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DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION



MEDIA BRIEFING BOOK

REGIONAL HEARING
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



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DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

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Media Advisory – St. Louis, MO

TIME:

Doors Open to Public at 7:15AM

Hearing Coverage - Multipurpose Room - Busch Student Center

8:30AM - 6:00PM / PRE-SET 5:30AM No later than 6:30AM

Media Availability - Room 251 - Busch Student Center

As each State completes their presentation they will hold a media avail. The BRAC Commission's media avail will begin promptly 15 minutes after the end of the hearing.

Logistical information for media:

-Satellite truck parking available on Laclade Blvd.

-650 ft. Cable run to press risers

-65 ft. Max camera throw

-TV quality sound and lighting

-Internet will be available / Need your own Ethernet cables

Credentialing and Media Inquiries:

Contact: Robert McCreary: 703-901-7835

Email: Robert.mccreary@wso.whs.mil

Or

Rachel Doyle, media relations for Saint Louis University 314-977-2538

Email: doylerr@slu.edu





D



DEFENSE FINANCE & ACCOUNTING SERVICE (DFAS) KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

National News Articles

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DFAS Program Wins Top 5 Honor From The National Defense Industrial Association

Missouri to lose nearly 4,000 jobs; officials say they will challenge cuts

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National News Articles

Defense Proposes Major Consolidation Of Finance Services

GovExec.com

David McGlinchey

May 13, 2005

The Defense Department has proposed a dramatic reduction of Defense Finance and Accounting Service facilities as part of its base realignment and closure recommendations.

The plan, put forward by the Pentagon Friday, involves closing 21 domestic DFAS facilities, reducing operations at two others and concentrating operations at military and federal facilities in Colorado, Indiana and Ohio. The reductions are designed to reduce excess capacity, eliminate redundancy and ensure that DFAS facilities meet Defense Department security standards, according to Pentagon documents.

A Defense spokesman said it was too early to say if the overhaul would result in a reduction in the DFAS workforce.

DFAS processes payroll transactions, travel payments and health benefits funds for members of the military, civilian Defense employees, retirees and annuitants. The agency also manages foreign military sales and some commercial invoices.

Overall, the Pentagon has proposed closing 33 major facilities nationwide, realigning 29 others, and closing or realigning hundreds of smaller military locations. The recommendations will be sent to the nine-member BRAC commission. That group is scheduled to pass its recommendations on to President Bush by Sept. 8. The president and Congress are required to accept or reject the closures and realignments in their entirety.

In the BRAC recommendations, Pentagon officials estimated that 43 percent of DFAS administrative space and 69 percent of warehouse space was not needed.

The Pentagon recommended closing DFAS locations at Rock Island, Ill.; Pensacola Saufley Field, Fla.; Norfolk Naval Station, Va.; Lawton, Okla.; Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla.; Omaha, Neb.; Dayton, Ohio; St. Louis, Mo.; San Antonio; San Diego; Pacific Ford Island, Hawaii; Patuxent River, Md.; Limestone, Maine; Charleston, S.C.; Orlando, Fla.; Rome, N.Y.; Lexington, Ky.; Kansas City, Mo.; Seaside, Calif.; San Bernadino, Calif.; and Oakland, Calif.

DFAS facilities in Arlington, Va., and Cleveland would be realigned. The Arlington facility would keep a "minimum essential DFAS liaison staff" to support some Pentagon and congressional needs. The Cleveland facility would retain a staff for Military Retired and Annuitant Pay Services operations.

Arlington is slated to lose seven military and 401 civilian positions, according to the Pentagon. Defense officials have proposed reducing the Cleveland site by 15 military and 1,013 civilian jobs.

The DFAS facilities that will be gaining employees and operations are at the Defense Supply Center in Columbus, Ohio, the Buckley Air Force Base Annex in Denver and the MG Emmett J. Bean Federal Center in Indianapolis.

Buckley Air Force Base is slated to increase its workforce by 94 employees and the Pentagon has proposed adding 1,758 workers at the Defense Supply Center in Columbus, but it is unclear if all those jobs will be associated with the finance service.

The Pentagon explicitly noted, however, that the DFAS operation in Indianapolis will be gaining 3,378 civilian employees, 114 uniformed personnel and three contractors, for a total boost of 3,495.

DFAS Program Wins Top 5 Honor From The National Defense Industrial Association

Global News Wire

May 4, 2005

ARLINGTON, Va., May 4 /PRNewswire/ -- The Marine Corps Total Force System (MCTFS) at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service-**Kansas City** received a Top 5 Department of Defense Program Award from the National Defense Industrial Association at the Systems and Software Technology Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, on April 19, 2005.

Clint Swett, director, Technology Services Organization, **DFAS Kansas City** accepted the award on behalf of the organization along with Gary Hayes of Computer Sciences Corporation, the primary contractor on site.

A panel of ten members of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense Office of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and ten industry leaders selected the award winners. "It's a tough competition to win," said Swett, "you're not just competing within business systems but all systems within DOD. We were competing with weapons systems, business systems,

communications systems ... it's tough for a back office pay and finance system to win against these types of programs."

The MCTFS is the Marine Corps' integrated personnel, pay, manpower and training information system for active and reserve Marines. It is also the personnel system for retired Marines. It supports Marines throughout their career, tracking pay and benefits, deployment or garrison status and transfer to other services or components through separation or retirement.

"We're pretty thrilled to win this award," Swett said. "But more importantly, we are proud that we are able to support the war fighters out there by making sure that they get paid on time and that their pay is right ... that their families don't have to worry about that. We're proud to make that contribution."

"We have a really good integrated team even though we are made up of contractors and government employees," Hayes said. "We have 20 years of experience with this system, working on tweaking it and fixing errors. Lots of corporate knowledge," he added.

According to Swett, even though the team is made up of government employees, contractors and Marines, they all feel connected to the Corps. "Our primary customer is the Marine Corps. Everybody here has some kind of tie to the Marines. We really feel like we are part of their team," he said.

MCTFS manages more than 498,000 Marine records. It processes in excess of 17 million transactions yearly. It processes an average gross payroll of \$ 238 million per semi-monthly pay period totaling \$ 5.217 billion annually. According to Swett, MCTFS paid all active duty and reserve Marines on time with 99.92 and 99.83 percent accuracy rates, respectively in fiscal year 2004. So far this fiscal year the accuracy rate is 100 percent.

About DFAS

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service provides responsive, professional finance and accounting services to the men and women who defend America. In Fiscal Year 2004, DFAS paid about 5.9 million people, processed more than 12.6 million invoices from defense contractors, disbursed more than \$ 455 billion and managed more than \$ 234 billion in military trust funds. For more about DFAS visit <http://www.dod.mil/dfas>. Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Missouri to lose nearly 4,000 jobs; officials say they will challenge cuts

Associate Press
Cheryl Wittenauer
May 13, 2005

Missouri will lose nearly 4,000 military and civilian jobs in the Pentagon's plan, announced Friday, to close and consolidate military installations and offices. But local and federal officials pledged to challenge some of the cuts.

Missouri's two largest installations - Whiteman Air Force Base near Sedalia and Fort Leonard Wood near Waynesville - would remain intact, though other smaller installations would close or face realignment.

The Pentagon would close the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in **Kansas City** and **St.**

Louis, shedding more than 900 workers.

Also slated for closing are the Army National Guard Reserve Center at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis; the Marine Corps Support Center, and Navy Recruiting District Headquarters, both in **Kansas City**; and the Navy Reserve Center in Cape Girardeau.

A fighter-jet wing based at Lambert Airport in St. Louis would be moved to Air Force bases in Nellis, Nev., and Atlantic City, N.J., the city said Friday.

Jeff Rainford, chief of staff to Mayor Slay, said Slay, St. Louis County Executive Charles Dooley, U.S. Sens. Kit Bond and Jim Talent, and Rep. William Lacy Clay sent a letter to the Air Force two months ago requesting a meeting to try and save the Lambert base.

"They sent back a letter that basically said 'thanks, but no thanks,' " Rainford said. "That was the first point we had an indication that there was a problem.

"It is an emotional hit for the region," Rainford said, noting that Bond and Talent "are going to take the lead in convincing the commission this is a bad idea both militarily and from a homeland security standpoint."

The Missouri Department of Economic Development had no immediate statement on how the state might help recover jobs and assist dislocated workers. A spokesman said the department would have a statement later Friday.

Bond scheduled a news conference for 1 p.m. Friday at Lambert Airport.

The list of base closures and realignments, prepared by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, is part of the military's effort to save money and make itself leaner to meet post-Cold War needs.

Roger Still, spokesman for Defense Finance and Accounting Service's regional office in Denver, said employees in the division were "literally going over the lists ourselves," and had no immediate comment.

He said **DFAS** is the payroll department for U.S. military personnel and Department of Defense civilians.

Finance Office Withdraws From Barstow

Lance Cpl. Nich R. Babb
Department Of Defense U.S. Marine Corps News
May 19, 2005

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE BARSTOW, Calif. (May 19, 2005) -- The finance office at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow is preparing to pick up and relocate its Marines to units throughout the Corps this summer in an effort to better support the Corps' overall mission. It is estimated that by June 30 financial services provided by the finance office will be turned over to MCRD San Diego.

