hygeia Hotel, the first Virginia-based tourist attraction, 1820
- * In the early days of the Civil War, Gen. Benjamin Butler

by declaring runaway slaves there "war contraband" -- began the emancipation process. The fort was also used as staging area for important Union Army campaigns in the war and as a prison for Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, after his capture.

- * Became headquarters of Army Training and Doctrine Command in 1973

- * Named a National Historic Landmark in 1961

PROPERTY

- * 570 acres, including several miles of beachfront

- * 314 buildings, most with historic status

- * 183 residences -- 111 for officers, 72 for enlisted personnel

- * Marina, fitness center, gazebo, bandshell, campus of TRADOC

- * Recently renovated \$11 million fitness center

ECONOMIC EFFECT

- * 3,564 military, civilian Department of Defense and defense contractor employees

- * \$45 million a year

Monroe Closure Defended

Daily Press (Newport News, Virginia)

David Lerman

May 19, 2005

The fort has little military use and should be closed, the Army tells a base-closure commission.

Army leaders defended their recommendation to close **Fort Monroe** on Wednesday, saying Hampton's historic fort is a relatively small base for strictly administrative use and has low military value.

Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey said the proposed closures of **Fort Monroe** and two bases in Georgia are part of an effort to consolidate Army forces into larger, multi-use bases that can accommodate greater numbers of troops.

Under the Pentagon's plan, the headquarters for the Army's Training and Doctrine Command would move to nearby Fort Eustis if Monroe is closed.

"That's a move to get out of bases that are confined in urban centers and don't have a lot of military value," Harvey told the independent Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission.

Fort Monroe is one of 33 major bases that the Pentagon recommends closing to eventually save an estimated \$5.5 billion a year. Shutting down the moat-encircled fort would cost Hampton 3,564 jobs, although many of those jobs would be transferred to Fort Eustis in Newport News.

Craig College, the Army's deputy assistant secretary for infrastructure analysis, said **Fort Monroe** and Georgia's Fort Gillem and Fort McPherson are ill-equipped to help the Army transform as it prepares to add 30,000 troops to its ranks.

"For the smaller, single-function installations, there's not very much ability to expand and perform new missions in the future," College said. "Yet, you had large overhead costs. It made sense to us to put them on larger posts with room to grow."

One commission member questioned whether the Army is moving too quickly to close bases at a time when it is adding 30,000 troops and must bring home 47,000 troops from overseas in coming years.

"It seems to me we shouldn't rush to close facilities," said commission member James H. Bilbray, a former Democratic congressman from Nevada. "It's going to be very difficult in the future to open new bases."

But College said the Army is preserving its large bases with training ranges that can accommodate more combat troops.

"The places we are closing tend to be small and administrative in nature," he said.

While more combat troops will be coming home, Harvey added, "You couldn't put a brigade at **Fort Monroe**."

The closure of Monroe would move most personnel to Fort Eustis, and a smaller contingent -- made up of the Army Accessions Command and Army Cadet Command -- to Fort Knox, Ky.

"The closure allows the Army to move administrative headquarters to multi-purpose installations that provide the Army more flexibility to accept new missions," the Pentagon said in its base-closure report issued Friday. "Both Fort Eustis and Fort Knox have operational and training capabilities that **Fort Monroe** lacks and both have excess capacity that can be used to accept the organizations relocating from **Fort Monroe**."

Closing Monroe would cost \$72.4 million, but would then save the Army \$56.9 million annually after the first year, the report said.

The Army's case, laid out publicly at Wednesday's hearing, suggests the uphill battle local officials will have as they lobby to try to save **Fort Monroe**. Historically, the independent commission now reviewing the base-closure plan ends up changing no more than 15 percent of Pentagon recommendations, officials have said.

One argument that has helped save the fort in past closure rounds has been the cost of cleaning up unexploded ordnance at the base, which dates to 1823. The Pentagon, in its report, said it did not include the cost of such a clean up because the military must pay that cost eventually, even if the base remains open.

Commission members, who have until Sept. 8 to recommend changes to the closure list, said it was too early to reach an opinion on **Fort Monroe** or any other base. The commission is planning on holding about 15 field hearings around the country this summer, but those have not yet been scheduled.

"It's too early to make any preliminary conclusions about the recommendations," said Anthony Principi, the commission chairman. "We need the data. We need to hold field hearings." *

PROPOSED ARMY CLOSURES

- * 15 active Army installations
- * 17 leased facilities
- * 176 Army Reserve installations
- * 211 National Guard facilities

Langley May End Up With 24 More F-15cs

Daily Press (Newport News, Virginia)
David Lerman
May 20, 2005

If the base closure plan is approved, the Hampton installation could get planes from an Alaskan site.

Langley Air Force Base would get 24 additional F-15C fighter jets as part of the Pentagon's base closure and **realignment** plan, newly released documents indicate.

The Hampton base is home to about 60 of the jets now.

It would see a 40 percent increase in coming years as the Air Force attempts to consolidate operations.

A proposed **realignment** of Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, would transfer 24 of its 42 assigned F-15C jets to Langley.

The transfer is just part of several changes proposed for Langley. They would add 749 jobs to the base in coming years.

That growth would partly offset a loss of more than 3,500 Hampton jobs from the proposed closure of the Army's **Fort Monroe**.

It wasn't clear whether the proposed increase of F-15C fighters was designed to compensate Langley for a potential reduction in the number of new F/A-22 Raptor fighters the base will receive.

Langley is scheduled to house the nation's first operating squadron of Raptors, the Air Force's next-generation fighter that will replace aging F-15s.

Three Raptors are flying at Langley now, and more are expected in coming months.

But the exact number of Raptors that will eventually come to Langley has been in doubt since the Pentagon announced plans to scale back its Raptor program by buying only 179 of the planes, instead of 277.

That move would save \$10.5 billion over six years.

The Air Force report on its base closure recommendations outlines a number of changes at Langley that account for job growth.

In addition to the new jet fighters, Langley would become headquarters for the 914th Airlift Wing, now stationed at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y., the report read.

Langley would also house one of two new centralized Air Force logistics support centers that would replace five regional supply squadrons.

The new logistics center would transfer personnel from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii; Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.; and some from Sembach, Germany, the report read.

Langley would gain jobs in general, but a small number of current jobs would be lost to other bases.

A recommendation to consolidate some F-15 avionics maintenance work at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., for example, would mean the loss of 19 jobs at Langley.

And a proposal to shift some engine repair work to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., would take 32 jobs from Langley.

A spokesman for Langley's 1st Fighter Wing confirmed the plan to bring more F-15C fighters to Langley, but he could offer no details.

Any such move would take two to six years to make under the rules of the base closure process.

That's if the plan wins final approval from the president and Congress.

State Says New Monroe Should Help Region

Daily Press (Newport News, Virginia)

John M.R. Bull

May 21, 2005

If the base closes, its redevelopment should benefit not only Hampton but the whole area, officials say.

Hampton officials are allowed to scout redevelopment possibilities for **Fort Monroe**, slated for closing, but the state isn't relinquishing its command authority.

The state wants to see **Fort Monroe** redeveloped in a way that provides a regional economic impact, not one centered only around Hampton, where the base is located, said George Foresman, an aide to Gov. Mark R. Warner.

"Just as the economic impact of **Fort Monroe** is regional, the economic development should have a regional impact," he said. "There are any number of regional development possibilities. Right

now, Hampton has the lead, with the state's blessing."

If it comes to an argument over redevelopment decisions, the state has the loudest voice. After all, most of the property reverts to the state if the base stays on the base closing list.

Under the Pentagon's base closing list, announced last week, Newport News would lose 2,152 jobs at Fort Eustis, so **Fort Monroe's** redevelopment should be aimed at producing an economic impact that ripples throughout the region, state officials said.

The state's base retention commission was briefed Friday on the statewide impact of the base closing list and recommended that the governor form several task forces to study several issues, including the economic impact on the Peninsula of the upcoming base closing and **realignments**.

The Pentagon's recommendations will be reviewed and possibly tweaked by a federal panel. President Bush and Congress will decide this fall whether to accept or reject the closing list, but they cannot change it.

Hampton Mayor Ross A. Kearney II had been scheduled to speak to the state commission Friday, but he couldn't make it and sent interim City Manager Jesse Wallace. He told the commission that Hampton now plans a dual effort -- fight to get **Fort Monroe** off the base closing list while pursuing redevelopment possibilities if the base ends up closed.

Wallace said the city is aiming to attract redevelopment that would offset or surpass the economic losses that would be suffered if the base closed. Closing **Fort Monroe** and reducing military and civilian jobs at Fort Eustis would drain an estimated \$560 million from the area's economy. Wallace said the city is trying to sort out the deeds that established and expanded **Fort Monroe**, which was opened in 1823. While some of the title searching has been completed, more needs to be done, he told the state base commission.

If the base is closed, much of the property will revert to the state. Some parcels could be claimed by federal agencies. There may be reuse restrictions on some pieces of the base's 94 usable acres.

Foresman said the state would contact the National Park Service to see if it would be interested in running and maintaining the old stone fort on the base as a historic site. The cost of cleaning up unexploded ordnance on the base also needs to be firmly determined, he added.

"We want all the answers as quickly as possible," he said.

Lt. Gov. Tim Kaine, a members of the state base commission, recommended that Hampton officials send out requests for proposals to get an idea of redevelopment possibilities.

"It's really a terrific piece of property," he said.

A mixed use of homes and businesses is historically the best way to develop property, and up to 35 percent of the cost to rehab historic structures on the base could be offset with state and federal tax credits, he said.

Kearney has said that he has met with five developers who have proposals for the base. Hampton also has a plan to help finance an office park on the base that would be aimed at attracting more Pentagon operations but that could easily be adjusted to attract private businesses. "In a bright moment, we're excited about the possibilities for **Fort Monroe**, if it is going to close," said state

Sen. Marty Williams, R-Newport News, who also sits on the state base commission.

In the meantime, local and state officials are preparing arguments to persuade a federal panel to take **Fort Monroe** off the base closing list and to rethink personnel reductions at Fort Eustis.

Efforts also will be taken to prepare arguments to preserve other Hampton Roads bases that weren't cut or are even slated to expand under the Pentagon's plan. The state base commission was told that the proposed 2,800-personnel gain slated for Naval Station Norfolk would be in jeopardy if the proposed closings of two major New England naval sites -- Portsmouth in Maine and New Groton in Connecticut -- are overturned by the federal panel reviewing the list.

"As I'm sure we've all read in the press, other states are looking at our stuff. The game is on, as it were," said David Dickson, executive director of the state's base commission.

Opinions/ Editorials

Other Voices: Monroe Is More Than A Moat

Daily Press
Ray Holleran
May 23, 2005

Reference the May 14 article "Lobbyists prepare their battle plan." Regarding the listing of arguments to be used by the state base retention committee in making their case to save Fort Monroe from closure, the following quote is cited: "Fort Monroe is in a secure location, surrounded by a moat, an important consideration in these security conscious times."

As an active duty/civilian worker/retiree/volunteer member of the Fort Monroe community since 1976, I have read articles on the subject starting with "Fortifying Monroe" on July 18, 2004, to this edition. As the earlier and more recent coverage of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) is presented, I have become increasingly concerned about factual errors and misleading information being reported about Fort Monroe. The article referenced above and accompanying articles in the same edition have piqued my frustration at this critical juncture in dealing with the BRAC process. Two specific concerns related to the above quote are offered using information from the accompanying articles.

The statement that Fort Monroe is surrounded by a moat is a factual error. The aerial photograph shown on Page A1 - and again above - is a view of the original Fort Monroe wall and moat (circa 1834) and its interior. In the May 14 article "Hampton leaders resigned, weigh options," a reference is made to "the 584-acre base" and the graphic on Page A1 indicates a net loss of 3,564 military/ civilian/contractors if Monroe closes. Reading those numbers and looking back at the aerial photo, it very obvious that the interior is not 584 acres and the facilities inside the wall would not support 3,564 people.

The error is that this photo is only showing the original fort with an interior of 63 acres so there must be more of the fort that can't be seen in the photo, and that area outside the wall is the present-day fort. Therefore, Fort Monroe in 2005 is not "surrounded by a moat." (The acreage of the present-day fort is approximately 400 acres versus 584 but even 400 wouldn't fit inside the wall.)

The moat itself is not an "important consideration in these security conscious times." It was an important part in the overall force protection features of the original fort when it was built and for many years thereafter. However, in these "security conscious times," it is not a significant deterrent because it does not protect all of Fort Monroe, and it does not compare to force protection advantages provided by the expanses of water in the Chesapeake Bay, Hampton Roads and Mill Creek that do surround all of the fort's 400 acres on Old Point Comfort. Each one of these far surpasses the obstacle offered by the moat with a width varying from 50 feet to 150 feet wide around the original fort.

I offer one more quote to support my comments. Again from the referenced article, Owen Pickett, co-chair of the state's commission stated, "You have to have the facts."

The base retention committee should not use the argument quoted from the referenced article.

Holleran resides in Hampton.



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**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Naval Station Norfolk**

- 1. To the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC), military value is the most important consideration as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to realign Naval Station Norfolk.**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the realignment of the installation could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's decision as to whether or not to suggest Naval Station Norfolk for realignment is military value.
 - Although the Commission is keenly aware of the human impact of the suggestion by DoD to close Naval Station Norfolk, the Commission will base its decisions, as to whether or not to suggest the installation for realignment, almost entirely upon the current military value of the base.
 - The Commission will carefully consider the role that Naval Station Norfolk and its nearly 70,000 personnel play in the defense of the nation.
 - The Commission is aware that Naval Station Norfolk is the largest naval base in the world. The installation is home to 75 ships including 5 nuclear powered aircraft carriers. It is also home to Chambers Field which has 16 aircraft squadrons.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the possible economic, environmental, and other effects that the suggestions to realign Naval Station Norfolk could have and is taking these into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into full account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic impact that the installation realignment would have on the community surrounding Naval Station Norfolk, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The Commission will evaluate the implications of an additional 3,000 jobs at the base to coordinate the proposed shipment of 11 submarines. The Commission will fully analyze the base's ability to receive these new resources.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, by a process set forth by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and to provide accountability to the public for the suggestion, made by DoD, to realign Naval Station Norfolk.
 - The Commission encourages public input. Members of the community wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to submit their comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to Naval Station Norfolk**

Q1. Under the current BRAC recommendation, Naval Station Norfolk would receive 11 submarines and an additional 2,800 personnel from the closure of New London Submarine Base. Will the Commission evaluate Norfolk's infrastructure to determine whether the installation can accommodate such a large influx of resources?

A1. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the base, but will also consider other factors. The ability of the community to support a military installation is very important, as is the effect that the closure of that installation would have on the community. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q2. Recently, the Navy has recommended retiring the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy. As such, John F. Kennedy's homeport, Naval Station Mayport, is requesting that an aircraft carrier based at Naval Station Norfolk be given up as compensation. Will the Commission consider this request as it evaluates the Pentagon's BRAC proposal?

A2. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis, in a completely open and transparent manner, which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Naval Station Norfolk, but will also consider the economic, environmental and other effects that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community. The Commission will not comment on movement of aircraft carriers or compensation for retirement of ships.

Q3. Recently, U.S. Representative Rob Simmons (R-2nd District-CT) visited Naval Station Norfolk. Following the visit Rep. Simmons expressed concern that the Pentagon's proposal would lead to overcrowding at Norfolk and could present an ideal target for terrorists. Rep. Simmons likened the realignment at Norfolk to creating a new Pearl Harbor. Will the Commission consider some of the issues raised by Rep. Simmons?

A3. The Commission will evaluate current military value of an installation, according to the process prescribed by statute. In determining military value the Commission will review several criteria including jointness, ease of mobility, and the installations role in the changing global threat paradigm. The Commission will consider concerns regarding vulnerabilities created through the Pentagon's proposal and will evaluate the base on a fair, objective, and thorough basis.

Q4. How will the Commission consider future force projections of moving a large contingent of the fleet based at Naval Station Norfolk to the Pacific? Will this potential change affect the proposed closure at New London Submarine Base and realignment at Naval Station Norfolk?

A4. The Commission will review the Pentagon's proposal based upon an evaluation of the current military value of the installation. In addition, the Commission will analyze the projected economic costs and human impact of the DoD BRAC recommendations.

A4. Continued

The Commission will not factor potential future defense decisions in its evaluation of the recommendations.

