

War II. There has been no environmental cleanup since. Recently, Wyle supported an environmental reclamation exercise which estimated the cost to be \$10.8M for soil reclamation of only two of the five test ranges.

Air Force Survivability Mission:

One of the major concerns for the AF that comes as a result of closing the WPAFB AVSF, would be the loss of deep technical expertise and the ability to prioritize, develop, test, and evaluate aircraft vulnerability reduction methods. The Navy has little experience in large aircraft design and test. Cargo aircraft and Bombers are Air Force responsibilities. While the Navy may have a limited background in testing a few larger systems – they have not been involved in anything like the C-17, B-1, B-2, C-130 systems. On these aircraft AVSF has not only performed operational testing, but also helped with the design and assessment. Valuable expertise and capability will be lost without a very large investment – again outstripping any perceived savings.

The survivability of AF aircraft would be put at risk and the ability of the AF to respond to Title 10, USC 2366, the “Live Fire Test Law”, would be compromised. With only one billet counted at WPAFB, the rest being surplus positions, the ability of 46 OG/OGM/OL-AC to maintain these positions or even exist after the loss of the AVSF would be risky at best. Since the AF Research Laboratory has already transferred the facility to the 46th Test Wing in recent years, there has been no demonstrated interest in maintaining the survivability research role for the AF by this local AF organization. The 46th Test Wing at Eglin AFB maintains a lethality and perhaps susceptibility focus, but has relatively no research or test experience in vulnerability reduction. That has been the role of 46 OG/OGM/OL-AC. As a result, the AF would essentially be handing responsibility for their vulnerability reduction research and testing, including vulnerability Live Fire Test & Evaluation, over the Navy. AF warfighters could be put at risk, if higher priority Navy programs require range time, with no apparent fall-back position.

As you can see, the BRAC report relies on important parameters in calculating its payback numbers that are not accurate, or at least incomplete. This significantly understates the negative impact to the AF Test and Evaluation mission and the Dayton area. I ask you for your support in obtaining a fair accounting of the facts regarding this recommendation so that the true impact of relocating the WPAFB Live Fire Test Facility to China Lake can be considered.

Sincerely,

//signed//

Michael J. Gilkey
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Further information on the WPAFB AVSF can be found at
http://assf.wpafb.af.mil/SurvivabilityWeb/test_range.asp