The move will put more finance Marines in a position where they can be deployed in support of combat operations, said Gunnery Sgt. Eric Garrett, finance chief.

The units that the Marines are transferring to are the 1st Force Service Support Group, Marine

Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., the 2nd FSSG, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., the 3rd FSSG, Okinawa, Japan, the Marine Corps Recruit Depots, Parris Island, S.C., and San Diego and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, **Kansas City, Mo.**, according to Garrett.

Some of the duties of the finance office, which are handled by auditing, finance and accounting Marines, range from completing travel claims for Marines to giving a Marine separations pay, said Lance Cpl. Jeremy Foreman, separations clerk.

Despite not being a physical presence on the base, there should not be any effect on the customers when it comes to their financial needs, said Garrett.

The reason for this is because all MCLB patrons who have any financial problems can address them with the personnel division.

"Admin, is sthe customer service element, they take the information that the member gives them, fills out the appropriate forms, and sends the information to us," said Foreman.

Barstow's finance Marines are not the only Marines being moved to other locations, Garret said.

Finance Marines from all bases are being moved to one of the six locations, which are still being used to handle the financial needs of the Corps.

With finance offices consolidating into fewer places, there are fewer locations to send financial forms to, which should result in more efficient mission accomplishment.

The **Kansas City DFAS** office, for example, has been preparing to bring in more Marines to help with the number of reserve pay problems that need to be sorted out after every rotation, said Garrett.

"After a Reserve unit comes back, the finance office gets six months behind," said Garrett.

Foreman says he is looking forward to moving to **Kansas City**, because it is going to be a new experience for him, and he is excited about living in a big city with its own football team.

Though the finance office is going to be non-existent in Barstow, there should be no delay when it comes to fixing financial problems, said Garret. Personnel division is able to handle all pay problems.

Local News Articles

Defense Department Targets Accounting Arm for Layoffs, Office Closures

WebCPA

Bill Carlino

May 16, 2005

Washington (May 17, 2005) - 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 last week'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 furloughs 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 billion via the DFAS consolidation.

A DoD spokesman said that he "could not comment on anything beyond the report."

The DFAS was created in 1991. In fiscal 2004, the DFAS administered payroll services to roughly 5.9 million people, processed more than 12.6 million invoices from defense contractors, disbursed more than \$455 billion and managed more than \$234 billion in military trust funds.

Opinions/ Editorials

**DFAS (DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING
SERVICE)
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

National News Articles

Defense Proposes Major Consolidation Of Finance Services

Local News Articles

Overland gears up to keep military office, 1,943 workers Pentagon decision could shut human resources center "We could have 2,000 fewer people in town purchasing gas, cigarettes and going to restaurants."

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National News Articles

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GovExec.com

David McGlinchey

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Local News Articles

Overland gears up to keep military office, 1,943 workers Pentagon decision could shut human resources center "We could have 2,000 fewer people in town purchasing gas, cigarettes and going to restaurants."

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

Gabe Kiley

May 19, 2005

Overland officials plan to work with government leaders to try to stop the relocation of the Army's Human Resources Command, which employs 1,943 people, to Kentucky.

The move is part of the Pentagon's proposal to close and realign military bases and facilities nationwide, which was announced last week.

The command office, located in the Federal Records Center Field Office at 9700 Page Avenue, would reduce the staff at the facility by about half. The federal office is Overland's largest

employer.

The announcement came as a surprise to Overland Mayor Bob Dody. "We hate to lose any employer in our community, especially one of this size," Dody said.

Councilwoman Mary Beth Conlon, 2nd Ward, said she is concerned about the yet-to-be determined financial impact on sales-tax revenue in Overland, if the command office relocates. Conlon said that although the federal government pays no real estate taxes on its office in Overland, its employees spend money at local businesses.

"We could have 2,000 fewer people in town purchasing gas, cigarettes and going to restaurants," Conlon said.

The command center is a joint operation with Alexandria, Va., and a satellite office in Indianapolis. The **St. Louis** office consists of 709 military positions and 1,234 civilian jobs.

The three locations would be combined and relocated to Fort Knox, Ky. All three sites are leased space, which Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld wants to reduce as part of his plan to strengthen U.S. armed forces worldwide and save the Defense Department more than \$60 billion.

The Commission on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommended closing 33 major bases and realigning 29 more. The **St. Louis** area would lose some units under the BRAC proposal. The 131st Air National Guard F-15 Fighter Wing, situated at nearby Lambert Field, also could be moved as part of the Pentagon's proposal.

The **Defense Finance and Accounting Service**, 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, would send the work of its 293 employees to undetermined sites. And several Guard and Reserve positions throughout the area would be moved.

In good news, Scott Air Force Base in Illinois was spared and will add about 800 jobs through closures and reassignments.

Overland officials, like other communities across the country, are playing the waiting game. President George W. Bush has until Sept. 23 to accept or reject the BRAC's list, in its entirety. If Bush accepts the list, it becomes final within 45 days unless Congress approves a joint resolution rejecting the entire package. If Bush rejects the list, the commission must submit a revised list to the president by Oct. 20. The president must approve or reject that list in its entirety by Nov. 7. If the list is approved, bases would close during the next six years.

Dody and Conlon said the council would work with U.S. Senators Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., and Jim Talent, R-Mo., and U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay Jr., D-Mo., as well as state and county officials, in an effort to try to prevent the relocation of the Human Resources Command.

"I would hope for a robust response by the community to lobby, to try to keep the office here," Conlon said. "The goal is to get the community engaged."

Conlon admits that the municipality's fight could get lost in the shuffle, with the attention centered the potential relocation of the F-15s from Lambert Field to bases in Nevada and Atlantic City, NJ.

"Fighter planes have a higher profile," Conlon said. "Our job is to create attention, write letters

and become actively engaged."

Until last week, things had been looking up for Overland along Page Avenue. Recently, Dody announced a series of retail and commercial development in long-vacant buildings along Page Avenue in Overland.

Dody also has been heralding the opening of Home Depot in late June and the new J.S. Alberici Construction headquarters in the near future.

"All we can do is go forward," Dody said, "and hope for the best."

Opinions/ Editorials

FORT KNOX KENTUCKY

National News Articles

Understanding BRAC

Military Makeover

Base Closure Commission To Visit 20 Bases This Week

Base-Closing Commissioners To Visit Fort Knox Next Week

Local News Articles

Overland Gears Up To Keep Military Office, 1,943 Workers Pentagon Decision Could Shut Human Resources Center "We Could Have 2,000 Fewer People In Town Purchasing Gas, Cigarettes And Going To Restaurants

Businesses Gamble On Benning Growth

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Understanding BRAC

US Fed News

May 20, 2005

Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., issued the following column:

The Department of Defense (DOD) recently proposed recommendations to the Base **Realignment** And Closure (BRAC) Commission that will have an overall positive effect on Kentucky's military installations. Initial media reports highlighted the fact that Kentucky would lose 5,324 military personnel with most of those losses coming from **Fort Knox**. While that number is true, there's more to that number than meets the eye.

In its recommendations to the BRAC Commission, the DOD proposed to move the Armor Center at **Fort Knox** to Fort Benning, Georgia. But in return, **Fort Knox** will gain an infantry combat brigade with several thousand active duty troops and their families. Also, **Fort Knox** will gain many officers and other personnel in support of the new combat brigade, as well as several other commands that will call **Fort Knox** home, too.

Losing the armor school is bitter-sweet, because of the tradition and excellence it has exhibited over the years. But it is a school, and like all other schools, students train for six to nine months and then graduate with the overwhelming amount not putting any real financial investments or real roots down in the **Fort Knox** community.

Gaining a combat infantry brigade based at **Fort Knox** will establish long lasting roots in the local community. These new soldiers will buy houses, send their children to local schools,

support the local tax base and the local economy for years to come. With the support of the new combat brigade and other new commands, a net gain of 1,739 civilian jobs will be created at **Fort Knox**, and an estimated \$100 million in military construction funds needed to accomplish the move will be added, and this means good paying construction jobs for Kentuckians.

Fort Campbell, home of the most lethal fighting divisions in the world with the 101st Airborne, was essentially untouched by the DOD's recommendations. This base will be strengthened by the gain of the 52nd Explosive Ordnance Group, a new reserve center, and a maintenance shop. Fort Campbell will continue to be a model Forces Command base in the Army.

Bluegrass Army Depot will also see a gain of a reserve center to offset the loss of reserve centers in other areas of the Commonwealth. The army also plans to move a munitions maintenance group to the depot. With the commitment of the army to start destroying the aging chemical weapons, Bluegrass Army Depot will become increasingly safer to the residents of Madison County.

Lastly, the Air National Guard Station in Louisville will gain four C-130s and an Expeditionary Combat Support Unit. These additions will only strengthen one of the best air guard units in the country and shows the confidence the DOD has in our Louisville air guard.