Q5. Under the Pentagon's proposal, Naval Station Norfolk would have to build additional piers, barracks, and other infrastructure to accommodate the increased resources. Will the Commission consider the huge investment costs that Norfolk would undertake to properly house 11 submarines at the installation?

A5. The process of evaluation, followed by the Commission, has been set forth by law. In this evaluation, military value is the most important factor to the Commission as DoD seeks to streamline our military to meet changing global threats. The Commission will consider all pertinent factors in its analysis, including the economic, environmental and other effects on the local community, as well as the community/installation's infrastructure to support the installation.

Q6. Today's fleet of 54 attack submarines is expected to shrink to as few as 41 subs over the next 30 years, under a preliminary, long-range Navy shipbuilding plan released this Spring. Will the Commission factor this information into its decision to close and realign New London Submarine Base and Naval Station Norfolk, respectively?

A6. Questions of long-term DoD strategy are out of the scope of the Commission in reviewing the BRAC recommendations. The Commission will evaluate installations primarily based upon the current military value. In addition, the Commission will evaluate any economic costs and the human impact of the Pentagon's proposal. Strategic questions are best posited to the Department of Defense.

Q7. Will Senator John W. Warner's political influence as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee influence the Commission's recommendations concerning Virginia-based military installations?

A7. The Congress established the BRAC Commission as an entirely non-partisan and non-political entity to independently evaluate whether DoD made its recommendations in accordance with the law. The Commission will serve to provide accountability to the public and ensure that all suggestions have been based upon the criteria set forth by statute. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis, in a completely open and transparent manner, which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the lease space in northern Virginia, but will also consider the economic, environmental and other effects that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community.

Q8. How can the Community make the Commission aware of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A8. The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.



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NAVAL STATION NORFOLK NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

National News Articles

State Panel to Make Recommendations to Gov. Warner

Military shouldn't mollify BRAC communities

Local News Articles

Simmons Says Subs Would Get Short Shrift If Moved To Virginia

Norfolk base a temptation to terrorists, Simmons says

Some Wonder, Why Not Oceana?

Rumsfeld Defends Closure List

Area to Gain 5,000 Jobs, Submarines;

Closures in Connecticut, Maine Mean More Growth for the Area's Major Bases

VA Ready for Scrutiny of Military Bases

Opinions/ Editorials

National News Articles

State Panel to Make Recommendations to Gov. Warner

The Associated Press

Zinie Chen Sampson

May 20, 2005

A state commission said Friday it wants Gov. Mark R. Warner to study and challenge some of the Department of Defense's proposed changes to Virginia's military installations.

Topping the list of the Virginia Commission on Military Bases' concerns is the potential loss of leased office space in northern Virginia, primarily in Arlington and Alexandria. The Pentagon's recommendations to the national Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission call for the relocation of nearly 23,000 workers to other installations. The jobs primarily would go to the Army's Fort Belvoir in southern Fairfax County, but others would move to Maryland or outside the region entirely.

The military says the urban office buildings don't meet security requirements that Defense Department employees work in buildings at least 82 feet from the street to protect them from vehicle bombs, but some argue that those standards are too stringent.

"That's hard to accomplish in suburban settings, let alone urban ones," James L. Van Zee, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission's director of the regional planning services, said in an interview. "We can work with these agencies to ensure safe locations for civilian as well as military personnel" through other means, he said.

Van Zee told the panel that transferring those jobs out of the inner suburbs would vacate nearly 4 million square feet of space inside the Beltway, which would harm the local economy - and ultimately Virginia's economy, as northern Virginia has generated 85 percent of the state's new jobs over the last five years.

Overall, Virginia would see a net gain in military and civilian jobs, and the commercial real estate market is strong. But northern Virginia officials are concerned that the market could contract, making it difficult to fill a glut in vacancies.

Arlington and Alexandria officials are still crunching the data to understand the full financial impact, but Cord Sterling, a military affairs liaison to U.S. Senator John Warner, told the panel that the effect of the proposed shift goes beyond their vacated office space and head counts. He said contractors who work on projects in the agencies affected also could end up following those who are relocating, for example.

"There are hundreds of jobs associated with each one on paper," Sterling said.

The state commission also determined that if BRAC decides that Fort Monroe in Hampton should be closed, the military should help move some of those jobs to nearby Fort Eustis and help the city clean up the installation and develop the site for another use.

Fort Monroe, which was built in the 1800s, employs 4,175, including more than 2,700 civilians, with an annual payroll of more than \$182 million.

The job losses on the Peninsula would be like eliminating the jobs of "all of Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary," said John W. Whaley, an economist with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.

"There's a lot of angst about this," said state Sen. Martin E. Williams, R-Newport News and a member of the state military base commission. "A lot of people are on their second or third generation of family working there."

An economic impact study by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission presented Friday shows that the Peninsula would lose about \$5.1 million in net revenue under the closing recommendations, while South Hampton Roads would have a \$7.7 million net gain, primarily as a result of the addition of thousands of jobs at Norfolk **Naval Station and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard** in Portsmouth.

The study shows that the proposed changes barely would dent Hampton Roads' overall economy because the losses on the Peninsula offset gains in south Hampton Roads.

Other issues the group said the governor should examine include: the impact of 18,000 additional workers at Fort Belvoir on the area's already clogged roads, the availability of housing there, and other issues; protecting Virginia's existing military installations; and preparing for the next round of base closings and **realignments**.

The state panel will forward its recommendations to Warner "as soon as possible," chairman Joe R. Reeder said. The BRAC Commission must make its recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8. Previous commissions have approved 85 percent of the Defense Department's recommendations

Military shouldn't mollify BRAC communities

Navy Times

Fred Klinkenberger

March 7, 2005

Talk about legislators behaving badly. The brouhaha over the planned decommissioning of the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy is becoming a theater of the absurd.

The jostling and strong-arm tactics employed by some Florida state and national politicians regarding the fate of the Mayport-based aircraft carrier would be laughable, were it not for the potential political and fiscal consequences of their bullying.

Many issues come into play regarding the ship's fate. Perhaps the most important is that lawmakers are second-guessing - and attempting to influence - the military decision-making process for which our generals and admirals are selected and paid. Some of the very legislators now weighing in on the carrier's fate confirmed the admirals who decided - no doubt after intense discussion of options in the Navy's current fiscal environment - the John F. Kennedy should be decommissioned.

Hypocrisy also figures into the JFK imbroglio. Upcoming and gut-wrenching base **realignment** and closure decisions later this year are supposedly going to be free of political influence. Several years ago, the Clinton administration was maligned for supposedly influencing BRAC to "save" military installations in Democratic voter-rich states. Does the John F. Kennedy-Mayport situation appear to be free of politics? Doubtful, since Florida's governor is the president's brother.

One can understand the Mayport community's concern about the financial impact of losing its only aircraft carrier. Nevertheless - as difficult as the ship's retirement might be - it won't be the first or last time a community incurs such a loss. These are the times in which we live. Other communities already have experienced larger losses and recovered - certainly not overnight or without sacrifice and work on the people's part, but the community survived intact.

Florida also fears that if John F. Kennedy goes, so, too, will Naval Station Mayport. Thus, Florida legislators are demanding that **Naval Station Norfolk** - home to five nuclear aircraft carriers - give up one to Mayport as compensation for the Kennedy's impending retirement.

The potential consequences such a quid pro quo would hold for future facility decisions by any of the uniformed services are disconcerting. For instance, would the Air Force no longer be able to decide what base or facility to close - or reduce its footprint - without removing a squadron, etc., from an existing base to put in its place? If the Army was to attempt to consolidate facilities into one geographical area, would it now have an obligation to somehow financially compensate the area from which it was removing troops and facilities? Where would it end?

In addition to such mockery, any civilian community demanding another locale give up something to soften the economic blow where a service's decision has significantly reduced its footprint is behaving immaturely. Such compensation demands are minimally outrageous and, at worst, dangerous. If allowed once, such compensatory demands will become an ever-increasing factor in base **realignment**, and our military leaders will fall victim to the politicization of decisions affecting the placement and consolidation of military units.

Even terrorism has been seized as a reason for moving a Norfolk-based carrier to Mayport after Kennedy is retired and the existing pier facilities are upgraded for a nuclear carrier (a separate issue that, too, will cost a lot of money). **Naval Station Norfolk**-based ships sail from the Atlantic into the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, then into the Elizabeth River before reaching their piers. The argument goes, it would be easier to bottleneck Norfolk ships than those in Mayport, where the harbor basically opens right into the Atlantic. It's a red herring argument at best. Some politicians even invoked Pearl Harbor as an example of what could happen in Norfolk. Talk about hyperbole!

Lawmakers must stop meddling in military affairs and let our generals and admirals decide how to best use the human capital and equipment resources we had at hand. We live in tight budgetary times, and the military cannot afford the profligate spending our pork-minded politicians practice.

As for moving a nuclear carrier from Norfolk to compensate for the John F. Kennedy's decommissioning: Lawmakers apparently need to be reminded that it's not just a matter of "rearranging the furniture."

Local News Articles

Simmons Says Subs Would Get Short Shrift If Moved To Virginia

The Day
Richard Rainey
6/26/2005

Moving submarines from Groton to Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia, as the Pentagon plans, would add to overcrowding at the Virginia facility, where the subs would have to compete for space and attention, U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, said Saturday.

The move is part of the Navy recommendation to close the Naval Submarine Base here.

"They're going to take our submarines and our submarine sailors and stuff them in a little area like a Christmas turkey," Simmons said. "This is going to be the most stuffed Christmas turkey you've ever seen in your life."

The Norfolk facility's focus on building and maintaining the Navy's surface fleet and not its submarines, he continued, would mean "the submarine is lost" among aircraft carriers and destroyers.

Standing at the parking lot of the Garbo Lobster company with the Thames River behind him, Simmons presented his preliminary impressions from his Friday tour of the 4,000-acre base. Using a map of Norfolk as a backdrop, Simmons outlined his argument against moving any Groton submarines there. The Virginia base is homeport to 69 vessels and employs about 54,000 assigned military personnel and 11,000 civilians.

"This is the largest supported population of any Navy facility in the world," Simmons said.

According to the realignment plans outlined by the Pentagon, the Navy plans to split the Groton fleet between Norfolk and Kings Bay (Ga.) Naval Submarine Base, which Simmons toured the week before last. The plan would move two squadrons — between 10 and 12 submarines — from Groton to Virginia. The subs would share two piers with two squadrons already stationed there,

an overcrowded situation, Simmons said, that would hamper routine maintenance efforts and weapons loading procedures on the vessels.

“They cannot accommodate the extra submarines,” he said. The Groton base currently handles 18 submarines at 14 piers. Making room in Norfolk for the two squadrons would require extensive construction at the two piers and the destruction of a nearby parking lot, the congressman said.

Simmons added that putting what he described as 50 percent of the United States' attack submarine fleet at one location, in Norfolk, would create a symbolic target for terrorists, on par with the Pentagon.

“This is creating a massive Pearl Harbor, a massive target,” Simmons said.

Future force projections by the Pentagon that would see portions of the fleet shifted to the Pacific to make room at Norfolk are not firm enough to be a significant argument for closing the Groton base, Simmons said.

“The BRAC (Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission) is not recommending an increase (of ships) in Guam,” Simmons said. “The BRAC is not recommending an increase in Hawaii. The BRAC is not recommending any changes in San Diego that I'm aware of.... What the BRAC is doing is attacking the submarine capital of the world, destroying the historic submarine base where all of our submarine history has taken place.”

The Pentagon estimates it will save about \$1.5 billion over the next two decades by closing the Groton base.

The congressman did not list specific costs involved in moving the vessels or for additional construction at Norfolk to accommodate them, saying instead that he would present his data during the July 6 hearing scheduled with the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission in Boston. He also said that the information he gathered Friday would not significantly alter his present strategy as he prepares for the hearing.

Norfolk base a temptation to terrorists, Simmons says

Norwich Bulletin

JASON TSAI

June 26, 2005

U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons said Saturday Naval Station Norfolk is already "much too congested" to absorb assets from the submarine base in Groton.

Speaking to the press outside Garbo Lobster Saturday afternoon, Simmons also said a shift of manpower and submarines from Groton to Norfolk could create "a massive Pearl Harbor" and make the Virginia base a target for terrorists.

Simmons returned from Norfolk Friday after spending the day there with retired Navy submariner Denny Hicks, a former Norfolk commander. As a member of the Subbase Realignment Coalition, Hicks has the task of reviewing Pentagon data as it relates to Norfolk.



The Pentagon last month recommended closing the Groton base, which is in Simmons' congressional district. The Defense Department plans to relocate Groton's 18 fast-attack subs and supporting infrastructure to either Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Georgia or the naval base in Norfolk.

Simmons visited Kings Bay last Friday.

Echoing his assessment of Kings Bay, Simmons called Norfolk a "fabulous naval station" but very congested. Adding more sailors and subs would make it grossly inefficient and a target for terrorists, he said.

"(Naval Station Norfolk) is packed as it is. Do we want to create a bigger target for terrorists? Do we want to create another Pearl Harbor?" he asked.

In order to incorporate Groton's assets in Virginia, Simmons said Norfolk would have to build more piers, barracks and new child development center.

"This is something that would cost millions and millions," he said. "Where would the savings be?"

Simmons added a "top-level official" at Norfolk acknowledged to him Friday the base is "strapped for land" and "needs to consolidate" its usable space.



Simmons said his assessment of Norfolk and Kings Bay will not change Connecticut's strategy for its presentation at the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission hearing July 6 in Boston.

"The strategy is the same in that we are looking to present the best case of military value. We've accumulated additional data on the past two trips that will only build and benefit our case," he said.

Some Wonder, Why Not Oceana?

Daily Press (Newport News, Virginia)

David Lerman

May 18, 2005

Naval Station Norfolk could double its submarine fleet, but two panel members ask why the air station was not recommended for closure.

Naval Station Norfolk could double the size of its submarine force if the Pentagon wins approval of a base closure plan that shuts a submarine base in Connecticut, Navy officials said Tuesday.

But in a potential threat to Hampton Roads, two members of the independent Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission questioned why Naval Air Station Oceana was not recommended for closure.



The Virginia Beach naval station, home to about 265 warplanes, has long suffered from encroaching development that officials say can hamper flight operations.

"You have no other place that is more encroached on your airspace," said commissioner James T. Hill, a retired Army general who expressed surprise that Oceana would be preserved.

Adm. Vernon Clark, the chief of naval operations, told the commission at a public hearing that he considered closing Oceana00 but couldn't find an available base near a coastline with enough room to accommodate all of Oceana's fighter jets.

"We looked hard at the Oceana issue" because of the encroachment problem, Clark said. The Navy even considered using Air Force bases to accommodate Navy warplanes, he said, but could find none able to handle so many additional planes at a reasonable cost.

Nearby Langley Air Force Base was ruled out because it faces the same encroachment problems as Oceana, said Anne Rathmell Davis, the Navy's deputy assistant secretary for infrastructure strategy and analysis.

The independent review commission, appointed by President Bush with input from Congress, must decide by Sept. 8 whether to accept the Pentagon's closure recommendations or make changes. Historically, about 15 percent of Pentagon recommendations have been modified, officials have said.

While the commission could choose to add Oceana to the closure list, it is no easy task. The nine-member commission can remove a base from the list with a simple majority vote, but adding a base requires a super-majority of seven affirmative votes.

The commission is the final arbiter of a Pentagon plan that would close 33 major bases across the country, including Hampton's Fort Monroe. Bush must approve the plan, but he cannot make changes to it. Congress, likewise, could choose to vote to reject the entire plan, but it cannot change the list.

Naval Station Norfolk, a big winner in the Pentagon's plan, might gain 11 new submarines through the proposed closure of Submarine Base New London in Connecticut.

Although a final decision has not been made, the Navy's plan contemplates splitting up New London's submarines by sending 11 to Norfolk and six to Kings Bay, Georgia, Davis said.

But the proposed closure of New London -- which means the loss of 8,460 jobs to Connecticut -- has already triggered a political campaign to save the base. Connecticut's senators, who attended Tuesday's hearing, promised an aggressive challenge.

"This is the submarine capital of the world and we're going to stay that way," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Navy officials said a shrinking submarine fleet requires the consolidation of East Coast submarine bases. Today's fleet of 54 attack submarines is expected to shrink to as few as 41 subs over the next 30 years, under a preliminary, long-range Navy shipbuilding plan issued in March.

"We've got too much structure," Clark said.

While the Navy considered removing submarines from Norfolk, Clark said, such a move would save little money because the base could not be closed. Norfolk, the country's largest naval base, is home to five nuclear aircraft carriers.

"Every time they brought me recommendations, I was looking for a return on investment," Clark said. "We're looking for a payoff as fast as we can get it."

The base at Kings Bay, Ga., was also rated as highly valuable because it is the only East Coast base equipped to handle the Trident ballistic-missile nuclear submarines that are part of the nation's nuclear deterrent, Davis said.

That meant that any consolidation of East Coast submarine bases would require the closing of New London, officials said.

But Anthony Principi, the commission chairman, questioned whether Kings Bay could accommodate an increase of more than 3,300 workers, in what would be a 21 percent increase in the region's employment base.

"It certainly appeared to me they had limited infrastructure on Kings Bay and limited infrastructure in the county, in terms of roads, schools and housing," Principi said.

Gordon England, the outgoing Navy secretary, said the Navy included more than \$200 million in its plan to build the housing, piers and health-care facilities that would be required at Kings Bay.

England also defended the Pentagon's proposed closure of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, which does submarine repair and maintenance overhauls.

With a shrinking fleet, he said, such work will decline, forcing a consolidation of the Navy's public repair yards.

Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth would gain more than 2,000 jobs from the consolidation.

Rumsfeld Defends Closure List

Daily Press (Newport News, Virginia)

David Lerman

May 17, 2005

Making changes to the proposal for military base closings will be difficult without unraveling the plan, the Pentagon says.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned an independent commission Monday that any significant change to his military base-closure plan could have a domino effect across the country.

Defending his proposal to close 33 major bases, including Hampton's Fort Monroe, Rumsfeld said the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission must consider how each base closure or restructuring would affect other bases before deciding to make changes to his plan.

"It's important to look at the totality of it and see how one piece impacts another," Rumsfeld told the nine-member commission appointed by President Bush to review the plan and suggest changes.

The effect would be particularly evident in Hampton Roads. A decision to save Fort Monroe, for example, could increase the job losses at nearby Fort Eustis.

Rumsfeld's plan calls for moving the Army's Training and Doctrine Command headquarters from Fort Monroe to Fort Eustis, which would undergo a big restructuring. But if Monroe is kept open, those jobs would stay in place, and Eustis would lose more work.

Similarly, **Naval Station Norfolk** would gain 2,800 jobs under Rumsfeld's plan, partly because of the proposed closure of a submarine base in Groton, Conn. If that base is saved, Norfolk presumably would lose jobs -- and subs -- that would otherwise be transferred there.

"It just pointed out the complexity of our undertaking," said Anthony Principi, the commission chairman, after a three-hour hearing. "All these **realignments** and closures are linked to one another. We just need to be mindful it's a daisy chain."

The commission has until Sept. 8 to make revisions to the Pentagon's plan, which would close 33 major bases, restructure 29 others and close or realign 775 minor installations across the country. The base-closure initiative -- the first in a decade -- is expected to save \$5.5 billion a year when fully enacted.

Commission members, at a news conference, said they saw no evidence that politics played a role in the Pentagon proposal. But Principi expressed concern about the plan's effect on Northeastern states, many of which backed Massachusetts Democrat John Kerry for president last year.

Among the big losers in the Pentagon plan was Maine, which would shed 4,500 jobs through the closure of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and Connecticut, which would lose 8,460 jobs from the closure of Submarine Base New London. "New England takes quite a hit, in terms of closures," Principi said.

Those two proposed closures would mean huge job gains at both the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth and **Naval Station Norfolk**.

Michael Wynne -- undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics -- defended the closure decisions, saying a shrinking submarine fleet requires consolidations. Today's fleet of about 58 attack submarines could be cut to as few as 41 over the next 30 years, a preliminary Navy shipbuilding plan released in March indicated.

"Our nuclear submarine fleet is not growing. It's diminishing," Wynne said. While the Maine shipyard performs admirably, he said, Norfolk Naval Shipyard can easily fill the gap.

"They have personnel down there that are trained in nuclear repair," he said. "There is talent available in that field."

The Navy wanted to consolidate its East Coast submarines bases to two locations, Wynne said, and the bases in Norfolk and Kings Bay, Ga., "outperformed" the base in Groton, Conn. He didn't elaborate.

Monday's hearing marked the beginning of the commission's review of the Pentagon plan, which was submitted to Congress on Friday. The schedule established by Congress gives the commission only three months to review hundreds of bases and propose changes.

Commission member James Bilbray, a former Democratic congressman from Nevada, said Congress didn't provide adequate time for a thorough review.

"No other BRAC commission has had to look at as much as this BRAC," he said, referring to the base **realignment** and closure process. "I wish Congress had given us more time than three months to look at this."

Principi has promised that at least one commission member will visit every major base slated for closure, including Fort Monroe.

The commission will hear testimony from Air Force and Navy officials today, followed by Army officials Wednesday. About 16 regional hearings are planned around the country, but no dates or locations have yet been scheduled, officials said.

**Area to Gain 5,000 Jobs, Submarines;
Closures in Connecticut, Maine Mean More Growth for the Area's Major Bases**

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

Bill Geroux

May 14, 2005

The military hub of South Hampton Roads would acquire submarines and more than 5,000 new jobs under the Pentagon's latest plan for base closures and **realignments**.

The **Norfolk Naval Station and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard** in Portsmouth each would gain thousands of jobs, largely because the Navy plans to close its submarine base in New London, Conn., and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Maine.

At least some of New London's 12 fast-attack submarines, along with related operations, would be moved to the Norfolk Naval Station. In all, the Norfolk base would gain 2,800 jobs, mostly for active-duty military.

The Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth stands to gain more than 2,000 jobs, 1,774 of them civilian jobs, mostly from the closure of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine. The closure would leave the Norfolk Naval Shipyard as the Navy's only repair yard on the East Coast.

The Norfolk Naval Shipyard works mostly on aircraft carriers and submarines, said its commander, Capt. Joseph Campbell. If the Pentagon's plan is adopted, he said, "We're going to be doing a little more submarine work."

The infusion of jobs would be a reversal of fortune for the shipyard, which recently was threatened with the loss of a large contract to repair the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy when the Navy announced it would retire the Kennedy instead. The matter still is before Congress.

Oceana Naval Air Station in southern Virginia Beach would lose 60 jobs under the Pentagon's plan but would remain the Navy's main jet base on the East Coast, assembling squadrons of new F/A-18 Super Hornets, despite friction over jet noise and encroaching suburban growth.

Oceana grew by absorbing jets from other bases in the 1995 base closings, but it was considered a candidate for cuts this time.

Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera E. Oberndorf said the Pentagon apparently recognized strong political and community support in the city for Oceana, one of Virginia Beach's largest employers. Oberndorf said she was "ecstatic" South Hampton Roads was chosen for relatively

few cuts.

The big military bases of South Hampton Roads have grown bigger in prior base-closing rounds, absorbing jobs and military hardware from smaller bases being closed elsewhere. That pattern appears to have held this time, said Robert Matthias, chief lobbyist for the city of Virginia Beach.

One local facility scheduled to lose jobs is the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, whose school for corpsmen and its 461 jobs would be moved to Texas. The plan to move the school "was a complete surprise to us," said Deborah R. Kallgren, public affairs officer for the medical center. She said the Navy wanted to consolidate its training schools for corpsmen at a base in Texas.

VA Ready for Scrutiny of Military Bases

Daily Press (Newport News, Virginia)

John M.R. Bull

March 20, 2005

Other states such as Texas and Florida have spent big bucks to save their installations.

Texas spent \$250 million to buy land around its military installations, an effort to make them more attractive and less likely to get the ax in the upcoming round of base closings.

Alabama is picking up the tab for a \$6 million military training facility.

Florida is paying unemployment compensation to military spouses who give up jobs when forced to relocate because of reassignments.

Missouri and Mississippi hired high-priced Washington, D.C., lobbyists.

The current round of military base closings is a high-stakes war pitting state against state, city against city, politician against politician. As many as a quarter of the nation's 450 military bases are eligible for the chopping block.

On the surface, Virginia doesn't appear to have done an awful lot to prepare for this round of base closings, but state officials insist that what reasonably can be done by this point has been done.

Information was collected. Arguments were mustered. Politicians prepared.

The state appropriated \$700,000 for studies and consultants. An impressive panel of retired admirals and generals was marshaled to lead the upcoming defense of Virginia's military bases. The state's congressional delegation is ready to flex its political muscle.

State lawmakers have enacted military-friendly measures, including easing paperwork needed for newly assigned active-duty personnel to obtain state drivers licenses, and waiving the one-year residency requirement to be eligible for in-state tuition rates at state colleges and universities.

Now comes the calm before the thunderstorm.

May 16 is D-Day for bases nationwide -- the day the Pentagon will announce which installations it wants to close or consolidate to save at least \$7 billion in a cash-strapped national defense budget.

At that point, Virginia will launch a major offensive -- bolstered by economic, military and social-impact data -- to save any of its bases slated for closing or consolidation.

"Virginia is as ready as Virginia can get," said former congressman Owen Pickett, chairman of the state's base retention commission. "Could we have spent more money? Sure. Would it have made a difference? I don't think so. I really don't think there's a thing more we can do."

State officials will rely on Pickett's commission -- packed with three- and four-star generals -- to make their case to the nine-member Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, known as BRAC. That panel, nominated last week by the White House, will review the Pentagon's closing list and decide whether to add or drop bases.

State officials also look for Sen. John Warner to wield his influence. The Virginia Republican is a veteran lawmaker, former secretary of the Navy and powerful chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The military benefits of each base will be a key factor in the commission's decision-making process, of course, but other factors also will be considered, including the encroachment of urban sprawl, the possibility of combining different branches of the armed forces on the same base, and the quality of life around a base.

"I think states are anxious," said Tara Butler, the National Governors Association's base-closing expert. "There's no question about that. The Pentagon has made it clear time and time again that all bases are being evaluated, that no base is safe because of its uniqueness."

Virginia has some natural things going for it that other states don't have, so it doesn't need to shell out money it doesn't have for infrastructure improvements or well-heeled lobbyists, state officials figure.

For one, Virginia's location as a mid-Atlantic coastal state makes it a perfect staging area for troops being sent overseas or brought home from military action, said Gov. Mark Warner.

And the state has 400 years of support for the armed forces to its credit, backing other states now appear to be attempting to demonstrate, he added.

"While the commonwealth of Virginia from the beginning has funded and strongly supported every military facility in the state, the commonwealth has no lobbyist and has no public relations firm," said Joe Reeder, former undersecretary of the Army and the vice chairman of the state's base retention commission. "We frankly do not believe anything in the BRAC proceedings will turn on lobbying or on public relations."

Another card in Virginia's favor: Many bases here already are used jointly by different branches of the military, something the Pentagon is aiming to increase in base consolidations to be ordered in this round of base closings, said Art Collins, executive director of Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.

His group has spent \$200,000 of the state's money for BRAC consultants to compile local base information and arguments to be used if the Pentagon puts a local base on the closing list.

Perhaps the biggest issue on everyone's mind this year is a Pentagon evaluation of the effect of civilian encroachment on military bases in deciding whether to keep those bases open.

Collins said he fears what other states have been doing to make their bases more attractive to the Pentagon -- high-priced efforts to build new roads and bridges and buy open space around bases to insulate the military from urban sprawl.

"Virginia traditionally hasn't done that," said Collins, "I worry about that a lot, all those efforts to make them BRAC-proof."

Two years ago, Texas approved the \$250 million Texas Military Value Loan Fund, in part to buy land around its military bases.

Corpus Christi wants to use \$5.2 million for infrastructure improvements around Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, and the city of Temple plans to build a \$3.5 million hangar at a helicopter repair facility near Fort Hood.

Alabama is shelling out \$100 million for construction projects that could increase the value of its four bases, worth \$14 billion to the state's economy. Roughly \$40 million has been spent for maintenance and hangars for the Air National Guard at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base.

Alabama also will spend approximately \$6 million on a new training center near Fort Rucker, and local residents have been loudly proclaiming they don't mind the helicopter noise from that base.

Noise has been a chronic complaint in Virginia Beach, where many residents hate the jet noise that comes with the busy Oceana Naval Air Station.

To lessen the appearance that residents are antagonistic toward the Navy, the General Assembly last month authorized the construction of noise-reduction barriers around residential communities near the base.

Another bill that passed requires real estate agents to inform prospective homebuyers in writing that jet noise is an issue to some of their neighbors. People who know about the problem have less standing to complain, lawmakers figured.

Lawmakers never seriously entertained the idea of buying property around the base to build a bigger buffer zone. It would have been too expensive.

North Carolina, however, spent \$20 million to buy land near its bases to protect them from both civilian development and this round of base closings.

Arizona bought \$10 million of open land to prevent urban encroachment on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

In South Carolina, officials so feared a repeat of 1995 -- when BRAC closed the Charleston Navy Base and Shipyard, costing 22,000 military jobs -- that the state set up a \$25 million fund to help South Carolina communities buy land near their bases.

Missouri hired a Washington, D.C., lobbying firm called Birdeshaw Associates to help protect its bases. The state of Mississippi and some of its communities combined to pay \$300,000 last year for Washington-based consultant Barry Rhoads and his firm to help coordinate base-saving preparations.

Rhoads has been Mississippi's base-closure lobbyist since 1993, before the last round of BRAC base closings. His contract requires the state to put up \$800,000 from July 2002 to June 2006, in addition to \$364,000 to be paid by nine communities that neighbor the state's military bases.

Last year, Florida burnished its image as a military-friendly state by approving new benefits to service members and their families.

That support includes waivers of residency requirements to allow children of military parents into specialty education programs. The state also granted unemployment compensation to military spouses who lose their jobs because of Pentagon-ordered relocations, something Virginia's lawmakers shot down last month.

Florida was brazen about the message it was sending to the military.

"Today, I am signing several pieces of legislation designed to provide support for military families in Florida and to ensure that our communities and military installations continue to build strong relationships," Gov. Jeb Bush said at the time.

Florida is home to 21 military bases and three unified commands. The city of Mayport is maneuvering to convince the Navy to move one of five Norfolk-based nuclear aircraft carriers there after it retires the carrier USS John F. Kennedy.

"We are not playing catch-up in Virginia," said Reeder. "Indeed, we applaud any state for making its facilities attractive to the military, even if that means playing catch-up to Virginia."

Florida's efforts to make itself appear more friendly to the military doesn't compare to Virginia's 400 years of support for the armed forces, said retired Gen. John Foss of Williamsburg, a former commander of Fort Bragg, N.C., and of the Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe.

The large number of military veterans who chose to retire in Virginia -- roughly 730,000 -- shows rank-and-file preference for the state, Foss noted.

"They could retire anywhere, but they choose here," he said. "If a service has a good feeling about a place ... it makes it harder to pick a base to be closed. Many service personnel have a good feeling about Virginia." *

POTENTIAL LOCAL BRAC TARGETS

The base closing and **realignment** process, known as BRAC, got fully under way Wednesday with the naming of the BRAC commission. States across the country have been working feverishly to defend their bases, and Virginia is no exception. Here's a brief look at some of the key bases in Hampton Roads.

FORT MONROE

Old Point Comfort, Hampton

In operation since 1823, it is headquarters for the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, and home to the Joint Task Force Civil Support. Roughly 1,541 military personnel are stationed here, with 2,151 civilian employees. Combined payroll is \$195.1 million.

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE

Hampton

Established in 1916 as Langley Field, this is one of the first sites of military aviation. It is home to three F-15C Eagle squadrons will be home to the Air Force's first combat-ready wing of F/A-22 Raptors. About 8,800 airmen, 2,000 civilians, and 13,000 family members live or work on the base. Combined payroll is \$624 million.

FORT EUSTIS

Newport News

Established in 1918, Eustis serves as the headquarters for the Army Transportation Center and School, the 7th Transportation Group, the 8th Transportation Brigade, the Military Traffic Management Command's Operations Center and the Army Transportation Museum. About 4,516 military, 2,407 Defense Department civilians and 540 non-appropriated fund employees work there. Their combined payroll is \$765.7 million.

NORFOLK NAVAL STATION

Norfolk

The station is the largest naval base in the world. There are 75 ships home-ported at the base, including five nuclear powered aircraft carriers. Also part of the base is Chambers Field, home to 16 aircraft squadrons. Roughly 60,416 active-duty sailors and 9,886 Defense Department employees work there. The payroll for all Navy activities in the area is \$6.37 billion.