The recommendations made by the DOD is just the first step in this BRAC Commission process. Nothing is set in stone, and now the Commission will be studying and evaluating these DOD recommendations. Later this year a final list will be presented to President Bush for his approval, and then the list is voted on as a whole in Congress.

A lot can happen between now and then, but as it stands today, Kentucky has fared pretty well compared to other states that have outright and altogether lost forts and bases. These recommendations confirm that the DOD values Kentucky's military history and might, and has plans for our Commonwealth and citizens to play a major role in the transformation and future of strengthening our Army.

Military Makeover

U.S. News & World Report

Julian E. Barnes

May 23, 2005

After five years of preaching the necessity of a nimbler military, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last week took perhaps the most important step in the quest to turn his vision of the future into reality.

The announcement that the Defense Department would propose closing 33 of the nation's 425 major bases sent shudders through communities from Kittery, Maine, to Clovis, N.M. While some cities like Corpus Christi, Texas, would probably little notice the economic impact of the closure, other places, like Rapid City, S.D., would surely feel the loss of their bases acutely. Although Rumsfeld and other officials acknowledged the economic turbulence to come, they emphasized that they were taking advantage of an opportunity to reorganize the armed forces and change the way the nation fights.

There have been four previous rounds of base **realignment** and closure--BRAC in Pentagon patois--since 1988, and they were all fundamentally about saving money by doing away with unneeded facilities. The government estimates it saved \$ 29 billion between 1988 and 2003 by

closing 97 major bases and scores of minor facilities. This time around the Pentagon certainly intends to save money--a projected \$ 49 billion to \$ 64 billion over two decades. But today reshaping the military is as important as reducing waste. With brigades of tanks stationed in Europe, overlapping domestic research facilities, underused naval stations, and duplicative training centers, Rumsfeld believes America's bases are still arrayed for yesterday's fight, not tomorrow's. "Current arrangements pretty much designed for the Cold War must give way to the new demands of war against extremists and other evolving 21st-century challenges," Rumsfeld said.

As a result, the Pentagon's list contained more reshuffling than outright closure. **Fort Knox, Ky.**, for example, would lose its armor center and school to Fort Benning, Ga., which already has the Army's infantry school--but it would receive a new brigade and combat support units returning from overseas. Each service has a list of shuffled combat brigades, ships, and fighter squadrons. "We got to ask ourselves: If we were king for a day, how would we redo the Air Force?" says Maj. Gen. Gary Heckman, who helped oversee that service's **realignment**.

No meddling. The **realignment** of bases provides Rumsfeld with perhaps his most important opportunity to reshape the military for years to come. Although the secretary has managed to kill off some weapons programs he regards as legacies of the Cold War, many of his attempts at modernization have been hampered by lawmakers. But the base closure system has been well designed to keep congressional meddling to a minimum. The Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, appointed by President Bush, will now review the Pentagon recommendations and has until September to make changes, though major revisions are unlikely. President Bush then reviews the list and sends it to Congress, which must consider the proposal as a whole; if the legislators don't reject it within 45 days, the closure recommendations go into effect.

Still, there is sure to be congressional opposition. New England was particularly hard hit by the proposed loss of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine and the New London submarine base in Connecticut. Those decisions will most likely spark a fight, despite Congress's limited ability to tinker with the list. The restrictions have increased the amount of grumbling about the process in recent years, and so this round of **realignment** is likely to be Rumsfeld's last. "You have one shot, and you are not going to have another for a decade," says Ken Beeks, vice president of Business Executives for National Security.

Rumsfeld believes America is ill-served by having heavy forces sitting in garrisons in Germany or even South Korea. Indeed, Rumsfeld began asking his regional commanders about American troops stationed overseas back in August 2001. "All of these questions Rumsfeld asked led us to the strong conclusion that globally we were in a Cold War posture," says Ray DuBois, the acting under secretary of the Army. "And you have to ask yourself: What sort of posture do we need for the next 20 years?"

Location. The essential belief inside Rumsfeld's Pentagon is that because of restrictions other nations put on U.S. troop movements, forces can move to a conflict from the United States as fast as they can from a foreign base--as long as they are positioned domestically near railheads and airports. The Pentagon plans to move about 70,000 troops stationed overseas back home, but there are some who have raised doubts. Last week, to the dismay of the Pentagon, a commission appointed by Congress released a report that questioned the details of the overseas withdrawal. Al Cornella, the commission chairman, said that he did not disagree with Rumsfeld's overall vision but added that the Pentagon is moving too fast. Before the military leaves Germany, Cornella says, the Pentagon must be sure it has enough ships and cargo planes to deploy troops from America quickly. "We will get one chance to do [this]," he said, "and we want to do it right."

The decision to redeploy American troops from Korea and Germany to domestic bases has blunted some of the pain of base closure. Some of the bases that have been considered for closure in earlier rounds, like Fort Riley, Kan., and Fort Carson, Colo., were designated by the Pentagon last week for expansion--because of large training areas and newly renovated railroad connections that allow rapid deployment. Another winner was Texas: Fort Bliss will receive troops coming home from Germany. Some could not resist pointing out that it also made for good politics to move troops back to Colorado, Texas, and Kansas. "Those are red states by the way, if you haven't noticed," says Bill Nash, a retired major general now with the Council on Foreign Relations. "This is a great opportunity to take care of your friends and lessen the impact of BRAC."

The closure list also reflects Rumsfeld's desire for an integrated military in which the Army, Navy, and Air Force not only fight together but train side by side and share facilities. In years past, individual services have largely chosen which bases will close. This time around, Rumsfeld was determined to change the process. "The Rumsfeld people . . . are making the services work together," says Christopher Hellman, a military analyst with the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation.

And the final list reflects that emphasis. Walter Reed Army Medical Center would be largely shuttered and combined with the National Naval Medical Center to create a joint hospital. "Does it really matter what uniform a doctor wears?" Hellman asks. Pentagon officials also pointed to their proposal to create combined training centers for cooks and truck drivers at Fort Lee, Va. (at the expense of Lackland Air Force Base, Texas). Several Army and Air Force bases like Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey and Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base in Washington State would consolidate their operations. And the 7th Special Forces Group would leave Fort Bragg, N.C., to work with Air Force Special Operations at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

In previous rounds, about 15 percent of the Pentagon decisions have been overturned by the BRAC commission. Pentagon officials believe this time there will be fewer overrides, in part because of new rules and in part because they believe the services have done a better job of evaluating what's needed. The next months will show whether that confidence is merited. But even if the list remains relatively unchanged, it will take years to see just how successful Rumsfeld's plan is. It is easy to talk about making the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines work together more closely. It is more difficult to make it happen.

Base Closure Commission To Visit 20 Bases This Week

The Associated Press

Matthew Daly

May 23, 2005

The commission reviewing the Pentagon's recommended base closings will travel to 20 bases this week to learn more about military installations slated to be closed.

The nine commissioners will split into small groups to tour 20 sites in 11 states between Tuesday and Friday. The states are Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah, Virginia and Washington.

"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," Anthony Principi, chairman of the **Base Realignment** and Closure Commission, said in a statement.

Commissioners "have a lot of hard work ahead of us and not a lot of time to do it," added Principi, a former U.S. Veterans Affairs secretary. "Each site visit will be packed with detailed briefings, discussions with base personnel and tours of the key facilities."

The nine-member panel, known as BRAC, has pledged to visit all bases slated for closure or major **realignment** under a plan announced May 13 by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. The plan would close 33 major bases and downsize 29 others, saving an estimated \$48 billion over 20 years.

As a practical matter, groups of two or three commissioners will visit each base, preceded by an analyst who will compile detailed information on the site, its staffing and military function.

For instance, commissioners James Bilbray and Philip Coyle are scheduled to visit Portland International Airport on Tuesday. The airport is home to an Air National Guard Base slated for a drastic downsizing.

Oregon lawmakers say the plan to transfer 452 civilian and 112 military jobs from the Portland base - as well as remove its 23 active planes - could leave the region vulnerable to attack.

Similar complaints have been made by lawmakers across the country.

Earlier this month, the military suggested pulling the Army's Armor Center and School from **Fort Knox**, Ky., and adding an Infantry Brigade Combat Team and other units coming home from overseas. This would shift **Fort Knox's** historic focus away from heavy armor to war fighting.

"They're really checking the Army's homework," said retired Brig. Gen. James E. Shane, executive director of Kentucky's Commission on Military Affairs.

The commission has until Sept. 8 to present its recommendations to President Bush. In past years, about 85 percent of base closures recommended by the Pentagon have remained on the BRAC list.

The panel has scheduled a series of public hearings on the plan this summer.

Base-Closing Commissioners To Visit Fort Knox Next Week

The Associated Press

Hilary Roxel

May 24, 2005

The commission charged with developing a final list in this year's round of military base closings and **realignments** is scheduled to visit **Fort Knox** on Thursday to evaluate the Pentagon's recommendations there.

The visit would come two weeks before a June 7 regional hearing in St. Louis, Mo., at which affected communities can voice concerns about the Defense Department's recommendations.