LITTLE CREEK NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE

Virginia Beach/Norfolk

This is the biggest amphibious base in the world and the heart of the expeditionary forces for the Atlantic Fleet. The Navy has about 28 amphibious ships, patrol craft and salvage ships based there. The Coast Guard also has several ships docked at Little Creek. The base has 8,926 military and about 1,237 civilian personnel. Combined payroll in 2002 was roughly \$232 million.

OCEANA NAVAL AIR STATION

Virginia Beach

Oceana is home to 19 squadrons of F-14 Tomcat fighters and F/A-18 Hornets -- about 290 aircraft. The planes are either assigned to carriers or used as mock enemy fighters for training. About 9,799 military personnel and 2,273 civilians are stationed or work there. Damn Neck Annex, also in Virginia Beach, falls under Oceana. It has 3,661 military and 1,196 civilians. The combined payroll is \$1 billion.

ALSO IN THE AREA

YORKTOWN NAVAL WEAPONS STATION

York County

The Navy stores, maintains and loads bombs, missiles and other ordnance for the U.S. Atlantic Fleet here. About 1,346 military personnel and 727 civilians and contractors work at the station, with an estimated annual payroll of \$55 million.

CAMP PEARY

York County

The CIA uses this 10,000-acre camp as a training center. Little is publicly known about this place. Neighbors have said they hear loud explosions coming from the camp, which is referred to as "The Farm." The number of workers there and payroll are not divulged.

FORT STORY

This post is home of the 11th Transportation Battalion, which conducts amphibious operations. The scenic base at the beach is home to 987 soldiers and about 14,570 retirees and family members use the base's services. Payroll for the base is \$91.7 million.

Opinions/ Editorials



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren**

1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to realign Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren.

- The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the realignment of the installation could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest Dahlgren for realignment is military value.
- The Commission understands the long history of Dahlgren--dating back to 1918 as a naval proving ground--but the Commission will evaluate the current military value of the base as the DoD seeks to streamline and transform our military to meet changing global threats.

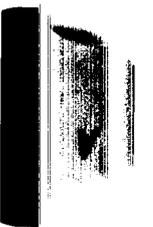
2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to realign Dahlgren could have and is taking this into consideration.

- The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
- The Commission understands the distinct role that the base has played in research, development, test and evaluation, engineering, and fleet support for Surface Warfare, Surface Ship Combat Systems, Ordnance, Strategic Systems, Mines, Amphibious Warfare Systems, Mine Countermeasures, and Special Warfare Systems.

3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.

- The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
- The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren

Q1. Under the current DoD recommendations, Dahlgren would lose roughly 351 jobs. Although slight, will the Commission consider the economic ramifications of the recommended realignment?

A1. The Commission takes all pertinent factors into account, as prescribed by statute, as it performs an evaluation of the suggestions made by the Department of Defense (DoD) and formulates its own suggestions. The primary criterion through which the Commission performs its analysis is military value. The Commission will also consider other factors such as economic and environmental impact of recommendations for closure or realignment.

Q2. Under the Pentagon's proposal, Dahlgren will benefit from the relocation of a surface maritime sensor program from Charleston, S.C. and Point Loma in San Diego. What criteria will the Commission use to evaluate this recommendation?

A2. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Dahlgren, but will also consider the impact that the realignment of the installation would have on the surrounding community. In addition, the Commission will review the installation's ability to receive incoming personnel and alter operations. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q3. Under the Pentagon's proposal, Dahlgren will lose much of its weapons and armaments research and testing to the Naval Air Warfare Center in China Lake, California. What criteria will the Commission use to evaluate this recommendation?

A3. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Dahlgren, but will also consider the impact that the realignment of the installation would have on the surrounding community. In addition, the Commission will review China Lake's ability to receive incoming personnel and additional operations. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q4. Under the BRAC report, Dahlgren was recognized as a specialty site for naval weapons system integration. As such, Dahlgren is slated to receive a satellite unit from the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Port Hueneme in San Diego. What criteria will the Commission use to evaluate this recommendation?

A4. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Dahlgren, but will also consider the impact that the realignment of the installation would have on the surrounding community. In addition, the Commission will review the installation's ability to receive incoming personnel and alter operations. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full

A4. Continued

evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q5. Under the Pentagon's proposal, Dahlgren's guns and ammunitions research and testing will be relocated to Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. What criteria will the Commission use to evaluate this recommendation?

A5. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Dahlgren, but will also consider the impact that the realignment of the installation would have on the surrounding community. In addition, the Commission will review Picatinny Arsenal's ability to receive incoming personnel and additional operations. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q6. Under the Pentagon's proposal, Dahlgren's non-medical chemical biological defense research and development program would be relocated to Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. What criteria will the Commission use to evaluate this recommendation?

A6. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Dahlgren, but will also consider the impact that the realignment of the installation would have on the surrounding community. In addition, the Commission will review Aberdeen Proving Ground's ability to receive incoming personnel and additional operations. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q7. How can the Community inform the Commission of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A7. The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER DAHLGREN VIRGINIA

National News Articles

Local News Articles

Politicians to petition BRAC panel in N.C. AH: Area heavyweights want IT jobs moved to SPAWAR

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Base Panel To Visit State

Opinions/ Editorials

National News Articles

Local News Articles

Politicians to petition BRAC panel in N.C. AH: Area heavyweights want IT jobs moved to SPAWAR

The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)

JOHN P. MCDERMOTT

June 28, 2005

Several area elected officials and community leaders hope to persuade a military base-closing panel today that the government can save more money by moving about 220 high-tech defense jobs to the Lowcountry instead of Southern California and by keeping a Navy construction unit in the region.

The local entourage will have about two and a half hours to make its case to the Base **Realignment & Closure** Commission at a public hearing this afternoon in Charlotte.

Scheduled speakers include Charleston Mayor Joe Riley and North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey. Gov. Mark Sanford also plans to attend the hearing at Central Piedmont Community College.

The BRAC Commission was created to double-check the Defense Department's new list of base closings and restructurings. The independent nine-member panel can make changes to the list.

Last month, the Pentagon recommended shutting down the Defense Finance & Accounting

Service on the former Charleston Naval Base and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command's Southern Division off Rivers Avenue. Together, the two units employ more than 900 workers, almost all of them civilians.

Local officials will not contest the decision to close the accounting center, which has 368 employees.

Charleston defense contractor Jim Hoffman said his testimony will take aim at 223 information technology jobs that the Pentagon wants to uproot from Navy installations in Newport, R.I., and **Dahlgren**, Va., and move to San Diego.

He said Monday that the government would improve its bottom line by transferring those civilian workers and contract employees to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Charleston, also known as SPAWAR. By doing so, the Pentagon would save at least \$30 million over 20 years, said Hoffman, a retired SPAWAR commander who now works for Eagan McAllister Associates in Hanahan.

He also plans to tell the commissioners that the electronic engineering work performed at SPAWAR-Charleston and at the two targeted facilities is very similar.

Hoffman said he plans to tout a study by consulting firm Booz Allen that found SPAWAR-Charleston to be the most cost-efficient in the country compared to its peers.

He also will offer statistical evidence to show that wages and the cost of living are notably higher in San Diego than the Charleston region.

Other local military boosters will urge the commission to take the Naval Facilities Engineering Command's Southern Division off the hit list. The division oversees more than \$1 billion a year in military construction in 26 states. The Defense Department has recommended the 500-plus civilian jobs at "NavFac" be relocated to Virginia, Florida and Illinois.

Bill Lewis, a former NavFac commander who now oversees construction for the Charleston County School District, is scheduled to testify that it makes no financial sense to break up the unit.

NavFac was marked for closing partly because it operates from an off-base building that the military does not own. Summey said earlier this month that the command could move almost rent-free into the Defense Finance & Accounting Service's offices after that unit is closed.

Another option is for the Pentagon to take the Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments up on its offer to build NavFac a new headquarters on the Charleston Naval Weapons Station. Summey said this month that the deal was still on the table.

The four BRAC commissioners who are scheduled to preside over the Charlotte hearing will not make any decisions today. The information they gather will be considered later by the full panel.

The commission must submit its revised list of base closings and restructurings to President Bush by September.

Charleston Advocates Make Case To Brac

KRTBN Knight-Ridder Tribune Business News - The State - Columbia

Chuck Crumbo
June 29, 2005

CHARLOTTE -- The Pentagon used "flawed" data and failed to follow its own guidelines when it recommended closing a Navy engineering facility in Charleston and moving its 500 jobs, advocates for the Holy City's military bases charged Tuesday.

"This ... proposal would have never made it out of a corporate boardroom," William Lewis, a former commander of the engineering facility, said at a regional hearing of the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission.

The Lowcountry contingent also made a surprise pitch to move 250 jobs earmarked for San Diego to a Navy research and development agency in Charleston.

Leaving the engineering command open and adding the 250 R&D jobs could save the Defense Department nearly \$ 90 million, Charleston base supporters said.

That got the attention of the panel, which is charged with taking the Pentagon's base-closing proposals and making a recommendation to the president.

BRAC commissioner Philip Coyle asked Lewis why he did not propose consolidating more Navy engineering facilities in Charleston.

"I thought it would be unseemly," Lewis responded as the Charleston contingent smiled.

Charleston Mayor Joe Riley said he was encouraged by Tuesday's hearing. "We're not asking for sympathy or anything like that. We told them how we can save the Department of Defense money. ..."

Charleston was the only S.C. military community to take a hit when Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld issued the Pentagon's base-closing recommendations May 13.

Rumsfeld called for closing the South Naval Facilities Engineering Facility, and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and trimming the Naval Weapons Station staff. The proposals would cost 1,100 jobs.

Overall, the state stands to gain 700 jobs as 1,800 new jobs are added to Midlands bases -- at Fort Jackson, McEntire Joint National Guard Base and Shaw Air Force Base.

The Pentagon plans to send Charleston's Navy engineering jobs to Jacksonville, Fla., Great Lakes, Ill., and Norfolk, Va.

The Charleston officials said they could not find any errors in the plan to close the finance facility. But they raised questions about the rationale for closing the Navy engineering facility.

One problem, Lewis said, was the Pentagon lumped savings from closing the Charleston facility with a Philadelphia engineering command. If the cost of closing the Charleston facility was separated from shuttering the Philadelphia command, there would be no savings, officials said.

Also, the Pentagon did not consider how much money could be saved by moving the Charleston engineering command into the payroll building once it is vacated, Lewis said. That building can

be rented for \$ 1 a year and converted for use by engineers for about \$ 1 million. Instead, the Navy plans to spend \$ 14 million on a new building in Jacksonville.

Overall, the breakup of the engineering command would cost the Navy \$ 49 million more than keeping it in Charleston, Lowcountry officials said.

Charleston officials also suggested the BRAC panel review a Pentagon proposal to close two detachments of SPAWAR Systems Center, located in **Dahlgren**, Va., and Newport, R.I. The Pentagon plans to move about 250 jobs from those communities to San Diego. SPAWAR is a Navy research and development command that employs more than 2,500 in Charleston.

The Defense Department could save about \$ 40 million by moving the jobs to Charleston because of the area's lower housing costs, said retired Navy Capt. Jim Hoffman, a former SPAWAR commander.

Charleston faces a tough road in winning its case to keep the engineering facility open. Historically, 85 percent of base-closing recommendations are approved.

DAHLGREN Navy Reductions Surprise Officials

But They Don't Expect Major Impact From Loss Of 351 Jobs At Naval Surface Warfare Center

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Lawrence Latane III

May 14, 2005

KING GEORGE -- A Navy research and development center in King George County would lose 351 jobs under the Defense Department's realignment plan.

The recommended cuts surprised many of the Naval Surface Warfare Center's neighbors in the community of Dahlgren yesterday. "The scuttlebutt was we would see a gain in jobs," said businessman John Short.

But Short doubted that the cuts, if they are approved, would make much impact on the fast-growing county that is near the booming Northern Virginia and Fredericksburg areas.

According to government figures, the base would lose 503 civilian jobs but get 169 new civilian positions under the realignment proposal.

Along with 17 cuts in military positions, the recommendations mean a net loss of 351 jobs for a base that currently employs about 4,000 civilians and 100 Navy personnel and works with approximately 3,700 off-base contractors.

Dahlgren is known for its noisy testing of naval artillery on the Potomac River but has evolved into a developer of high-tech weapons guidance systems.

"We are thoroughly analyzing the BRAC report to determine what positions and program areas will be impacted," the base commander, Capt. Joseph L McGettigan, said in a statement.

Base personnel are a major source of trade at the Dahlgren Radio Shack, said manager Steven Mueller. But, he also suspected that the county's rapidly growing population would offset any loss of business he might see.

Locals, State To Scrutinize Plan

The Free Lance Star

Emily Battle

May 15, 2005

Base-closure fight gearing up

Local officials breathed a sigh of relief Friday when it became clear that plans no major harm to the area's military facilities in its list of recommended base closures and realignments.

But they'll be busy again this week, sifting through the more than 1,200 pages of information in the Pentagon report, looking for anything they can challenge that might further boost the region's position as a host to military work.

"Before, we were working in the dark," said Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce President Linda Worrell. "Now, we specifically know what's important to them.

"Our next job is to drill down through all that information and say, is this the correct information?"

That kind of analysis will be the next step in the Base Realignment and Closure process, commonly called BRAC.

The Fredericksburg area would gain a total of 2,662 jobs if the Pentagon's BRAC recommendations are enacted.

Quantico Marine Corps Base--which employs 7,154 civilians and 6,846 military personnel--would gain 3,013 jobs.

But the naval base at Dahlgren would lose 351. Dahlgren now employs 4,031 civilians, 453 service members and 4,016 contractors.

The Army's Fort A.P. Hill would remain untouched.

Worrell noted that the Pentagon's list was the product of several months of deliberation that went on without any outside input, leaving military dependent communities around the country waiting anxiously and hiring lobbyists and consultants to try to wield any influence they could muster.

The Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce has led a more-than-\$400,000 effort over the past two years to keep the area's three military bases open. The chamber estimates that Quantico, Dahlgren and Fort A.P. Hill contribute more than \$1.2 billion annually to the local economy.

Now that the closure list is public, it goes to the nine-member BRAC Commission, which was appointed by President Bush. Starting May 23, that commission will hold hearings around the country, giving community officials a chance to weigh in on the Pentagon's analysis.

In Virginia, Gov. Mark Warner's BRAC task force will be working this week to identify which elements of the list it wants to fight.

"We'll evaluate the various impacts on Virginia and decide which ones are priorities," said former Rep. Owen Pickett, co-chairman of that task force.

"These decisions, of course, don't become final until they've been acted upon by Congress," Pickett added. "We'll be waiting to see which ones of these decisions will survive the process."

Warner said Friday that the state will work with commercial real-estate executives in Northern Virginia to find ways to retain the nearly 23,000 military and civilian jobs that may move out of leased office space in that region.

"It is important that everyone recognize this is but one step in a lengthy process that will continue through the summer and fall," Warner said.

Lt. Gov. Tim Kaine, the Democratic candidate for governor, said the task force will be talking to officials in Hampton to work on a strategy for getting Fort Monroe off the closure list.

Fort Monroe is the only installation in Virginia that was recommended for closure.

Kaine said the panel also will work to find alternate uses for Fort Monroe should it ultimately close.

Jerry Kilgore, who is seeking the Republican nomination for governor, said that Sens. John Warner and George Allen, R-Va., will be of "great assistance" in Virginia's efforts to turn around some of the proposals.

Locally, Worrell said the chamber hopes to have more specifics this week on how Quantico and Dahlgren would be affected.

"We are not finished yet," she said. "This is just the next step."

Most Cheer List, But Some Have Worries

The Free Lance Star

Pamela Gould, Meghann Cotter, Jessica Allen, and Ruth Finch

May 14, 2005

Businesses in the town of Quantico eagerly greeted the news yesterday that the local Marine Corps base could get another 3,013 personnel.

"I think it would be good for the economy down here in Q-town," said Garold Mobley, master barber at Quantico Barber Shop. "Hopefully we can get a face-lift down here and make it more attractive."

At a barber shop down the Potomac River, the mood was different. The morning's Base Realignment and Closure list recommended a net loss of 351 jobs at the Navy base in Dahlgren.

"They are talking about moving my command to Norfolk, and a lot of people are upset because they just bought houses," said Greg Person, who stopped by Jerry's Barber Shop in Dahlgren yesterday with his 2-year-old daughter, Ashley.

Person, who does security for the Naval Network and Space Operations Command on base, said he isn't worried, because he is being sent to Japan in two months.

The rumor mill was grinding as Dahlgren officials pored over the report to figure out what jobs were coming and which ones were leaving. Officials said the space command did not appear to be affected.

In general, officials in the region were happy with yesterday's list.

"Overall, we could have been far worse," King George County Administrator Dennis Kerns said. "I think it is rather minor in relation."

Quantico saw the third-largest personnel gain among Virginia bases in the BRAC report. Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County saw the biggest--increasing by 11,858 people.

The net gain to the Fredericksburg region is almost 2,700 jobs, but experts in Stafford and King George counties say they won't get a clear picture of the impact of the proposed changes for several weeks.

Stafford Economic Development Director Tim Baroody said he's waiting to see where the new Quantico employees will come from and whether they will relocate. They won't have as great an impact on Stafford if the new personnel are already living here or elsewhere in Northern Virginia.

He and Supervisor Bob Gibbons are pleased with the proposed changes and the opportunities they see to attract more businesses to Stafford.

"We are delighted with the fact that Quantico has gained and they will be providing additional work," Baroody said.

Gibbons, who represents Rock Hill District and consistently looks for ways to attract high-tech business to the North Stafford corridor, is enthusiastic about the types of jobs heading to Quantico.

"These are high-quality jobs," he said. "They are the cream of the cream."

He agreed with Garrisonville District Supervisor Gary Pash that an influx of new personnel could mean increased traffic, but thinks that impact could be dampened if people don't move into the area.

Pash, who chairs the Board of Supervisors, is concerned about the overall impact on the county, especially considering that its plans for schools and other infrastructure are based on a growth rate of about 5 percent per year.

"It's going to be stressing us to take care of the infrastructure," he said. "If the federal government is going to be relocating a lot more people here, the federal government should be helping the local government build infrastructure to accommodate those additional families."

Stafford schools spokeswoman Valerie Cottongim said 3,000 new families would be a lot for the county to absorb, but it's something the system would deal with if necessary.

"It will impact our schools, but lots of things are going to impact our student population, and we just have to try to plan the best we can," she said.

School Board Chairman Tom Villacres said the new families may be cause for Stafford to redouble its effort to get authority from the General Assembly to enact growth-management tools such as an adequate-public-facilities ordinance and education impact fees.

"I'm not unhappy and I'm not going to fight against this, but it brings a challenge," Villacres said. "If people are going to move into the area more quickly than they already are, we have got to get our planning hats on."

Gibbons said yesterday that a key question for him is whether the BRAC data released by the Pentagon includes the personnel who are moving from leased space--located primarily in Northern Virginia.

If not, more people could be headed to local bases. The report recommends moving 22,925 people from leased space to other sites.

A mass relocation to the Fredericksburg region could put additional pressure on home prices in an already tight market, said Sunset Caldwell, managing broker for Long & Foster in Stafford.

"It's good news for the homeowners, although it is a lot of headache for the supervisors in terms of managing growth in both Stafford and Spotsylvania County," Caldwell said.

Because Dahlgren's work force was trimmed rather than sheared, King George Realtors aren't worried about any drop in the market there.

Chip Taylor, vice president and manager of CENTURY 21 Battlefield in Dahlgren, said the influx of people moving there from southern Maryland and Fredericksburg looking for more affordable homes will make up for any drop in jobs at the naval base.

"We don't see it as having any impact," Taylor said. "The news today is good news."

Joe Daniel, a department manager for Anteon Corp., a contracting firm in Dahlgren, said his company is just waiting for more information before determining whether it's good news.

The multinational corporation headquartered in Fairfax County provides support to various departments at Dahlgren.

"Depending where the positions go and which department they are from, we'll determine if we can follow them, provide support remotely or find something else," he said.

"Within the next weeks [the government] will put rumors to rest and say what's doing what," Daniel said.

Back at General Java's Internet Cafe in the tiny riverfront town of Quantico, Clare Rivers was looking forward to an increase in the number of customers stopping by for coffee.

But at least one person in town shared concerns expressed by Pash about the increase in congestion that would accompany more employees.

"I think it would help with the local businesses, but it might hurt with the traffic already heavy," said Marc Newman, a sales representative at The Marine Shop. "They may need to do something to ease traffic, to ease the flow."

Big Gains For Quantico Trump Dahlgren Losses

The Free Lance Star

Emily Battle and Pamela Gould

May 14, 2005

Fredericksburg-area military bases fared relatively well in the Defense Department's recommended list of base closures and realignments yesterday.

Overall, the region's three military bases posted a net gain of 2,662 jobs under the recommendations Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld released.

While the naval base at Dahlgren in King George County would lose 351 civilian positions, Quantico Marine Corps Base would gain 3,013 jobs if the recommendations are enacted as proposed. Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County was untouched by yesterday's report.

Overall, Virginia saw a net gain of 1,574 positions and a loss of just one base--Fort Monroe in Hampton.

Quantico saw the third-largest personnel gain of any base in the state. Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County saw the biggest increase in the nation, gaining 11,858 people.

Some of those jobs could be coming from leased space in Northern Virginia. The Pentagon reported in its recommendations a net loss of 22,925 jobs in leased space around the state.

Locally, the recommendations were good news to the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce, which has been working with a consultant over the past two years to make sure local bases survive the BRAC process. Local governments and businesses have invested more than \$400,000 in the effort.

"When we started this effort, we were concerned that we could potentially lose a significant number of jobs at the Dahlgren Division laboratory," Chamber President Linda Worrell said.

In addition to protecting the lab, Worrell said, the chamber also wanted to bring new missions to the area's bases.

"We've accomplished both of those goals," she said. "I think all and all we did extremely well at Dahlgren and for the region."

Both Dahlgren and Quantico would gain new missions under the recommendations, while losing jobs in other areas.

Lt. Col. Rick Long, Quantico's chief spokesman, said the base would become the headquarters for all services' criminal investigation departments and the site of the Counterintelligence Field Activity and the Defense Security Service.

That means the Naval Criminal Investigative Service would relocate from the Washington Navy Yard, and the Army Criminal Investigation Command would relocate from Fort Belvoir.

Long said those moves would require about 680,000 square feet of new building space. If the BRAC recommendations are approved, he said, implementation would begin within two years and be completed within six.

The one potential negative on Quantico's horizon is the expected loss of its brig operation, which is expected to be relocated to Chesapeake.

Overall, the Quantico base would lose 50 military positions but see an increase of 496 military positions, 1,357 civilian positions and 1,210 contractor positions.

Dahlgren would lose 503 current civilian positions and 17 contracting jobs. It would gain 169 new civilian jobs, for a net loss of 351 positions.

Dahlgren and Chamber of Commerce officials both said yesterday that they'd need more time to determine exactly what programs are moving in and out of the naval base.

The detailed report of the Defense Department's recommendations indicates that the job gain might come from the relocation of surface maritime sensors programs to Dahlgren from Charleston, S.C., and Point Loma in San Diego.

It also appears from the Pentagon report that much of Dahlgren's weapons and armaments research and testing will be shifted to the Naval Air Warfare Center in China Lake, Calif., where that work is being consolidated.

Dahlgren, however, was identified as a specialty site for naval surface weapons systems integration, and will gain a satellite unit from the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Port Hueneme in San Diego.

It also appears that Dahlgren's guns and ammunition research and testing will be relocated to Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey, where that work is being consolidated.

In addition, the report states that Dahlgren's nonmedical chemical biological defense research and development would be relocated to Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

Worrell said the chamber is still sifting through the 1,200 pages of the Pentagon report, and hopes to have more information next week on the specific impacts at Quantico and Dahlgren.

King George Supervisor Steve Wolfe also said it will take more time to determine exactly what the impact will be.

"You hate to see any jobs lost, but when you look at 351 jobs in the context of about 8,000 [total jobs at Dahlgren], it doesn't seem to be quite that bad," he said.

Wolfe said only about 40 percent of the jobs at Dahlgren are held by King George residents, with many others living in Fredericksburg and in Stafford and Spotsylvania counties, as well as across the Potomac River in Maryland.

Wolfe also pointed out that the release of the recommendations is really just the beginning of the Base Realignment and Closure process, commonly called BRAC. The list now goes to a nine-member independent commission, which can make changes, and must forward its revisions to President Bush by Sept. 8.

Wolfe hopes the loss at Dahlgren might be reduced by that point.

Rep. Jo Ann Davis, on the other hand, would like to see the process halted altogether before then. The 1st District Republican has opposed BRAC at every step since Congress authorized it in 2001.

She said that even though no bases in her district, which includes Fredericksburg and surrounding counties, are slated for closure, wartime is the wrong time to close bases.

"During a time of war, as America battles terrorism across the globe in Afghanistan and Iraq, and as we face emerging threats worldwide, I do not support the closing and realignment of our military bases," she said in a written statement. "Although no bases in my congressional district have been listed for closure or drastic realignment, my opposition to BRAC has not changed."

Base Closures And Realignment Won't Devastate Virginia

The Free Lance Star

May 15, 2005

NO STATE WAS SPARED on the Pentagon's list of proposed military base closures. Released Friday by the Defense Department, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's roster of outdated or superfluous military facilities will, if Congress approves it, sting communities from Maine to Hawaii. How fared the Old Dominion? Better than most.

Virginia will see job losses at some military facilities, job gains at others, and realignment at the rest. Only one major military institution in the state is slated for closure--Fort Monroe in Hampton. More than 3,500 people will find themselves out of work if the BRAC proposals become official. That number represents only the fort's military and civilian work force, together with mission contractors. There is no way of knowing exactly how many families and businesses in the surrounding community will suffer from the closure. Pity all those in our state who face a looming ax.

On a happier note, military bases in this neighborhood seem safe. The Marine Corps base in Quantico will net over 3,000 jobs if the BRAC proposals stand. Fort Belvoir looks to be the biggest "winner" in this high-stakes game, with more than 11,000 new positions requested by Defense Secretary Rumsfeld. (Those I-95 commutes just got a little longer.) The Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren is slated to be realigned, with an estimated net loss of 351 jobs. While this is hardly news to toast, the installation itself will remain open, and new programs may be directed there, making Dahlgren a question mark in the net-jobs category.

Every state had waited with trepidation for the BRAC list to be published. Herculean efforts by Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-1st District) made sure that military officials knew the important work being done for national security here in the land of Lee and Washington. Mrs. Davis deserves the thanks of her district and her state for her tireless promotion of Virginia's contributions to defense.

In the aggregate, Virginia stands to gain jobs under BRAC. The list's approval is hardly a done deal, of course--legislators are already piling up the sandbags to protect their states' installations. But change is a necessity for a modern military facing new kinds of challenges, particularly terrorism. Facilities set up during the Cold War to blunt massive invasions from Warsaw Pact troops can be better positioned today. If the BRAC list is approved, Virginia will continue to be on the front lines of America's national security.

Base Panel To Visit State

Times-Dispatch

Peter Hardin

May 24, 2005

WASHINGTON - Members of an independent base-closure commission this week will begin fact-finding trips to military installations, including several Virginia bases.

The itinerary for members of the base-closure commission, which recently received from the Defense Department a list of proposed closings and realignments, includes Fort Monroe in Hampton and Fort Eustis in Newport News tomorrow.

Fort Monroe was recommended by the Pentagon for closure, with a loss of more than 3,500 jobs.

Fort Eustis would lose more than 2,000 jobs if the Pentagon's recommendations were followed.

"The site visits are the main forum by which our commissioners and our staff learn the details of what military activities are really happening at the base, how the Department of Defense recommendations would affect the installation, and whether base closure criteria were applied correctly by the Pentagon while putting its list together," said commission chairman Anthony Principi.

Other Virginia installations on the commission's itinerary include the Norfolk Naval Station and the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth today, the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren on Thursday, and leased space in Northern Virginia on Friday.

Statewide, the Pentagon estimated a net loss of 1,574 positions in the Old Dominion if its recommendations were accepted.

In the Washington suburbs, nearly 23,000 jobs could be lost as part of the Pentagon's plan to move its personnel out of 4 million square feet of office space it leases and into buildings on military bases.

Last week, the Virginia Commission on Military Bases said it wants Gov. Mark R. Warner to study and challenge some of the Pentagon's proposed changes for Virginia's military installations.

Topping the list of the state commission's concerns was the potential loss of leased office space in Northern Virginia, The Associated Press reported.

Opinions/ Editorials



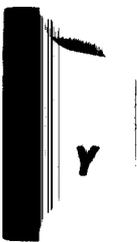
**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Fort Eustis**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to realign Fort Eustis.**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the realignment of the installation could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest Fort Eustis for realignment is military value.
 - The Commission understands the long history of Fort Eustis--dating back to 1923 as a permanent installation--but the Commission will evaluate the current military value of the base as the DoD seeks to streamline and transform our military to meet changing global threats.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to realign Fort Eustis could have and is taking this into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission understands the distinct role that the base has played in the training of our military—as home to the Army Training and Doctrine Command, the Transportation Center and School, the Aviation Logistics School, and the non-Commissioned Officer Academy.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
 - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to Fort Eustis**

Q1. Under the current Department of Defense (DoD) recommendations, operations at Fort Eustis would shift from training to planning. Will the Commission consider the ability of Ft. Eustis to transform operations efficiently in its recommendation?

A1. The Commission takes all pertinent factors into account, as prescribed by statute, as it performs an evaluation of the suggestions made by the Department of Defense (DoD) and formulates its own suggestions. The primary criterion through which the Commission performs its analysis is military value. The Commission will also consider other factors such as an installation's ability to assume/alter operations.

Q2. Fort Eustis is slated to receive many of the commands now based at Fort Monroe. Will the Commission consider Ft. Eustis' ability to receive a large influx in personnel?

A2. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Fort Eustis, but will also consider the impact that the realignment of the installation would have on the surrounding community. In addition, the Commission will review the installation's ability to receive incoming personnel and alter operations. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q3. Operations at Ft. Eustis would transfer to Langley Air Force Base. Will the Commission consider Langley's AFB's ability to manage operations at Ft. Eustis?

A3. The primary criterion through which the Commission reviews DoD's recommendations is military value. Military value is determined through the following elements: jointness; ease of mobility; and, the role of the installation in the changing global threat paradigm. As such, the Commission will objectively evaluate Langley's ability to manage Fort Eustis as it attempts to transform into a more "joint" installation.

Q4. The Pentagon's recommendations would alter Ft. Eustis role as a Reserve and National Guard mobilization base. Will the Commission consider the larger ramifications of changes at Ft. Eustis on the military's Reserve structure?

A4. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the base, but will also consider other factors. The Reserve structure of the U.S. military is a topic of great importance as the military relies more heavily upon Reserve forces to conduct war-fighting operations. The Commission will closely evaluate the effects of the proposed changes on the Reserve structure with regard to Ft. Eustis.

Q5. How can the Community inform the Commission of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A5. The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional

A5. Continued

hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



FORT EUSTIS VIRGINIA

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Fort Eustis Hosts Coast Guard Training

Daily Press

Ward Sandersen

May 20, 2005

NEWPORT NEWS -- To the regular Coast Guard, Cmdr. Kurt Hinrichs is the master of the green monster.

That's what they call Coast Guard Port Security Unit 305, about 100 reservists who deploy abroad to defend ports and military ships. At a time when the military wants service branches to work together, the "305" has a lead.

It's definitely "joint": Its headquarters are at Fort Eustis, an Army base. It trains with Marines. Abroad, it works with the Navy.

Now the Coast Guard members are playing war for two weeks. They've descended on Newport News from as far away as Florida for their annual training.

That doesn't mean boater rescues, the stuff of made-for-TV movies. The 305's patrol boats perform high-speed combat maneuvers. And they practice convoy security with laser-equipped M-16s and vests that record a virtual hit.

During training Wednesday, one member lost a helmet, his weapon and nearly his neck to a nylon line struck along their convoy route. It was supposed to trigger a mock bomb of red smoke. It snagged his helmet and gun and sent them flying, instead.

"It's a lot different," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Doreen Dimitri of Virginia Beach, who used to work full time with the Coast Guard. "I was at a little station, and they did a lot of search and rescue. ... I never knew the Coast Guard did this until they told me about this unit."

From late 2001 through 2003, the unit was deployed for 14 months. It spent time in New York after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Spain. "For a reservist, being deployed 14 months out of 24 is a lot," Hinrichs said.