Earlier this month, the military suggested pulling the Army's Armor Center and School from **Fort Knox** and adding an Infantry Brigade Combat Team and other units coming home from overseas.

This would shift **Fort Knox's** historic focus away from heavy armor to war fighting.

Commissioners have said they plan to visit the installations at which the Pentagon recommended major closures or **realignments**.

Two commissioners - Samuel K. Skinner, a former U.S. transportation secretary and chief of staff to President George H.W. Bush; and Sue E. Turner, a retired Air Force brigadier general who was director of nursing services for the office of the Air Force Surgeon General - are "penciled in" to visit **Fort Knox**, said Robert McCreary, spokesman for the base closing commission.

"They're really checking the Army's homework," said Retired Brig. Gen. James E. Shane, executive director of Kentucky's Commission on Military Affairs.

The recommended changes to **Fort Knox** could result in the loss of thousands of jobs in the greater Elizabethtown area by 2011, according to a Pentagon report. But state leaders say the brigade's arrival would bring more permanent residents to the area, compared with the thousands of trainees who moved on after finishing their courses.

Under the Pentagon's plan, the base would also gain an Army Reserve training center, the Army Human Resources Command and the Army Accessions Command and Cadet Command. But the base hospital would be downgraded to a clinic, and corrections functions would shift elsewhere.

"There are some gives and takes in Kentucky, but we're not displeased with the list. We recognize that **Fort Knox** today may not be the **Fort Knox** of tomorrow," Shane said.

Local News Articles

Overland Gears Up To Keep Military Office, 1,943 Workers Pentagon Decision Could Shut Human Resources Center "We Could Have 2,000 Fewer People In Town Purchasing Gas, Cigarettes And Going To Restaurants

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

Gabe Kiley

May 19, 2005

Overland officials plan to work with government leaders to try to stop the relocation of the Army's Human Resources Command, which employs 1,943 people, to Kentucky.

The move is part of the Pentagon's proposal to close and realign military bases and facilities nationwide, which was announced last week.

The command office, located in the Federal Records Center Field Office at 9700 Page Avenue, would reduce the staff at the facility by about half. The federal office is Overland's largest employer.

The announcement came as a surprise to Overland Mayor Bob Dody. "We hate to lose any employer in our community, especially one of this size," Dody said.

Councilwoman Mary Beth Conlon, 2nd Ward, said she is concerned about the yet-to-be determined financial impact on sales-tax revenue in Overland, if the command office relocates. Conlon said that although the federal government pays no real estate taxes on its office in

Overland, its employees spend money at local businesses.

"We could have 2,000 fewer people in town purchasing gas, cigarettes and going to restaurants," Conlon said.

The command center is a joint operation with Alexandria, Va., and a satellite office in Indianapolis. The St. Louis office consists of 709 military positions and 1,234 civilian jobs.

The three locations would be combined and relocated to **Fort Knox**, Ky. All three sites are leased space, which Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld wants to reduce as part of his plan to strengthen U.S. armed forces worldwide and save the Defense Department more than \$60 billion.

The Commission on Base **Realignment** and Closure (BRAC) recommended closing 33 major bases and realigning 29 more. The St. Louis area would lose some units under the BRAC proposal. The 131st Air National Guard F-15 Fighter Wing, situated at nearby Lambert Field, also could be moved as part of the Pentagon's proposal.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service, 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, would send the work of its 293 employees to undetermined sites. And several Guard and Reserve positions throughout the area would be moved.

In good news, Scott Air Force Base in Illinois was spared and will add about 800 jobs through closures and reassignments.

Overland officials, like other communities across the country, are playing the waiting game. President George W. Bush has until Sept. 23 to accept or reject the BRAC's list, in its entirety. If Bush accepts the list, it becomes final within 45 days unless Congress approves a joint resolution rejecting the entire package. If Bush rejects the list, the commission must submit a revised list to the president by Oct. 20. The president must approve or reject that list in its entirety by Nov. 7. If the list is approved, bases would close during the next six years.

Dody and Conlon said the council would work with U.S. Senators Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., and Jim Talent, R-Mo., and U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay Jr., D-Mo., as well as state and county officials, in an effort to try to prevent the relocation of the Human Resources Command.

"I would hope for a robust response by the community to lobby, to try to keep the office here," Conlon said. "The goal is to get the community engaged."

Conlon admits that the municipality's fight could get lost in the shuffle, with the attention centered the potential relocation of the F-15s from Lambert Field to bases in Nevada and Atlantic City, NJ.

"Fighter planes have a higher profile," Conlon said. "Our job is to create attention, write letters and become actively engaged."

Until last week, things had been looking up for Overland along Page Avenue. Recently, Dody announced a series of retail and commercial development in long-vacant buildings along Page Avenue in Overland.

Dody also has been heralding the opening of Home Depot in late June and the new J.S. Alberici Construction headquarters in the near future.

"All we can do is go forward," Dody said, "and hope for the best."

Businesses Gamble On Benning Growth

Knight-Ridder Tribune Business News - Columbus Ledger-Enquirer - Georgia

Mick Walsh

May 22, 2005

It's not that Kenny Hopkins needed reassurance that his decision to invest in south Columbus was the right one.

He'd done his homework.

He knew Fort Benning was on the verge of becoming a boom town.

And, as owner of American Eye Care, he knew that because of the Army's shortage of physicians, many military dependents are taking their Tricare insurance with them to civilian doctors.

But his gamble was justified May 13 when he learned that the Base **Realignment** and Closure report from the Pentagon had recommended that the Army's Armor Center and its 10,000 soldiers and civilians be moved from **Fort Knox, Ky.**, to Fort Benning.

"My \$ 100,000 investment looks a little better right now," said Hopkins, who opened his second store Monday across Victory Drive from Ranger Joe's. His first is located in Main Street Village.

Hopkins knows the numbers game.

About 2,200 of the soldiers and civilians heading here over the next two years will be permanently stationed at Fort Benning, unlike soldiers in a combat brigade who are scheduled for deployment every three or four years. Most are at the higher ends of the military and civil service pay scales. And, using Army estimates, 65 percent of these newcomers will be married, with that group having an estimated 1.8 children each.

Do the math.

The original 2,200 becomes 6,200, and that's not even counting the 7,500 soldiers who will pass through the Armor School every year, attending schools ranging from two to nine months. Nor the estimated 2,500 troops who were scheduled to come here anyway with other units before the BRAC decision.

Then there's the money. The Pentagon is sending along \$ 460 million to construct the new home of the Armor.

No doubt Hopkins is excited. "Where better to be than near the front gate of the post?" he said.

There is a caveat. The Pentagon's recommendations are now being considered by a nine-member BRAC commission, which in turn will forward its recommendations to President Bush by early September. The president has until Sept. 23 to accept or reject the commission's report in its entirety.

If accepted, Congress has 45 legislative days to reject the recommendations in their entirety or they become binding.

"I'm prepared to tough it out until the troops get here," Hopkins said.

Fort Benning isn't waiting until November for the BRAC decision to become final.

"The post has to be ready to award contracts as soon as the process is complete," says Biff Hadden, senior vice president for military affairs with the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce. "Decisions have to be made where to put the new Armor School and their new ranges. Two years from that point, the Armor Center should be in place."

Assigning the "Home of the Armor" to what's known as the "Home of the Infantry" makes a lot of sense, says retired Maj. Gen. Jerry White, a former Fort Benning commander.

"The Army ought to have its main maneuver forces under the same command," he said. "After all, the infantry and armor make up the combat arms team."

Once the BRAC process is complete, the Armor School should be up and running within two years.

So what does that mean to folks like Hopkins and the rest of the local business community?

Hadden, a retired Army colonel, said the school will consist of as many as 20 colonels, 40 lieutenant colonels and up to four times as many captains and majors, all headed up by a brigadier general.

If the Army were a private company, these officers and non-commissioned officers would certainly be considered on the executive level. An Army colonel with 22 years' experience earns through regular salary and basic allowances for subsistence and housing almost \$ 130,000 a year. A captain with six years' service brings home about \$ 75,000.

"Salaries are a whole lot better than when I was in," said Robert Loving, president of the South Columbus Community Development Association, who retired from the Army in 1982.

"These guys are going to have money in their pockets and they'll be spending it off-post," he said. "Just around here, we have a new Sonic that's doing well and now we have Kenny Hopkins opening up his store on Victory Drive. To me, that is big news. Here's a guy with a business in north Columbus moving down here. I think others are going to follow."

To put things in perspective, Chamber president Mike Gaymon said that the TSYS campus in Columbus cost roughly \$ 100 million while the construction of the new Armor School and its ranges will cost \$ 460 million.

"It's overwhelming, really," Gaymon said. "And much of the money will go to local contractors."

Housing contractor Clark Pinnacle, which will practically rebuild post housing from the ground up, will start its massive 10-year, \$ 615 million project in January.

"Much of the subcontracting business will go to local companies," Gaymon said.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, the post commander, points out that the expansion at Fort Benning is a whole lot more than the arrival of the Armor School, the 1st Armor Training Brigade and the 16th Cavalry Regiment -- all part of the BRAC package.