So much, in fact, that the unit has a hard time keeping people longer than the five-year obligation. Hinrichs said about 60 of his people were new to the unit-meaning 60 either left the Coast Guard or found new units. Most, Hinrichs said, chose the latter.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Yoed Cameron was ready to travel. "My husband's in the Marines, and he's been deployed," the Portsmouth resident said. "I'd look forward to it."

New Civilian Jobs Planned For Eustis

Daily Press

Fred Carrol and Lauren Williams

May 14, 2005

NEWPORT NEWS -- Newport News officials expect the military restructuring announced Friday to bring more stable, better-paying jobs to Fort Eustis even as the post unexpectedly shrinks.

In total, the post loses more than 2,100 jobs, mostly military personnel. Army and city officials, though, said the job losses aren't as significant as that number indicates.

It includes a command headquarters that has yet to arrive and soldiers who leave after training at the transportation and aviation schools, said Col. Ronnie T. Ellis, garrison commander.

New civilian jobs - such as those relocating from Fort Monroe in Hampton - should pay more than military positions moving elsewhere, said Mayor Joe Frank.

"This is certainly a sea change," Frank said, "but it's not a tsunami."

Established in 1918, Fort Eustis has about 4,500 military personnel and about 2,400 civilians, making it one of Newport News' largest employers. Its payroll nears \$770 million.

Two recommended shifts surprised city officials:

Fort Lee near Petersburg will get a transportation center and school that have historically played an important role at Fort Eustis.

Ellis said without them the mission of the post changes slightly, but the full extent of the change can't be measured until the recommendations go into effect. He said a core transportation group will remain.

Scott Air Force Base in Illinois will get an operations hub that located here 10 years ago when the previous round of base closures consolidated two traffic management commands.

Newport News officials had hoped to get the hub's headquarters, which is in Alexandria, and its several hundred jobs with an average salary of \$70,000 after offering to erect a building on the

post at the city's expense. But that also goes to Illinois.

Frank said the city might challenge those two recommendations, but officials first need to review the Pentagon's rationale for the transfers.

Florence Kingston, the city's development director, said job losses will sting individual families but should not greatly affect the city's overall economy.

"Fort Eustis is the bread and butter of local businesses in the northern part of Newport News," said Sonny Chiarello, who owns Luigi's Italian Restaurant.

Chiarello worries fewer people at Fort Eustis could hurt his business, but he worries more for the families that might have to move or find a new employer. "Losing any kind of a job is going to have an impact, no matter how small it is," Chiarello said.

Two Local Army Forts Could End Up Under Navy And Air Force Control

The Virginian-Pilot

Louis Hansen And Kate Wiltrout

May 22, 2005

Close venerable Fort Monroe. Put the Air Force in charge of the Army's Fort Eustis. And that picturesque little Army base in Virginia Beach? Turn it, Fort Story, over to the Navy.

Local Army leaders could be forgiven for feeling like they're being chased out of Hampton Roads by new Department of Defense recommendations that aim for greater efficiency and cooperation among the military's branches.

The Defense Department is looking to save nearly \$2.3 billion over 20 years just by centralizing property management at about dozen bases nationwide. Locally, the region could lose 550 jobs under the proposed rearrangements. It's part of a plan to close unneeded bases and realign others.

For the moment, however, all this has local military brass wondering what's to come.

"We have not even made contact with the Navy" to discuss the changes, said Lt. Col. Wesley Rehorn, Fort Story's garrison commander.

Added Col. Ronnie T. Ellis, garrison commander at Fort Eustis, "I really can't tell you how it would look."

Even Navy and Air Force officials are puzzled, saying it is too early to know how the unusual arrangement would work.

But there's a longer view if the proposals unveiled May 13 become reality after a long review by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

While the changes mean the Army would become tenants on their own bases and have fewer troops in Hampton Roads, they also may cement Fort Story's key role in training elite forces throughout the East Coast. And Fort Eustis could evolve into a mecca of military planners and problem solvers.

Fort Story

Rehorn thinks that turning the keys over to the Navy would be more symbolic than anything else.

“The function at Fort Story doesn’t change,” he said. “The reason the Army is at Fort Story doesn’t change.”

In fact, the switch in base management only seems to acknowledge its value as a training venue for special forces.

That’s probably what kept Fort Story off the base closure list, said Chris Hellman, a military policy analyst at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in Washington.

“You’re talking about the top tier,” Hellman said. “If the military thinks what it’s doing there can’t be done anywhere else, then they’re not going to want to leave.”

The 1,400-acre fort has about 2,300 military and civilian employees and residents. With about 900 troops, the largest unit is the 11th Transportation Battalion. Another Army unit makes seawater drinkable. The base is also home to a Navy outfit that trains sailors in explosives and a Marine amphibious reconnaissance school.

But perhaps its most important assets are natural: the beaches, bunkers, water and air space routinely used by Navy SEALs, Army special forces and elite paratroopers who practice high-altitude jumps.

Rehorn estimated that 75 percent of the training on the base is done by the Navy, with SEAL units and explosive ordnance disposal squads often coming from Little Creek or Dam Neck, a Navy annex in Virginia Beach.

“You cannot find training ground like this anywhere on the East Coast,” he said.

Lt. Cmdr. Bob Mehal , a spokesman for the Navy’s Mid-Atlantic Region , thinks if Fort Story does change management, it would fall under the purview of Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base.

“Due to similarity in missions, it would make good sense that Little Creek would oversee Fort Story as an annex,” he said.

The command that oversees the SEALs – Naval Special Warfare Group Two from Little Creek – is constructing a close quarters combat facility at Fort Story, with plans for three additional training buildings there, Little Creek spokesman Scott Mohr said .

Some military watchers agree that the switch in base operations will amount to little more than a change of landlords.

It’s “just a real estate deal,” said John S. Pike, director of Global Security.org.

He said the realignment of Fort Story and Fort Eustis could simply mean the Navy and Air Force handle the mundane details of maintaining a base – from hauling garbage to fixing roofs – while the Army goes about its business.

Fort Eustis

Operations at Fort Eustis, which sits on 8,300 acres along the James River, would shift from training to planning.

The base now buzzes with young soldiers learning specialized skills, ranging from aircraft maintenance to truck driving, after basic training. About 12,000 service members rotate through the base each year, with instruction lasting from a few weeks to nearly a year.

The base also is home to the 7th Transportation Group, which has been heavily involved in running convoys in Iraq. About one-quarter of the group's 4,000 soldiers there now.

Ellis said the character of the base would be much different under the realignment. Training would be reduced, while management and Army wide strategic work would grow.

That's because the base stands to gain the training and doctrine command from 180-year-old Fort Monroe, which has been targeted for closure.

Eustis also would become home to the units that manage Army installations along the East Coast. Those units are now based at Fort Monroe and Fort McPherson, Ga.

But on the other side of the ledger, nearly 85 percent of the training now conducted at Fort Eustis would be transferred to Fort Lee and Fort Rucker in Alabama under realignment.

As more details are revealed, commanders at both Fort Story and Fort Eustis will create a plan to adjust to the new era of military transformation, as it's called.

"I see us as a very viable Army installation," Ellis said, "supporting our national security."

Colors, Command May Change At Eustis

Daily Press (Newport News, Virginia)

WARD SANDERSON

May 20, 2005

In a **realignment** plan, suits and more salutes would come to the post -- and the Air Force would be in charge.

The forest reeks of the hot metal smell of gunpowder. A small convoy winds through the trees, branches slapping at the sides of trucks.

"Shooter on the left! Shooter on the left!" an officer yells into his radio from a back seat. Another, riding shotgun, scans the brush through the sight of an M-16. He spots a sniper in the grass, fires - pop-pop-pop -- and apparently hits his target -- because he is not shot.

The camouflaged truckers, Lt. j.g. Brian Schmidt and Lt. Brian Clark, were in the Coast Guard's Port Security Unit 305, based at Fort Eustis. They were Coast Guard guys in green, training with machine guns on an Army base.

The military mix-up, what the services refer to as "jointness," is just one thing that will increase at Fort Eustis if the Base **Realignment** and Closure process goes down as planned. Base operations at Eustis -- roughly the equivalent of what a city hall does -- would be run by Langley Air Force Base.

Instead of also running the infrastructure of its little brother, Fort Story, Eustis would lose the responsibility to the Navy in Norfolk.

The biggest change at this post, though, would be the amount of saluting. If **Fort Monroe** in Hampton closes, the colonels and generals of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command -- which sets training requirements and standards for the Army -- would move to Eustis.

Eustis' biggest losses would be the Army Transportation Center and School and the Army Aviation Logistics School. That means possibly saying goodbye to nearly 2,800 GIs learning skills such as convoy protection and helicopter maintenance.

The Iraq veterans of the 7th Transportation Group would stay, but the character of Eustis nonetheless would turn largely from blue collar to white collar. In addition to generals, it would gain 580 civilians.

"You have much more of a headquarters culture than the institutional training culture," said Col. Ronnie Ellis, Eustis' garrison commander. "It changes the primary mission of the post."

He called it a morph from a training post to a multifunction post, where GIs and think-tank types shared the same turf.

It would also cease to be a big reserve and National Guard mobilization base. That means masses of troops wouldn't come through Eustis on their way to and from hot spots, as they have for the war in Iraq.

The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Operations Center -- which moves supplies via ships and trucks -- would move to Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Its logistics planners would be replaced by computer gurus. The Army Network Command's Northeast Region headquarters would arrive from **Fort Monroe**, and its Southeast Region offices would move from Fort McPherson, Ga.

Eustis also would get Monroe's Northeast Region Office of the Installation Management Agency, which runs base infrastructures. That agency's Southeast Region headquarters would also move to Eustis from Fort McPherson.

Those moves would be a bit ironic because Eustis would no longer manage its own garrison or Fort Story.

Taken together, more military brass and more civilian suits would mean Eustis needs office space. And soon.

Ellis said current plans were to pull off all BRAC changes in four years, instead of the maximum six that the statute allowed. He said moving faster meant saving money.

What remains unclear, even to the base commander, is how the new management structure would work. Eustis was shocked to learn Langley would take over the job of making sure that the electric bill is paid and the roads are paved. "Of all the elements, that was the most surprising," said Dawn Thacker, a Eustis spokeswoman.

And its whole relationship with Fort Story would end. "We really are just one place -- we just have 50 miles between us," Thacker said. "It would be very different if both of those recommendations went through."

Eustis officials have about four months to figure out how these new relationships would work: Would Langley be in command of its garrison? Would the Army garrison headquarters up and move to the Air Force base -- creating more "jointness?" Would Langley simply take over and get rid of the garrison altogether?

"We don't know," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Doscher, a spokesman for Langley's 1st Fighter Wing. "That's being worked out at higher headquarters now."

However it would work out, expect more shuffling -- more jointness -- across the military. Ask the Coast Guard guys running through the Eustis woods with rifles. They're old hands.

"Port Security has been in a joint environment for many, many years," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Yoed Cameron from Portsmouth.

"Usually when we go, we deal with the Navy. I think that's a good thing." *

A NEW FORT EUSTIS?

The base would shift from teaching ground-level soldiers to being a brass-heavy headquarters.

WHO WOULD LEAVE

Two Army schools: The Army Transportation Center and School teaches truck drivers how to run convoys. The Army Aviation Logistics School trains helicopter mechanics.

Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Operations Center: This command is in charge of transporting military supplies via ships and trucks.

WHO WOULD ARRIVE

TRADOC: The Training and Doctrine Command creates field manuals and curriculums for Army schools and basic training. It also sets standards that those military students need to meet.

NETCOM: Army techies would converge on Fort Eustis. This command is at the heart of the Army's computer network that serves all its bases in the Northeast and Southeast regions.

Opinions/ Editorials



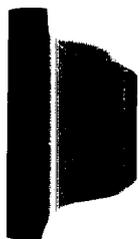
**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close Naval Medical Center Portsmouth**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure of the installation could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest Portsmouth for closure is military value.
 - The Commission understands the long history of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth--the oldest continuously running hospital in the Navy--but the Commission will evaluate the current military value of the medical center as the DoD seeks to streamline and transform our military to meet changing global threats.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to close Naval Medical Center Portsmouth could have and is taking this into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission understands that proper medical care for our military is of great importance. As such, the Commission will review the DoD recommendations keeping in mind the best course to provide our military with the best overall care available.
 - The local Hampton Roads community has woven a rich history around Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. For the past 150 years, Portsmouth has treated hundreds of thousands of our nation's soldiers. The care provided, as well as the long-standing ties to the hospital, will be taken into account.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
 - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Virginia

Q1. The proposed closure of the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth will result in a loss of roughly 460 jobs. Will the Commission evaluate the economic costs of these job losses to the local community?

A1. The Commission takes all pertinent factors into account, as prescribed by statute, as it performs an evaluation of the suggestions made by the Department of Defense (DoD) and formulates its own suggestions. The Commission is keenly aware of the human impact had by the closure or realignment of a base, and although current military value is the most important consideration, the Commission will also consider the effects that the closure of an installation would have on the surrounding community.

Q2. What are the DoD's long-term plans regarding military medical care? Will the Commission evaluate Naval Medical Center Portsmouth with these goals in mind?

A2. The criteria used by the DoD in producing the BRAC recommendations are prescribed in law. The foremost criterion is military value of the installation. In determining military value, the DoD evaluated the following: jointness, ease of mobility, and role in the changing global threat paradigm. As with other military installations affected by this BRAC round, the DoD sought to increase the jointness of medical facilities, consolidate where patients reside, and improve the technology of the medical facilities. The Commission will review these factors with regard to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.

Q3. Are there any examples of military medical facilities that will mirror the DoD's proposals?

A3. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the base, but will also consider other factors. The DoD has highlighted two medical facilities that represent the desired outcome of this BRAC round—Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and Balad Hospital in Iraq. These facilities are state-of-the-art and joint.

Q4. In past closings, studies have shown that 60 to 75 percent of skilled technical workers in defense facilities typically leave their jobs if forced to relocate. How does the Commission view this with regard to the suggested closing of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth?

A4. The Commission will thoroughly evaluate the long-term effects on skilled labor of the Pentagon's BRAC recommendations. The Commission recognizes the importance of a skilled and dedicated labor force with regard to the medical care of our military. As such, the closure of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth will be closely scrutinized to determine its effects on medical care.

Q5. The Pentagon has justified its recommendation to close Naval Medical Center Portsmouth because of its proximity to accredited civilian facilities with inpatient capability. Does the Commission understand that this change would have a direct

Q5. Continued**fiscal impact on soldiers as they would be responsible out-of-pocket for certain medical expenses?**

A5. The Commission takes all pertinent factors into account, as prescribed by statute, as it performs an evaluation of the suggestions made by the Department of Defense (DoD) and formulates its own suggestions. The Commission is keenly aware of the human impact had by the closure or realignment of a medical center, and although current military value is the most important consideration, the Commission will also consider the effects that the removal of a medical capability would have on the surrounding community.

Q6. A large number of military retirees live in the region. Under the proposed recommendations these retirees would be required to pay for medical expenses out-of-pocket. Will the Commission consider how these changes will affect costs for retirees?

A6. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the base, but will also consider other factors. The economic repercussions resulting from the closure of medical care at the base is an important factor to the Commission. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q7. How can the Community inform the Commission of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A7. The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

National News Articles

BRAC To Change Military Medicine Operations

Local News Articles

Opinions/ Editorials

National News Articles

BRAC To Change Military Medicine Operations

American Forces Press Service

Jim Garamone

May 19, 2005

Defense officials have used the base realignment and closure process to transform the way military medicine operates.

Medical facilities will become more joint, they will consolidate where patients reside and they will become state-of-the-art. "We want to rival Johns Hopkins or the Mayo Clinics," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant defense secretary for health affairs.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld delivered his recommendations for base realignment and closure to the BRAC Commission Friday, and the medical recommendations are part of this process.

The recommendations mean changes to military medicine in the nation's capital and San Antonio, as well as changes in many other military health facilities throughout the United States.

The major recommendation would establish the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on the grounds of the Bethesda Naval Center in Maryland. It also will create a new 165-bed community hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va. If approved, this will cost around \$1 billion, said Dr. (Lt. Gen.) George P. Taylor, Air Force surgeon general, who headed the joint cross-service group that worked on DoD's medical BRAC recommendations.

Army, Navy and Air Force medical employees will staff both facilities. The current hospitals ? Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda ? are separated by just seven miles. They are the primary receiving hospitals for casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan. "We believe the best way to do this is to place the facility on the Bethesda campus," Taylor said.

In addition to housing the Walter Reed National Medical Center, the Bethesda campus will keep the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. The National Institutes of Health is

also across the street from the Bethesda facility. "The facility is able to accommodate the in-patient activities at this location," Taylor said.

Part of this recommendation would close the Army's Walter Reed campus in Washington and Malcolm Grow Hospital at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., would close its in-patient facilities and become a large same-day surgery center.

"We know these types of joint medical facilities work," Taylor said. "We have two of them today: Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany has been staffed by Army and Air Force for more than 10 years. If you go to Balad Hospital in Balad (Iraq), it is Army and Air Force run."

Changes would take place in San Antonio also. The two big medical platforms there are Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston and the 59th Medical Wing's Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base. Plans call for medical care to center at Brooke. It will become the San Antonio Regional Medical Center, and will be a jointly staffed, 425-bed center. At Lackland, BRAC recommends building a world-class outpatient and ambulatory surgery center. The trauma center at Lackland will close, and Brooke will expand to handle the need.

San Antonio also will become the hub for training enlisted medical technicians of all services. Currently, the Army trains at Sam Houston, but the Air Force trains medics at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, and Sailors train at Great Lakes, Ill., San Diego, and Portsmouth, Va. "All enlisted specialty training would be done at Fort Sam Houston," Taylor said. The approximate student load would be about 4,500.

Aerospace medicine research will move from Brooks City Base (the one-time Brooks Air Force Base) to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The Navy's Aeromedical Research Lab will move from Pensacola, Fla., to Wright-Patterson also.

The recommendations create six new centers of excellence for biomedical research, and all are joint. Assets will come from Navy, Air Force and Army locations to these new centers. They are: the Joint Center of Excellence in Battlefield Health and Trauma at the Brooke Regional Medical Center, the Joint Center of Excellence in Infectious Disease Research at the Forest Glen Complex in Maryland, the Joint Center of Excellence for Aerospace Medicine Research at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Joint Center of

Excellence in Regulated Medical Product Development and Acquisition at Fort Detrick, Md., the Joint Center of Excellence in Biomedical Defense Research at Fort Detrick, and the Joint Center of Excellence in Chemical, Biological Defense Research, Development and Acquisition at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Overall, the recommendations will cost \$2.4 billion to build new facilities and capabilities. Once in place, the services will save \$400 million per year, officials said.

The joint cross-service group, new in this round of BRAC, was able to make recommendations to the secretary. In past BRAC rounds, joint groups merely advised service leaders.

"It is my view that the group put together a very thoughtful, very comprehensive plan for improving military health care," said Winkenwerder. "It is a plan that allows us to invest in, and modernize key flagship facilities and at the same time, it will allow the military health system to be more efficient."



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D



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Leased Space, Northern Virginia**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to realign DoD personnel out of leased space in northern Virginia.**
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the realignment out of leased space could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest leased space for realignment is military value.
 - The Commission understands the role that leased space has played in housing an overabundance of DoD personnel in the past and the efforts that northern Virginia has made to accommodate government personnel.
 - The Commission recognizes the strain that the new AT/FP standards will place on construction efforts within the community.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to realign personnel at leased space could have and is taking this into consideration.**
 - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Commission will evaluate the economic impact that the leased space realignment would have on the community surrounding the base, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The Commission will strongly consider the effect that moving DoD personnel out of leased office space will have on the economic vitality of the region.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
 - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



E



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Qs and As for Leased Space, Northern VA**

Q1. The current Department of Defense (DoD) recommendations would displace some 23,000 workers out of commercial real estate in the Northern Virginia area. The cost on the local economy would be immense as newly built buildings would become vacant. How will the Commission factor the economic cost of the DoD's recommendations on the local VA economy?

A1. The statute establishes the criteria. As outlined by the statute, DoD placed priority on military value; while also taking into consideration economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of a base would have on the community surrounding that base. The Commission recognizes that the DoD recommendations regarding leased space will affect a large number of people. As such, the Commission will strongly consider the economic ramifications of the Pentagon's proposal.

Q2. Recently, Senator John W. Warner (R-VA), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has expressed serious concern regarding the DoD's closure/realignment recommendations with regard to VA/DC military installations. In the past, Sen. Nunn (D-GA), who served in the same capacity in the Senate, was able to use his political influence to protect Georgia installations from previous BRAC rounds. Will Sen. Warner's position afford him the opportunity to influence the Commission regarding VA/DC military installations?

A2. The Congress established the BRAC Commission as an entirely non-partisan and non-political entity to independently evaluate whether DoD made its recommendations in accordance with the law. The Commission will serve to provide accountability to the public and ensure that all suggestions have been based upon the criteria set forth by statute. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis, in a completely open and transparent manner, which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the lease space in northern Virginia, but will also consider the economic, environmental and other effects that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community.

Q3. Under the Pentagon's plan, the majority of the displaced workers would be moved to the Army's Fort Belvoir in southern Fairfax County. The local community has expressed concern that Fort Belvoir will not be able to accommodate such a large influx of personnel. Will the Commission consider Fort Belvoir's ability to accept personnel in its analysis of the leased space in N. Virginia?

A3. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the base, but will also consider other factors. The ability of the community to support a military installation is very important, as is the effect that the closure of that installation would have on the community. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q4. One of the driving factors behind the DoD's recommendation concerning leased space is the new anti-terrorism/force protection building standards. One of the new standards requires that buildings stand a minimum of 82 feet from the street to protect them from vehicle bombs. Previously, local community members had expressed concern that the new AT/FP standards were unrealistic and economically unviable and had hoped that they would be changed in the future. Will the Commission consider the feasibility of the new AT/FP standards in reviewing the DoD's recommendation concerning leased space?

A4. This is a question outside of the scope of the Commission. The Commission was created to analyze the recommendations of the Department of Defense and to ensure adherence to certain prescribed laws. Questions regarding defensive strategy are under the purview of the Department of Defense.

Q5. Virginia officials have warned that an additional 27,000 workers remain in leased space that does not meet the new security requirements but was not affected by the latest BRAC announcements. Those jobs could be moved once those leases expire. Will the Commission consider the precedence that the DoD recommendation concerning leased space will set with regard to the long-term economic consequences?

A5. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the base, but will also consider other factors. The Commission recognizes that the current recommendations have broader ramifications for northern Virginia. Please be assured that the Commission will make a full evaluation, as prescribed by law, before coming to its conclusions and formulating its suggestions.

Q6. In all other areas, the BRAC recommendations have consolidated resources in one location. However, with regard to the DoD community in the NCR it appears that there is an effort to disperse these resources. Doesn't this run contrary to the Pentagon's overarching goal? How will this dispersal of resources affect the community's ability to effectively communicate?

A6. The DoD report cites a desire to achieve "a dispersion of DoD activities away from a dense concentration within the National Capitol Region." As such, the Commission will fully analyze the military value of the recommendation concerning leased space, and will evaluate its impact on the community's ability to effectively communicate and perform its stated objectives.

Q7. How can members of the Community make the Commission aware of factors that they feel have been overlooked by DoD in DoD's evaluation and analysis?

A7. Public input is not only welcomed by the Commission, the input is vitally important to the process. Members of the Community are encouraged to contact the Commission through the official Commission website: www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.



LEASED SPACE, NORTHERN VIRGINIA VIRGINIA

National News Articles

Commissioners Visit Virginia Army Base Set For Closing
Chairman Of Base Closings Commission Touring Va. Installations
Quantico May Grow From BRAC
State Panel To Make Recommendations To Gov. Warner

Local News Articles

Fact-Finders To Examine Military's Recommendations On Closures, Realignment
Relocation Plans Have Arlington Peering Into The Void;
Defense Department Says It Will Vacate Leased Office Space
Pentagon Aims To Disperse Facilities;
Rumsfeld's Strategy For Capital Region Embedded In Report

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National News Articles

Commissioners Visit Virginia Army Base Set For Closing

The Associated Press
May 25, 2005

Members of a federal panel reviewing a plan for closing military bases visited the only **Virginia** base targeted for closure Wednesday and heard a pitch to expand the base instead.

Hampton Mayor Ross A. Kearney II explained the plan to expand Fort Monroe to two visiting members of the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission.

"We were very well received," Kearney said. "I don't think they came here with any intent that their minds were made up, that they were just walking the dog."

Kearney is proposing that Hampton spend \$13 million to construct office buildings at the historic fort and lease the buildings to the Department of Defense so that more military operations could be transferred to the base.

He said the historic fort's moat would make federal employees more secure than they would be elsewhere.

"We were given an open and fair shake," he said, but no promises on whether the base will be taken off the closing list.

The fort is home to 3,564 military and civilian personnel, many who would be transferred to Fort Eustis in Newport News under the base-closing plan. Even with the transfer, Fort Eustis is slated to lose 2,100 jobs in the **realignment**.

The Pentagon wants to consolidate military operations nationwide and shed unnecessary bases to streamline military response and save almost \$49 billion over the next 10 years.

The two BRAC Commission members are in **Virginia** this week to tour bases and offices slated for closing or expansion under the Pentagon plan.

Those members, chairman Anthony Principi and retired Air Force Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton, toured Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk Naval Shipyard and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth on Tuesday. The naval station and shipyard have been recommended to gain a combined 4,800 jobs, mostly from New England bases slated for closure.

Commanders of the base and shipyard briefed Principi and Newton on what it would take to accommodate the influx, including some construction to make it ready to accept a submarine maintenance depot from New England, Principi said.

On Wednesday, Principi and Newton met with Fort Monroe and Fort Eustis base commanders and local public officials. They are scheduled on Friday to visit northern **Virginia**, where the Pentagon has proposed closing **leased** space that would displace some 23,000 workers.

BRAC members will visit each of the 33 major bases slated for closing and scores of smaller bases to be shut down. In September, the panel will accept or modify the base-closing plan. The president and Congress can either accept or reject the panel's recommendations, but cannot change them.

"We learned a lot," Principi said after the Fort Monroe visit. "I can assure you we aren't a rubber stamp."

The prime consideration is Fort Monroe's military value, but the cost of cleaning up buried ordnance must be considered before deciding if it makes economic sense to close the base, Principi said.

"It's a beautiful base," he said. "It's rich in history. It's contributed a great deal to our national security over the years."

Historically, only 15 percent of the bases slated for closing in the four previous base-closing rounds were saved.

To remove a base from the list, the federal panel must conclude the Pentagon "substantially deviated" from criteria established to evaluate the value and economic benefits of a military base, Principi said.

"We're trying to be sure each one of these facilities get an equitable opportunity" to make their pitch that closing would be a bad idea, Newton said. "We will make this a very transparent, very open decision."

Chairman Of Base Closings Commission Touring Va. Installations

The Associated Press

May 24, 2005

The chairman of the federal commission that will decide which military bases to recommend that President Bush order closed or consolidated is visiting **Virginia** installations on a fact-finding mission this week.

Anthony Principi, chairman of the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, toured the Norfolk Naval Station and the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth on Tuesday. The Navy base would gain submarines and 2,800 jobs under the proposed **realignment** by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, while the medical center would lose about 460 jobs.

On Wednesday, Principi is scheduled to visit Fort Monroe in Hampton - the only **Virginia** base on the Defense Department's closing list - and Fort Eustis in Newport News. The Pentagon wants to drastically change the mission of Fort Eustis, eliminating about 2,150 jobs.

A tour of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren is scheduled Thursday, with **leased** office space in northern **Virginia** on Friday's agenda. The Pentagon has proposed cutting about 350 jobs at the Navy research center, and closing **leased** space that would displace some 23,000 workers.

The visits are to determine what activities the bases are actually engaged in, how Rumsfeld's recommendations would affect the installations, and whether the base closure criteria were applied properly, Principi said in a statement.

"The commissioners and the staff will be working hard to ensure that the commission's final set of recommendations focuses on military value and is both objective and fair," he said.

The commission is to make its recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8.

Quantico May Grow From BRAC

Department Of Defense U.S. Marine Corps News
Sgt. Salju Thomas
May 22, 2005

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. (May 19, 2005) -- Marine Corps Base Quantico could possibly have the third largest gain of personnel in the state if the secretary of defense's Base **Realignment** and Closure recommendations are approved by Congress.

The BRAC recommendations, which were released Friday, could result in an influx of more than 3,000 personnel to the base.

Quantico is expected to gain 500 military personnel, 1,300 civilians and 1,200 contractors while losing only 49 personnel. The 49 are Quantico Brig personnel, recommended to relocate to Chesapeake, Va.

"Marine Corps Base Quantico has been recommended to become the host installation for all service criminal investigation headquarters, along with Counterintelligence Field Activity and Defense Security Service," said Lt. Col. Rick Long, base public affairs director. "This includes relocation of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service functions from the Washington Navy Yard and Army Criminal Investigation Command from Fort Belvoir to Quantico."

The DSS conducts personnel security investigations and provides industrial security products and services, as well as offer security education and training to DoD. CIFA's goal is to detect and neutralize the different forms of espionage conducted against the United States by terrorists, foreign intelligence services and other covert and clandestine groups.

According to the BRAC report, this recommendation produces synergies by collocating agencies with similar or related missions. Proximity to the Federal Bureau of Investigation offices and training facilities will further enhance this effect.

"This will facilitate multiservice missions by creating a joint organizational and basing solution that will not only reduce waste but also maximize military effectiveness," said Long.

Collocating the agencies in **Virginia** and relocating all components of CIFA in Colorado Springs to Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., is expected to save the DoD \$172.7 million over a 20-year period. According to the report, this recommendation will reduce the DoD's reliance on **leased** space, which historically has a higher overall cost.

Being within the confines of Quantico will provide immediate compliance with antiterrorism force protection standards as prescribed in United Facilities Criteria 04-010-01, the DoD's minimum antiterrorism standoff distances for buildings.

The movement of agencies would require approximately 680,000 square feet of building space to be built on Quantico which would create additional jobs for the local economy.

"If the BRAC recommendations are approved, implementation must begin in two years, and actions must be complete within six," said Long.

"The purpose of the defense secretary's recommendations is to make the most efficient and effective use of all department resources, improve operational efficiency, save taxpayer dollars, advance transformations and enhance the combat effectiveness of our military forces," said Long.

State Panel To Make Recommendations To Gov. Warner

The Associated Press
Zinie Chen Sampson
May 20, 2005

A state commission said Friday it wants Gov. Mark R. Warner to study and challenge some of the Department of Defense's proposed changes to **Virginia's** military installations.

Topping the list of the **Virginia** Commission on Military Bases' concerns is the potential loss of **leased** office space in northern **Virginia**, primarily in Arlington and Alexandria. The Pentagon's recommendations to the national Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission call for the relocation of nearly 23,000 workers to other installations. The jobs primarily would go to the Army's Fort Belvoir in southern Fairfax County, but others would move to Maryland or outside the region entirely.

The military says the urban office buildings don't meet security requirements that Defense Department employees work in buildings at least 82 feet from the street to protect them from vehicle bombs, but some argue that those standards are too stringent.

"That's hard to accomplish in suburban settings, let alone urban ones," James L. Van Zee, the

Northern **Virginia** Regional Commission's director of the regional planning services, said in an interview. "We can work with these agencies to ensure safe locations for civilian as well as military personnel" through other means, he said.

Van Zee told the panel that transferring those jobs out of the inner suburbs would vacate nearly 4 million square feet of space inside the Beltway, which would harm the local economy - and ultimately **Virginia's** economy, as northern **Virginia** has generated 85 percent of the state's new jobs over the last five years.

Overall, **Virginia** would see a net gain in military and civilian jobs, and the commercial real estate market is strong. But northern **Virginia** officials are concerned that the market could contract, making it difficult to fill a glut in vacancies.

Arlington and Alexandria officials are still crunching the data to understand the full financial impact, but Cord Sterling, a military affairs liaison to U.S. Senator John Warner, told the panel that the effect of the proposed shift goes beyond their vacated office space and head counts. He said contractors who work on projects in the agencies affected also could end up following those who are relocating, for example.

"There are hundreds of jobs associated with each one on paper," Sterling said.

The state commission also determined that if BRAC decides that Fort Monroe in Hampton should be closed, the military should help move some of those jobs to nearby Fort Eustis and help the city clean up the installation and develop the site for another use.

Fort Monroe, which was built in the 1800s, employs 4,175, including more than 2,700 civilians, with an annual payroll of more than \$182 million.

The job losses on the Peninsula would be like eliminating the jobs of "all of Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary," said John W. Whaley, an economist with the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.