Starting in July, the Infantry Center will introduce a new Basic Officer Leader Course with new officers undergoing 6 1/2 weeks of demanding combat training. The new cadre, which would conduct the training, brings 300 new soldiers to the Benning population.

The 362nd Multi-Role Bridge Company brought in 185 soldiers earlier this year; a new combat support hospital will add 320; and a new military police battalion will put 400 more on post.

The Infantry Training Brigade is adding 180 new people.

"Currently, Fort Benning trains 75,000 to 80,000 a year," Freakley said. "Two years from now as we have the Armor School here, we'll train about 90,000."

Hadden predicts that when the buildup is complete, the post will have approximately 5,000 new personnel, not counting spouses and children. And there will be an additional 10,000 or more trainees visiting post every year.

Fort Benning Futures Partnership, made up of dozens of the area's top elected city, county and school officials, along with leaders of the business community, have long since begun planning for the boom.

"While our growth at Fort Benning will have a positive impact on the community, it will be managed carefully so that the quality of life for our soldiers, our civilian work force and their families will continue to improve," Freakley said.

Benning registered high on the periscope of the national media.

Hadden told USA Today, "We have two states and six counties all working together to help Fort Benning grow."

Opinions/ Editorials

**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Rock Island Arsenal**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to realign the Rock Island Arsenal.**
 - Although the Commission understands that there could be multiple effects upon the surrounding community, should the suggestion by DoD to realign the Rock Island Arsenal be enacted, 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 recognizes the importance that the Rock Island Arsenal has had as a producer of howitzers and other weapons systems. In addition, the Commission appreciates the role the arsenal has played in the production of armor kits for Army Humvees. The Commission will perform a thorough evaluation of the current military value of the installation, before the Commission reaches its conclusions.
 - Historically, the Rock Island Arsenal has been instrumental in the production of tanks through its Tank Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM). The Commission will take all pertinent factors into account as it evaluates DoD's decision to move TACOM to the Detroit area.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the possible human impact that the suggestions to realign the Rock Island Arsenal 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 Quad Cities community and the arsenal have established a strong economic relationship. The Commission will take into full account the economic impact that the loss of roughly 1,300 jobs could have on the surrounding community.

- 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, by DoD closure or realignment.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and to serve as accountability to the public for the suggestion, made by DoD, to realign the Rock Island Arsenal.
 - The Commission encourages community input. 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 Rock Island Arsenal**

Q1. Under the current Department of Defense (DoD) recommendations, the Rock Island Arsenal is slated to lose 1,263 jobs. Out of a total workforce of roughly 6,400, jobs from the arsenal make up a large portion of the workforce. Will the Commission take into consideration the economic impact that could be had by DoD's recommendations?

A1. The factors to be included in the Commission's evaluation of the DoD's suggestions for base closures and realignments are set forth by statute. The Commission is keenly aware of the human impact of these suggestions and will take their economic effects on the region into account, while maintaining military value as its most important consideration in this evaluation.

Q2. In addition to the 6,400 employees at Rock Island, the arsenal supports an estimated additional 12,000 jobs in the region and generates an estimated \$1.1 billion into the area's economy annually. DoD's recommendations could impact a far greater radius than is evident by the loss of roughly 1,300 jobs. Will the Commission consider the social and economic impact of the DoD recommendations beyond just the apparent immediate job loss??

A2. Primarily, the Commission will evaluate the military value of an installation in the Commission's analysis of the Pentagon's recommendations. However, the Commission will also consider other secondary factors such as the economic, social, and environmental impact of the BRAC recommendations. The Commission understands the role that military installations play in local economies and will thoroughly and objectively analyze the DoD recommendations to determine whether or not they have been made according to statute, with military value as the preeminent consideration, but also whether they have taken the possibly-heavy impact on the community into account.

Q3. The current BRAC recommendations propose the relocation of the Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant. The facility, operated by NI Industries, produces an assortment of shells and grenades including those used in the Army's new Stryker combat vehicle. There has been speculation that the ammunition plant will be relocated to the Rock Island Arsenal. Does the Commission have any information pertaining to this?

A3. DoD has worked to ensure that our military is efficient and able to meet changing global threats, while the Congress established the Commission to evaluate whether the suggestions by DoD to close or realign military installations have been made according to law and have taken all pertinent factors into account. The Commission will place priority upon 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. Part of what constitutes DoD's strategic standards of military value are 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.

Q4. Currently, the Rock Island Arsenal is home to the Army's only metal manufacturing facility and foundry, producing howitzers and other weapons systems, along with equipment such as armor kits for Army Humvees. Does the Commission recognize these contributions the installation is making towards the defense of the U.S.?

A4. The criteria upon which DoD based its judgements of the military value of various installations involved has included jointness, ease of mobility, and the installation's strategic role in today's changing global threats. The Commission recognizes the unique mission of the Rock Island Arsenal and will evaluate it in light of the DoD criteria. While DoD's role is to determine the strategy for enabling our forces to meet changing global threats, the role of the Commission, as established by the Congress, is to ensure that the suggestions made by DoD to close or realign various installations have been made according to law.

Q5. How can the Community make the Commission aware of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A5. The BRAC Commission encourages community input into this transparent and objective process. The public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Naval Station Great Lakes

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to realign Naval Station Great Lakes**
 - 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 Great Lakes for realignment is military value.
 - The Commission recognizes the importance that Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Command (RTC) has had as the central processing location for Naval recruits, as each year the RTC processes roughly 50,000 recruits for the US Navy. The Commission is also aware of the Great Lakes Service School Command (SSC) as the central training location for Naval enlisted students. The Commission will take this into consideration as it evaluates the current military value of the installation.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestion to realign Great Lakes Naval Station 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 full account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
 - The Chicago-area community and the Naval Station have established a strong economic relationship and the Commission is aware of the impact that the loss of roughly 2,000 jobs could have on the local community.
 - The Commission is also cognizant of the impact of realignment of the medical center on the Naval Station and the extreme importance of providing our troops with the highest level of medical care.

- 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 statute, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
 - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and to serve as accountability to the public for the suggestion, made by DoD, to realign Naval Station Great Lakes.
 - The Commission encourages community input. 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 Station Great Lakes**

Q1. Under the current recommendations, made by the Department of Defense (DoD), Illinois is slated to lose roughly 2,700 jobs. Of those, The Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Command would lose 2,022 civilian and military positions. Will the Commission consider the economic impact of the Pentagon's recommendation on the local community?

A1. The factors to be included in the Commission's evaluation of DoD's suggestions for base closures and realignments have been set forth by statute. The Commission is keenly aware of the human impact that these suggestions could have, should the suggestions be enacted, and will take these effects into full account. In this process, the Commission will maintain military value as its most important consideration.

Q2. Governor Blagojevich has vowed to fight the current recommendations in an effort to save jobs at the station. Will the Governor's political clout assist him in his effort to remove the Naval Station from the base realignment list?

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 Naval Air Station Pensacola, 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 current BRAC recommendations, the Naval Station would lose its medical training center. In addition, the base would lose in-patient care capability and would concentrate on same-day surgical care. It appears to some that these changes reflect a trend, in the BRAC recommendations, of changes to medical care at military installations. Will the Commission consider the economic and social impact of these changes as soldiers would be required to pay out-of-pocket for various medical services at civilian hospitals?

A3. The role of the Commission is to evaluate whether the suggestions made by DoD were made according to law and whether all pertinent factors were taken into account. The Commission will follow an open, transparent, thorough, and objective process specifically outlined by law. The Commission recognizes the importance of medical care to members of the military and dependents. As the DoD attempts to transform the military to more effectively combat the threats of the 21st Century, the Commission will perform an independent evaluation and analysis of these recommendations to ensure that our military continues to receive optimum medical care.

Q4. Estimates state that the Naval Station contributes \$730 million annually to the local Chicago area economy. The proposed alignment could significantly impact that amount. Will the Commission consider the overall economic impact on the Chicago area?

A4. Primarily, the Commission will evaluate the military value of an installation in its analysis of the Pentagon's recommendations. However, the Commission will also consider the economic, environmental, and other effects that the BRAC recommendations would have, should they be enacted, on the surrounding community. The Commission appreciates the role that military installations play in local economies and will thoroughly and objectively analyze the DoD recommendations to determine their feasibility.

Q5. Recently, Rep. Mark Kirk (R-II), who represents the district which includes the installation, has referred to the realignment as "a fairly minor adjustment." In light of Gov. Blagojevich's commitment to fight the changes, will the Representative's comments influence the Commission's final recommendation?

A5. The Congress established the Commission as a non-partisan entity to objectively evaluate the DoD recommendations. The process of evaluation, followed by the Commission, has been set forth by law. In this analysis, 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.

Q6. How can the Community make the Commission aware of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?

A6. The BRAC Commission encourages community input into this transparent and objective process. The public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.

Facts compiled from included press clippings.

NAVAL STATION GREAT LAKES ILLINOIS

National News Articles

Illinois Bases Survive First Step Of Closures, But 2,700 Job Cuts Planned
BRAC 2005: Closings, Realignments to Reshape Infrastructure

Local News Articles

Thousands Could Lose Jobs At Illinois Bases
A look at Illinois bases on the Pentagon's list
Gov. Blagojevich Vows To Fight For Great Lakes Naval Training Center And Do
Everything Possible To Save Any Jobs In Jeopardy

Opinions/ Editorials

National News Articles

Illinois Bases Survive First Step Of Closures, But 2,700 Job Cuts Planned

The Associated Press
Rebecca Carroll
May 14, 2005

WASHINGTON — Illinois would lose nearly 2,700 jobs but none of its military bases under a Pentagon plan unveiled Friday after months of speculation, trepidation and politicking.

The Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Command in North Chicago would lose 2,022 civilian and military jobs, according to recommendations Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has forwarded to a nine-member base closure commission that will begin holding hearings later this month.

Rock Island Arsenal along the Mississippi River would lose another 1,263 jobs under Rumsfeld's plan, and the Air National Guard's 183rd Fighter Wing unit in Springfield would lose 163 jobs and all 15 of its fighter jets.

Scott Air Force Base, about 20 miles east of St. Louis, emerged as the state's biggest winner, gaining 797 military and civilian jobs. The Peoria Air National Guard base would get 34 jobs.

"When we began this process it was bleak and it was likely that we were going to lose bases, not just jobs. ... The fact is, they're all open," a relieved Gov. Rod Blagojevich said in Mascoutah as he began a daylong tour of four state military bases.

After holding hearings through August, the base closure commission will forward its list to President Bush. The president must accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety, and if he accepts, Congress has the right to reject them.

"We're going to keep fighting the good fight and we're going to the Pentagon and keep making our case, and our congressional delegation will as well," Blagojevich said.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin said Illinois members of Congress would meet soon to plan for what's next. The state already has spent more than \$500,000 in lobbying fees and countless hours trying to avoid losing any bases.

Durbin warned against complacency in the future, saying there will be another round of base closures "sure as I stand here."

"I don't know if it's going to be four years from now, five years or 10," he said. "We can't take comfort in the fact we won today. Tomorrow's another day."

Nonetheless, Durbin was jubilant at the good fortune of Scott, which is the largest employer in southwestern Illinois. The base employs more than 13,000 jobs and supports more than 35,000 additional ones, generating an estimated \$2.1 billion annually for the region's economy.

"Winston Churchill once said there is nothing more exhilarating than being shot at and missed," Durbin said. "Now I know what he meant. Thank goodness."

For Rock Island Mayor Mark Schwiebert, the proposed cuts at the arsenal were bittersweet after weeks of rumblings that it could be marked for closure.

"It's kind of like losing your hand as opposed to losing your whole arm. But it's hard to be grateful for losing your hand," Schwiebert said.

Nationwide, the Pentagon will propose shutting 150 military installations, including 33 major bases, plus more than 100 other smaller facilities in the first round of base closures in a decade. Rumsfeld has said the move would save \$48.8 billion over 20 years while reshaping the military for the future.

Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) said he was not alarmed by the proposed cuts at Naval Station Great Lakes, which has about 5,000 military and civilian jobs. Kirk, who represents the area, said the realignment is "a fairly minor adjustment."

The Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Command is the central processing location for naval recruits. About 50,000 recruits are trained there annually, and about 15,000 are there at any one time.

The training center estimated its financial impact on the Chicago area at about \$730 million. But some nearby merchants in North Chicago say business has been declining since Great Lakes began restricting access to and from the base after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"Everything gets more and more empty, and everything hurts," said Martin Muller, a bartender at The Anchor Lounge.

The Rock Island Arsenal, located on a nearly 950-acre island in the Mississippi River, is losing jobs in a realignment of its mission. The arsenal now is home to the Army's only metal

manufacturing facility and foundry, producing howitzers and other weapons systems, along with equipment such as armor kits for Army Humvees.

The arsenal has more than 6,400 employees, the second-largest employer in the Quad Cities behind Deere & Co. The base supports about 12,000 additional jobs in the region and pumps an estimated \$1.1 billion into the area's economy every year.

In Springfield, the Air National Guard's 183rd Fighter Wing has about 355 full-time employees, more than 1,100 part-time workers and pumps \$44.6 million a year into the area's economy.

"They pretty much neutered the base there," said Rep. Ray LaHood (R-Ill.). "Some big decisions are going to have to be made if this recommendation stands."

In the Chicago area, the Navy Reserve Center Forest Park is scheduled to close, costing 15 military jobs, and the 34 workers remaining at the shuttered Fort Sheridan also will lose their jobs.

The Pentagon's plan also would shutter two reserve centers in southern Illinois, in Cairo and Marion, with a combined 32 military employees. Those positions would be moved to a new facility planned in nearby Carbondale that also would serve as the headquarters for Carbondale's National Guard unit, currently deployed in Iraq.

The new center would be built within five years, replacing Carbondale's three-employee armory, Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole said.

The Peoria Air National Guard base, located at the Greater Peoria Regional Airport, employs about 350 people full-time and more than 900 part-time. New facilities were built for the home of the 182nd Airlift Wing unit in the last decade, and new aircraft were added this year.

LaHood's office estimated the base's economic impact on the area at \$45.5 million a year.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Barack Obama said the Pentagon recognized the role the Peoria unit has played in the war in Iraq, where its cargo planes have regularly transported soldiers and cargo.

"I know they will continue to make us all proud," Obama said.

The Pentagon has closed 97 major installations since 1988, including four in Illinois — Fort Sheridan, Chanute Air Force Base, Glenview Naval Air Station and the Savanna Army Depot.

A fifth round of cuts was authorized last year because the military was determined to have more base capacity than it needed with its remaining 425 major installations.

Bases on the final list will have about six years to close. Active military will likely be transferred, and civilians will be offered other civil-service jobs or help in finding them.

BRAC 2005: Closings, Realignments to Reshape Infrastructure

American Forces Press Service

Jim Garamone

May 13, 2005

The Defense Department has recommended closing 33 major bases and realigning 29 others as part of a comprehensive reshaping of the military infrastructure through the base realignment and closure process.

Michael Wynne, defense undersecretary for acquisition, technology and logistics, announced Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's closure and realignment recommendations at a Pentagon news conference today.

The recommendations now go to the BRAC Commission chaired by former Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi. The commission will start hearings on the specific recommendations May 16.

If adopted, the recommendations would give DoD a net savings of almost \$50 billion over 20 years, officials said. Annual savings are pegged at \$5.5 billion a year after that.

Fourteen major Army bases are recommended for closure, including Forts Gillem and McPherson in Atlanta; Fort Monroe, Va.; Fort Monmouth, N.J.; and the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant and Red River Army Depot in Texas.

Nine major Navy bases will close, including Submarine Base, New London, Conn.; Willow Grove Naval Air Station, Pa.; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Maine; Naval Station Pascagoula, Miss.; and Naval Air Station Atlanta.

Ten major Air Force installations are closing, including Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; Onizuka Air Force Station, Calif.; Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.; Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass.; and Brooks City Base, Texas.

DoD defines major realignments as installations losing at least 400 people. The five major Army realignments are Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington; the Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.; Fort Knox, Ky.; and Fort Eustis, Va.; and the Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis.

Eleven Navy realignments include Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill.; Naval Station San Diego; and naval air stations in Brunswick, Maine, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Pensacola, Fla. The Marine Corps Logistics Base in Barstow, Calif., also will realign, as will the naval medical centers in Portsmouth, Va., and San Diego.

Ten major Air Force realignments include Eielson and Elmendorf Air Force bases, both in Alaska; Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.; Lackland and Sheppard Air Force bases, Texas; and McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

DoD agencies in leased spaces throughout the National Capital Area and Defense Finance and Accounting Service offices in Cleveland and in Arlington, Va., face major realignment actions as well.

Forty-nine installations are gaining more than 400 personnel. The Army made provision for units reassigned from Europe and the Pacific. The major gainers in the Army are Fort Belvoir, Va.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Benning, Ga.; and Fort Bragg, N.C.

Navy gainers include Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla.; Naval Station Norfolk, Va.; Naval Station Newport, R.I.; Marine Corps Logistics Base Quantico, Va.; and Naval Station Bremerton, Wash.

Air Force gainers include Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.; Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; Andrews Air Force Base, Md.; and Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

The bases themselves are only part of the story. This BRAC process had seven joint cross-service groups to examine common business processes in education and training; headquarters and support; technical; industrial; supply and storage; intelligence; and medical.

Wynne said jointness - services working together -- was key to creating military value, and military value was the most important consideration as the BRAC process progressed.

"These joint cross-service groups were key to making this jointness a reality in this process," Wynne said. "They each were chaired by a senior executive or flag officer, with representation from each of the military services, from the Joint Staff and from the relevant defense agencies involved."

More than half of the future annual savings \$2.9 billion of the estimated \$5.5 billion is generated from the joint cross-service groups, officials said.

Local News Articles

Thousands Could Lose Jobs At Illinois Bases

CBS2 Chicago

May 13, 2005

WASHINGTON (AP) Illinois would lose nearly 2,700 military and civilian jobs under base closures recommended Friday by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, but the state's five major military installations would remain open.

The Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Command in North Chicago is slated to lose 2,022 jobs, Rock Island Arsenal along the Mississippi River would lose another 1,263 and the Air National Guard's 183rd Fighter Wing unit in Springfield would lose 163 jobs, The Associated Press learned Friday.

Scott Air Force Base, located about 20 miles east of St. Louis, near Belleville, emerged as the big winner, gaining 797 military and civilian jobs. The Peoria Air National Guard base would gain 34 jobs.

"Overall, Illinois could have done much worse, but I think we still have to do some work, particularly in Rock Island," said Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., at a news conference at MidAmerica Airport in Mascoutah, Ill.

Rumsfeld's recommendations go to a nine-member base closing commission, which will hold hearings through August before forwarding its list to President Bush. The president must accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety, and if he accepts, Congress has the right to reject them.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich said news of Friday's job losses, while troubling, weren't nearly as bad as things could have been.

"I have to tell you, objectively speaking, that when we began this process it was bleak and it was likely that we were going to lose bases, not just jobs," Blagojevich said at MidAmerica.

"We're going to keep fighting the good fight and we're going to the Pentagon and keep making our case, and our congressional delegation will as well," he added.

For Rock Island Mayor Mark Schwiebert, the proposed cuts at the arsenal were bittersweet after weeks of rumblings that it could be marked for closure.

"It's kind of like losing your hand as opposed to losing your whole arm. But it's hard to be grateful for losing your hand," Schwiebert said.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., was jubilant at the good fortune of Scott, which hosts various military commands and is the largest employer in southwestern Illinois. The base employs more than 13,000 jobs and supports more than 35,000 additional ones, generating an estimated \$2.1 billion annually for the region's economy.

"Winston Churchill once said there is nothing more exhilarating than being shot at and missed," Durbin said at MidAmerica. "Now I know what he meant. Thank goodness."

He said members of the Illinois delegation in Washington would meet probably next week to map strategy about the rest of Friday's announcement. He also warned against complacency in the future, saying there will be another round of base closures "sure as I stand here."

"I don't know if it's going to be four years from now, five years or 10," he said. "We can't take comfort in the fact we won today. Tomorrow's another day."

Nationwide, the Pentagon will propose shutting 150 military installations, including 33 major bases, plus more than 100 other smaller facilities in the first round of base closures in a decade. Rumsfeld has said the move would save \$48.8 billion over 20 years while reshaping the military for the future.

Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Ill., said he was not alarmed by the proposed cuts at Naval Station Great Lakes, which has about 5,000 military and civilian jobs. Kirk, who represents the area, said the realignment is "a fairly minor adjustment."

The Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Command is the central processing location for naval recruits. About 50,000 recruits are trained there annually, and about 15,000 are there at any one time.

Among the Great Lakes units that could be lost is a medical training center for enlisted Navy personnel, reflecting a nationwide shift in the military's system for medical education. Also, the base's inpatient care facility would become a same-day surgical center.

The training center estimated its financial impact on the Chicago area at about \$730 million. That number includes military and civilian employment, contracts, material and food purchases, supplies, equipment, maintenance and utilities.

Some nearby merchants in North Chicago say business has been declining anyway since Great Lakes began restricting access to and from the base after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"Everything gets more and more empty, and everything hurts," said Martin Muller, a bartender at The Anchor Lounge.

The Rock Island Arsenal, located on a nearly 950-acre island in the Mississippi River, is losing jobs in a realignment of its mission. Arsenal spokeswoman Louise Paradis declined to comment immediately on the department's proposal or share details of the changes.

The arsenal currently is home to the Army's only metal manufacturing facility and foundry, producing howitzers and other weapons systems, along with equipment such as armor kits for Army Humvees.

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"They pretty much neutered the base there," said Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Ill. "Some big decisions are going to have to be made if this recommendation stands."

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The Pentagon's plan also would shutter two reserve centers in southern Illinois, in Cairo and Marion, with a combined 32 military employees. Those positions would be moved to a new facility planned in nearby Carbondale that also would serve as the headquarters for Carbondale's National Guard unit, currently deployed in Iraq.

The new center would be build within five years, replacing Carbondale's three-employee armory, Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole said.

"It's a consolidation, which is what the plan is supposed to do, and it's positive for Carbondale," Cole said.

The Peoria Air National Guard base, located at the Greater Peoria Regional Airport, employs about 350 people full-time and more than 900 part-time. New facilities were built for the home of the 182nd Airlift Wing unit in the last decade, and new aircraft were added this year.

The Peoria unit has flown regular missions in Iraq, along with missions for homeland defense and in southwest Asia, moving soldiers and cargo. LaHood's office estimated the base's economic impact on the area at \$45.5 million a year.

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Bases on the final list will have about six years to close. Active military will likely be transferred, and civilians will be offered other civil-service jobs or help in finding them.

A look at Illinois bases on the Pentagon's list KWQC-TV

WASHINGTON These are the Illinois bases on a list of military facilities the Defense Department recommended for closure today:

BASES BEING REALIGNED:

Capital Airport Air Guard Station: Loses 52 military jobs and 133 civilian jobs. Gains 22 military postings. Total loss: 163.

Naval Station Great Lakes: Loses 2,005 military jobs, 124 civilian jobs and 10 contractors. Gains 16 military postings and 101 civilian jobs. Total loss: 2,022.

Rock Island Arsenal: Loses 3 military postings and 1,537 civilian jobs. Gains 157 military postings and 120 civilian jobs. Total loss: 1,263.

Fort Sheridan: Loses 17 military jobs and 17 civilian jobs. Total loss: 34.

BASES GETTING ADDITIONAL POSITIONS:

Greater Peoria Region: Loses no jobs. Gains 13 military and 21 civilian jobs. Total gain: 34.

Scott Air Force Base: Loses 252 military jobs. Gains 131 military positions, 832 civilian jobs and 86 contractor postings. Total gain: 797.

BASES BEING CLOSED:

Armed Forces Reserve Center, Carbondale: Loses 32 military jobs. Total loss: 32.

Navy Reserve Center, Forest Park: Loses 15 military jobs. Total loss: 15.

Gov. Blagojevich Vows To Fight For Great Lakes Naval Training Center And Do Everything Possible To Save Any Jobs In Jeopardy

Office of the Governor-Illinois

May 13, 2005

CHICAGO – Responding immediately to the U.S. Department of Defense's decision to place the Great Lakes Naval Training Center on its list of military installations recommended for closure or realignment, Gov. Rod Blagojevich expressed his deep disappointment with the Defense Department's recommendation to eliminate some 2,000 jobs from Great lakes, the only Naval training center in the country, and vowed to keep vigorously fighting to save the station. The Governor has been leading a coordinated effort for more than two years with the Illinois Congressional Delegation, other elected officials and local leaders to prevent Illinois' military installations from ending up on the Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list that will be announced in September.

"While I'm deeply disappointed with the Defense Department's recommendation for the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, these dedicated workers and the entire community can rest assured that this battle is not over. Great Lakes is home to the U.S. Navy's only Recruit Training Command and is the Navy's largest training center. For more than 80 years, Great Lakes has been turning civilians into seamen and seamen into sailors, and continues to play a critical role today in our nation's preparedness and security. Thanks to the efforts of the State, the Congressional Delegation and the local community, we have a very strong argument that the Great Lakes

Training Center has tremendous military value and we will aggressively advocate for the retention of these jobs and the instrumental services they provide our nation," Gov. Blagojevich said.

Gov. Blagojevich is continuing the strong partnerships that have existed between the State of Illinois, the Congressional Delegation and the local community to preserve and strengthen the Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

Great Lakes Naval Recruit Training Command (RTC) in Illinois is the central processing location for Naval recruits. Approximately 50,000 recruits pass through Great Lakes RTC annually with an estimated 15,000 recruits onboard the installation at any time and is the third largest base in the Navy. Great Lakes Service School Command (SSC) is the central training location for Naval enlisted students. Students at SSC either arrive directly from RTC or are returning from the fleet for further training. While new recruits are onboard RTC approximately nine weeks for basic training, SSC students will be onboard from two weeks to 14 months, depending on the curriculum.

The Great Lakes Naval Training Center is home to the U.S. Navy's only Recruit Training Command. The largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training center in the Navy, the base includes 1,153 buildings on 1,628 acres and uses 50 miles of roadway to provide access to the Center's facilities.

The Commission will publicly release its BRAC report by September 8th and will send it to President Bush. The President has until September 23rd to approve or disapprove the list. The BRAC list must then be sent to Congress by November 7th, who must also approve or disapprove the list.

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Crane still playing the waiting game

Linton Daily Citizen

Nick Schneider

May 16, 2005

CRANE -- The complexion and the size of the workforce at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division will likely change over the next few years, if recommendations handed down Friday by U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld are followed by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission.

The commander assigned as the officer in charge at NSWC Crane says the news could have been much worse for the U.S. Navy's third largest base in the world and the more than 5,000 civilian and military personnel who work at the 100-square mile facility located in Greene, Martin and Daviess counties. An estimated 672 civilian and 11 contracted workers are expected to lose their jobs based on the recommendation to the BRAC commission made by Rumsfeld.