"There's a lot of angst about this," said state Sen. Martin E. Williams, R-Newport News and a member of the state military base commission. "A lot of people are on their second or third generation of family working there."

An economic impact study by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission presented Friday shows that the Peninsula would lose about \$5.1 million in net revenue under the closing recommendations, while South Hampton Roads would have a \$7.7 million net gain, primarily as a result of the addition of thousands of jobs at Norfolk Naval Station and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth.

The study shows that the proposed changes barely would dent Hampton Roads' overall economy because the losses on the Peninsula offset gains in south Hampton Roads.

Other issues the group said the governor should examine include: the impact of 18,000 additional workers at Fort Belvoir on the area's already clogged roads, the availability of housing there, and other issues; protecting **Virginia's** existing military installations; and preparing for the next round of base closings and **realignments**.

The state panel will forward its recommendations to Warner "as soon as possible," chairman Joe

R. Reeder said. The BRAC Commission must make its recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8. Previous commissions have approved 85 percent of the Defense Department's recommendations.

Local News Articles

Fact-Finders To Examine Military's Recommendations On Closures, Realignment

Richmond Times Dispatch (Virginia)

Peter Hardin

May 24, 2005

Members of an independent base-closure commission this week will begin fact-finding trips to military installations, including several **Virginia** bases.

The itinerary for members of the base-closure commission, which recently received from the Defense Department a list of proposed closings and **realignments**, includes Fort Monroe in Hampton and Fort Eustis in Newport News tomorrow.

Fort Monroe was recommended by the Pentagon for closure, with a loss of more than 3,500 jobs.

Fort Eustis would lose more than 2,000 jobs if the Pentagon's recommendations were followed.

"The site visits are the main forum by which our commissioners and our staff learn the details of what military activities are really happening at the base, how the Department of Defense recommendations would affect the installation, and whether base closure criteria were applied correctly by the Pentagon while putting its list together," said commission chairman Anthony Principi.

Other **Virginia** installations on the commission's itinerary include the Norfolk Naval Station and the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth today, the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren on Thursday, and **leased** space in Northern **Virginia** on Friday.

Statewide, the Pentagon estimated a net loss of 1,574 positions in the Old Dominion if its recommendations were accepted.

In the Washington suburbs, nearly 23,000 jobs could be lost as part of the Pentagon's plan to move its personnel out of 4 million square feet of office space it leases and into buildings on military bases.

Last week, the **Virginia** Commission on Military Bases said it wants Gov. Mark R. Warner to study and challenge some of the Pentagon's proposed changes for **Virginia's** military installations.

Topping the list of the state commission's concerns was the potential loss of **leased** office space in Northern **Virginia**, The Associated Press reported.

Relocation Plans Have Arlington Peering Into The Void; Defense Department Says It Will Vacate Leased Office Space

The Washington Post

Leef Smith

May 22, 2005

Standing on the roof deck of the 16-story CACI building at Ballston Plaza recently, Terry Holzheimer looked down at the buildings below and optimistically began to describe a plan to turn the surrounding landscape into a secure office park complete with one-way streets, blast-resistant glass and architectural reinforcements to protect the area's federal defense employees from terrorist attacks.

It was a plan hatched over many hours of discussions with the Department of Defense and consultants in the hope that Arlington County could find a way to make the office space it leases to the Pentagon conform to new federal anti-terrorism building standards, and stave off losing thousands of defense workers.

Holzheimer, Arlington County's economic development chief, believed the county could come to an agreement with the Defense Department. The standards would eventually be made more flexible, and rational people, he reasoned, would come to rational decisions.

Twenty-four hours later, Holzheimer was back atop the CACI building in his agency's office for a news conference, listening as U.S. Rep. James P. Moran Jr. (D-Va.) and Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fisette (D) detailed the day's explosive news: A new round of recommendations for military base closings and **realignments** had been released, and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld had recommended the government abandon virtually all of the Defense Department's **leased** office space in Arlington. As a result, the county would lose 20,000 jobs and be left with some 4 million square feet of vacant office space.

"We were surprised," Holzheimer said, trying not to look shell-shocked.

Although local leaders and planners had warned that the Defense Department might use new anti-terrorism standards -- which officials say are virtually impossible to comply with in an urban setting such as Arlington -- as a vehicle to relocate its **leased** space to military bases, few were expecting the wholesale exodus that has been recommended.

Moran, whose district includes Arlington -- home to about 60 percent of the Pentagon-**leased** space in Northern **Virginia** -- had asked Rumsfeld to ease the rules and had been predicting economic gloom for weeks.

Despite their obvious disappointment, officials tried to focus on the opportunities they said remain, stressing the high-priced leases that Arlington is known to attract. Jobs leaving the county, Moran said at the news conference, would be staying in the region, most of them shifting to Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, suggesting that residents would be able to maintain their current homes. Children would not be uprooted from local school systems, he said, and thousands of government contractors would not need to leave their county offices. Others say it's too early to predict whether contractors will stay.

Fisette tried to remain upbeat, but his words rang with frustration. "We have been through these challenges before," he told those assembled. "We will survive it."

The last round of closings 10 years ago resulted in the loss of 1.2 million square feet of office space in Arlington previously **leased** by the Navy. Another 1 million square feet was lost in 2001 when the Naval Sea Systems Command moved from Crystal City to the Washington Navy Yard in Southeast D.C.

In December 2003, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Crystal City began a phased move of 2.3 million square feet of office space to Alexandria. Crystal City has yet to recover that lost tenant base. Today, the county's vacancy rate for **leased** space is 9 percent, and Crystal City's is twice that amount.

Northern **Virginia's** vacancy rate for **leased** office buildings is 11.7 percent. It was roughly 15 percent a year ago, according to CoStar Group Inc., a Bethesda-based real estate research firm.

The Pentagon's plan now goes before the nine-member Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, which will make its recommendation to President Bush on Sept. 8. The president must accept or reject the list in full and submit it to Congress by Sept. 23. Roughly 85 percent of the changes proposed in earlier rounds of base closings have stuck.

If the plan goes through, the changes would take effect over the next six years. Arlington leaders said the county would lose about 10 percent of its employee and commercial office base. Additionally, **Virginia** officials have warned that an additional 27,000 workers remain in **leased** space that does not meet the new security requirements but was not affected by Friday's announcement. Those jobs could be moved once those leases expire.

Under the plan, Fort Belvoir, already Fairfax County's largest employer, stands to gain more than 18,000 civilian and military employees. Congested roads already are a serious problem around the base, prompting officials Friday to talk of extending Metrorail to Fort Belvoir and petitioning the federal government to pay for it.

Analysts estimate that Fairfax accounts for about 19 percent of the nonconforming Pentagon-**leased** space in Northern **Virginia**; Alexandria has 18 percent. The remainder is spread between Loudoun and Prince William, which also stand to gain from the relocations, along with Stafford County.

The anti-terrorism standards -- which require, among other things, that buildings not on military bases be set back at least 82 feet from traffic to protect against truck bombs -- were adopted two years ago, but they are not fully in effect except for new construction. They become mandatory for new leases in October. The requirements will be phased in for all lease renewals starting in 2009.

In addition to the setback requirement, the new Pentagon rules call for buildings to be more collapse-resistant; to eliminate uncontrolled below-ground or rooftop parking; and to have protective window glazing, mailroom ventilation and emergency shut-off switches for air distribution.

Legislators are quick to point out that even the Pentagon does not meet the new standards. Local planners believed them to be so costly and impossible to achieve that they found themselves hoping adjustments would be hammered out by lawmakers to allow more flexible performance-based standards.

"They've already applied flexibility to the Pentagon, and no building in the region meets the standard," Fisette said a day before the relocations were announced. "You have to think common sense will win out."

That hope was bolstered last week when a Pentagon spokeswoman suggested that the Defense

Department might now indeed ease the setback rule at "existing buildings where the required level of protection can be mitigated and shown to be achieved."

In Arlington, the push was on to devise mitigation plans. County officials said they had spent countless hours working closely with Defense Department officials, discussing how they could use different techniques to bring the county's urban landscape into compliance.

One of those possibilities involved grouping buildings into secure clusters -- such as in Ballston Plaza and Crystal City -- the idea being that it would be easier to protect a group of buildings rather than just one. While developers can harden building exteriors, glaze windows and use creative landscaping to help shield a structure from a car-bomb blast, in many cases they knew they could not find solutions to effectively distance buildings from the urban streets they were built on.

Arlington officials conceded they were particularly wary of employing these mitigation techniques, which run counter to the county's history of "urban village" planning in places such as Crystal City, where work continues to make the landscape more open and inviting.

"We've just accomplished making Crystal City a more comfortable pedestrian environment," said James Van Zee, director of regional planning services for the Northern **Virginia** Regional Commission. "We could be turning around the next day and closing it off if we want to keep business here."

Restaurateur Rob Wilder, whose company recently opened Oyamel and Jaleo restaurants in Crystal City as part of the area's revitalization effort, said the news of relocations was not unexpected.

Although defense employees are a healthy part of his customer base, there has been an expectation that Crystal City's tenant base would shift away from the government, he said.

"It seems like it's a matter of time before the whole nature of Crystal City becomes an extension of downtown D.C. rather than the Pentagon," Wilder said. "We're a tenant of the future."

While Gov. Mark R. Warner (D) is positive about the economic picture statewide, he has said he will fight the relocation of employees from Northern **Virginia**.

But Moran, who also represents Alexandria, Falls Church and parts of Fairfax -- including Fort Belvoir -- said he isn't so sure he should go to the mat for Arlington, reasoning that in the long run, the Defense Department's decision will "bode well" for the county. He said that he does not anticipate an economic downturn and that he is looking forward to new economic horizons for Arlington as a community less dependent on the government for its strength.

Hours after the announcement of the closings, employees who work in Crystal City were still sizing up the news. For those who live near Fort Belvoir or Quantico, for example, the changes would mean, among other things, shorter commutes.

Jack Kantak and Bill Joransen, both former members of the military now employed by Vanguard Research, a Defense Department contractor, stood outside the Crystal City complex taking a coffee and smoke break.

Both said the Pentagon proposal made good sense -- both financially and from a security

standpoint. Neither felt a particular sense of urgency.

"It's going to be three to five years before anything will really happen," Kantak said. "And then, there's going to be a lot of empty office space in Crystal City.

"This isn't the first time there's been one of these shuffles," he said. "This place is convenient and easy, but one pile of cement is just like another pile of cement."

As to where he may be in five years, he said, "heaven only knows."

In Alexandria, where planners were still trying to sort out how much of the city's nonconforming office space was being relocated, there was a concern about losing other tenants who might be attracted to vacancies caused by the Arlington relocations.

"That will play havoc with local economies," said Bernard Caton, Alexandria's legislative director.

This week, Arlington planners were busy trying to go through the relocation data and identify all the impacts, conducting economic analyses and formulating strategies to move forward. Already, planners are talking about how to backfill some of the potentially empty space and about renovating some of the buildings likely to be vacated. Fisetete noted that many of the Defense Department employees leaving Arlington's Metro corridor will now have to drive instead of taking the Metro, thus adding to the region's traffic congestion and "undoing" many of the county's "smart growth" successes that have benefited the entire region.

"If you were to unravel some of the progress that's been made with development being coordinated with transportation networks and start to reinforce sprawl in a big way, you will see significant economic impacts on the region and quality-of-life implications," Fisetete had warned before the announcement. "Congestion is just the tip of the iceberg."

Holzheimer said that the space being vacated is among Arlington's finest and that there is a good possibility the General Services Administration, which holds most of the leases on behalf of the Department of Defense, may be interested in moving in other GSA tenants, those who have their own security criteria and do not have to conform to the Defense Department's building standards.

Although Arlington officials said they will continue to make building security a high priority, Holzheimer said there is no longer a rush to make costly security changes to please the Pentagon.

"That pressure is somewhat relaxed," Holzheimer said with an incredulous smile.

**Pentagon Aims To Disperse Facilities;
Rumsfeld's Strategy For Capital Region Embedded In Report**

The Washington Post

Spencer S. Hsu

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The Pentagon's recommendation to move more than 20,000 defense jobs from sites in the Washington area is based in part on Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's goal of shifting operations out of the capital region, according to the base **realignment** and closure plan released last week.

The dispersal strategy, which had not been announced previously, is mentioned numerous times in the base-closings report as a justification for abandoning **leased** office space in Northern **Virginia** and transferring some facilities from Maryland and the District.

The report does not explain why Rumsfeld wants to reduce the concentration of Defense Department activities in and near Washington, and Pentagon officials declined to elaborate yesterday. Several local members of Congress said the policy appears to be an effort to make the department less vulnerable in the event of another terror attack or a natural disaster in the nation's capital.

Several of the lawmakers, including John W. Warner (R-Va.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, expressed concern about Rumsfeld's goal. A Warner spokesman said yesterday that the senator questions the security standards the Pentagon has developed both for buildings and for the metropolitan area. He also said the guidelines could increase defense costs by requiring new construction elsewhere.

"Senator Warner is very concerned about the proposed closures. He has not seen a justification from DOD for the savings that these closures are expected to produce," Warner spokesman John Uillyot said. "He intends to very closely scrutinize the standards -- the force-protection standards and the savings rationale for the closure of **leased** office space."

Rep. James P. Moran Jr. (D), who represents Arlington County and Alexandria, called the decision to move defense jobs outside the region "arbitrary" and said the dispersal goal was not included in the criteria the Pentagon had said would guide the new round of base closings.

"What do they accomplish by moving away from the very center of decision-making they have to be a part of?" Moran asked, noting that the Defense Department's headquarters -- the Pentagon -- is not moving.

The plan released Friday would eliminate or reduce forces at more than 800 military installations across the country, with the aim of consolidating far-flung operations and saving \$49 billion over 20 years. A nine-member commission is reviewing the plan and has until Sept. 8 to produce a final list that President Bush must accept or reject in its entirety and forward to Congress.

The Washington area would have a net loss of 14,459 defense jobs, more than any other metropolitan region in the country, according to the Pentagon's calculations. Its definition of the D.C. area, however, does not include some outer counties that would gain employment, such as Anne Arundel, where Fort Meade would get an additional 5,361 military and civilian jobs.

Arlington and Alexandria would be the hardest-hit jurisdictions, losing almost 23,000 defense workers now housed in **leased** office space.

Northern **Virginia** officials had expected job losses because those office buildings do not meet new Pentagon requirements that structures be set back at least 82 feet from traffic to protect against truck bombs. But the Pentagon's broader goal of moving jobs outside the region presents local officials with an additional obstacle as they lobby against the loss of the leases.

Moran and Northern **Virginia** Reps. Thomas M. Davis III (R) and Frank R. Wolf (R) said the military risks a brain drain because many of its skilled technical workers would take other jobs rather than leave the area. They also argued that moving defense operations out of the region

would decrease coordination with other federal agencies involved in security and homeland defense.

The 754-page report on base **realignment** and closure invokes the goal of dispersing Washington area facilities to help justify scores of moves by defense agencies that would affect thousands of jobs.

For instance, in recommending the transfer of the Defense Contract Management Agency headquarters from Alexandria to Fort Lee, Va., which is south of Richmond, the report cites a desire to achieve "a dispersion of DOD activities away from a dense concentration within the National Capital Region."

The same justification is given for moving the Air Force Real Property Administration from Arlington to Lackland Air Force Base, near San Antonio.

The report says that transferring the Air Force Flight Standards Agency and two C-21 aircraft from Andrews Air Force Base to Will Rogers Air National Guard Base in Oklahoma City "moves federal assets out of the National Capital Region, reducing the nation's vulnerability."

And it says that moving defense intelligence analysts from Bolling Air Force Base in Washington to Rivanna Station near Charlottesville "meets the spirit of the Secretary of Defense's guidelines for relocation outside the National Capital Region."

In an interview yesterday, Philip W. Grone, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, would not elaborate on the guidelines mentioned in the document. But he said the recommendations involving Washington area operations were based not only on security considerations but also on such factors as cost savings -- achieved by moving from **leased** to department-owned facilities -- consolidation of related activities and better use of vacant space.

"No recommendation . . . was based solely on anti-terrorism, force-protection arguments," Grone said. "There is no one-size-fits-all approach."

In fall 2002, Rumsfeld issued what has become known as the "100-mile memo," in which he reserved authority over any real estate purchase, construction or leasing action greater than \$500,000 within a 100-mile radius of the Pentagon. The department also has given jurisdiction over real estate issues in that area to its Washington Headquarters Service.

Opinions/ Editorials