NSWC Crane focuses its activities on three primary areas of expertise -- Ordnance, Electronics and Electronic Warfare technologies.

Speaking at a news conference Friday afternoon just outside the base gate after the announcement, NSWC Commander Capt. Mark Welsh said bases in Maryland, New Jersey, California and Washington state are slated to receive some work currently done at Crane under Rumsfeld's realignment plan. The plan has now been forwarded to the independent BRAC Commission for review.

He noted that the recommended job cuts will hit some of the highest-paid positions on the base. Crane employs more than 2,000 scientists, engineers and technicians -- representing one of the state's largest high-tech workplaces.

Rumsfeld announced the following realignment recommendations that will directly effect NSWC Crane:

- Relocate Non-medical Chemical Biological Defense development and acquisition to Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.
- Relocate the depot maintenance workload and capacity for ALQ-99 Airborne Electronic Warfare to Felt Readiness Center Northwest, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash. ALQ-99 is an electronic countermeasure system.
- Relocate gun and ammunition research, development and acquisition to Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.
- Relocate all Weapon and Armaments research, development and acquisition as well as test and evaluation, except gun/ammo, combat system security and energetic materials to Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, Calif.
- Realign NSWC Crane's Fallbrook, Calif., detachment by relocating gun and ammunition research and development and acquisition to Picatinny Arsenal, N.J. -- representing an additional 120 workers.

Welsh said realignment is better than closure, but said it's premature to determine the full ramifications of what the proposed plan will mean to NSWC Crane.

"Things could be better and things could be worse," he said.

The commander admits that the months and weeks leading up to release of the BRAC recommendations has been a long and trying process.

"Not knowing what the outcome was going to be has been a little bit tough," he said. "I do know that the process that was used was well thought out. There was planned policy of strategic policy in place for those decisions to be made. At our level here, we can only see what we have here. Why and how the decisions were made at higher levels we don't have insight into that," Welsh said. "It is a relief to have the list out on the street. Would I like it to be shorter? Yes. Would I like it be longer? Yes, if longer means more (jobs) coming in. But I think we've done our part in providing the information to them."

Welsh said it would take officials some time to look over the more than 1,250 page recommendation report to fully understand the implications for Crane. The commander also emphasized that the realignment process is not over -- but only beginning.

"The Secretary of Defense has completed his task, he has delivered his report to the BRAC Commission. It is now up to the BRAC Commission to make their recommendations to the president. The president then forwards it to Congress who then has to either enact it or not," Welsh said. "We won't know until this is enacted into law for sure whether the jobs will be impacted or not," the commander said.

He added, "They (the BRAC Commission) can add, change or delete from the list. There are requirements and specific voting constraints for that ... it's not over until it's over."

However, Welsh stressed the daily job of the men and women who work at Crane will continue in support of the nation's warfighters in all corners of the world.

"We have to do what we do best, we can't stop doing what we do. If we do that, we're playing into someone else's hand," Welsh stated. "The most important thing is, the war did not stop this morning (Friday) when this list was released by the Secretary of Defense. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines that are over in Iraq and Afghanistan today they need the ALQ-99, they need our weapons, they need the armament, they need the sensors that we do produce and engineer here at NSWC Crane, Indiana. Our primary mission as this process continues is to do what we do best and that is support the warfighter," Welsh said. "The war did not stop, we have to maintain what we do to support our troops."

Welsh in comments to the media pointed out that the final selection criteria for the base realignment and closure recommendations military value. He also stressed, "These actions are not a reflection on the workforce or the products that are produced here at Crane. This is truly been part of the process that the Department of Defense has done to look at things from a dollars and cents standpoint."

He added that the leadership at Crane and the DoD is committed to taking care of the affected workers at Crane and will continue to work with the BRAC and military leaders throughout the realignment process.

Welsh, who took command at NSWC Crane on Aug. 18, 2004, also stressed that only recommendations have been given to the BRAC commission and the final realignment plan could look differently when it is sent to President George W. Bush in September. The president must approve then submit the commission's recommendations to Congress for review and action. The entire process is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

The actual realignment will take from two to five years to implement, Welsh said.

The commander said he expects members of the BRAC commission to visit Crane base before completing their final report to the president.

Immediately after the official realignment announcement was made from the Pentagon in Washington D.C., Welsh addressed the entire workforce at NSWC Crane by a live closed circuit television broadcast over the base's communication network.

"I've committed to the workforce that I will not tell anyone anything until they (the workers) know it ... I read the list and told them the process is still ongoing and reminded everyone that this is not a reflection on what we do here or the performance of the people. The war is not over. It didn't stop today (Friday). We have to continue our primary mission. Our number one number job is to support the warfighter and we're not going to forget that," he commented.

NSWC Crane Corporate Communications Director Sue Webster said that Welsh and other leadership personnel would be looking over the realignment plan in the next few days and try to decipher how the recommendations will impact Crane.

"He's going to try and meet with potentially impacted groups in the coming weeks," Webster said. "We're going to take care of the people and they're going to have the resources they need."

She added, "What's next for us is supporting the (BRAC) Commission. When they come and visit we'll give them the information they need. They might request additional scenarios and if they do, we'll certainly continue to provide that information to them ... we're hoping they come here so they can see what we got."

Robert Kral, a NSWC Crane public affairs spokesman, said Crane impacts the state and local economy to the tune of \$1.7 million daily and \$1.5 billion on an annual basis.

"What the means as far as this BRAC realignment, we don't know," he added.

Businesses concerned about Crane

Linton Daily Citizen

Halea Franklin

NSWC Crane is extremely important to the economics of Greene County as well as surrounding counties. Not only does Crane employ several thousand workers, the naval instillation also supports local businesses by purchasing items from them.

The recent announcement that Crane will be realigned, has local business owners worried about what their futures may hold.

One Bloomfield business relies so much on Crane that it's owner worries that with the realignment, the business may have to close.

Lori Brown and her staff at Taylor Creations makes covers for guns.

"We make covers to keep sand and water out," Brown said.

When guns are shipped to Crane for repair, they are sent out in excellent working condition and with a cover from Taylor Creations.

Brown said her understanding is that the gun and ammunition research, development and acquisition division is being transferred to Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. That move not only takes jobs away from Crane, but it also takes business away from Brown.

"This move will affect my business quite a lot," Brown said. "It will affect it a lot, possibly devastatingly."

Brown noted that Crane has been pleased with the work her company has done.

"Crane loves what we do for them," she said.

However, Brown said she has been looking for other avenues of income.

"I have to look for other avenues of income or I have to lay off my employees and close the doors," Brown said.

Another business that works closely with Crane is Northside Machine Shop in Dugger.

Rich Smith, who owns Northside Machine Factory, isn't too worried about how the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) will affect his business, he's more concerned with the whole picture.

"It concerns me more on the impact it will have on our area," he said. "If they'd have closed it, it would've been devastating to our area. As far as what they're doing and how it would impact us personally, I don't know. It depends where they cut those (more than) 600 jobs."

While Crane provides Northside Machine Factory with steady business, the Sullivan County based business doesn't rely solely on Crane. In fact, Smith said about 20 percent of their business is related to Crane.

"We've usually got something going on from Crane. We do work for other government installations," Smith said, noting that the company frequently works with Rock Iron Arsenal, a purchasing agency in Rock Island, Ill.

Specifically for Crane, Northside Machine -- which has been in business since 1965 -- makes dummy nose plugs. Smith explained that the plugs are practice rounds that go into 5 inch shells.

If Crane closed, real estate market would be hurt

Linton Daily Press

Timberly Ferree

Many local business owners were relieved to find out that NSWC Crane will remain open although they are concerned with the 17 percent cut in jobs.

"I think it's wonderful news that Crane is not going to close. The reverse side is that some will lose their jobs. However, I'm hoping the ones that do lose their jobs will get other positions within Crane or transferred to other government jobs," Connie Puckett, real estate broker/owner of Key Associates in Linton, said.

Because of the already high unemployment rate in Greene County the complete closure of Crane would have definitely hurt more, Puckett stressed.

In the real estate business, Puckett explained that an oversupply of homes, which could result from people relocating elsewhere, would drive the prices of homes down which in turn could hurt the local market.

Ken Robertson, owner of Ken's Barber and Style Shop in Bloomfield, agrees that the news could have been a lot worse.

"It's so much better. At least its (Crane) open ... other bases lost a lot more," Robertson noted.

Robertson has been in the hair-cutting business for 38 years and said he plans to be around for another 12 years whether Crane is open or not.

"I'd still be here. I've got a good base and I do a lot of Crane people's hair," he said.

Robertson added that Crane has been a main employer of the area and he thinks it will continue to be.

Steve White, co-owner of White's True Value Hardware in Bloomfield, said, "We're very excited about keeping the jobs we have at Crane.

"It would have devastated the area if it would have closed," White stressed.

But White added that he felt Crane would stay open.

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) announcement received early Friday morning saved NWSC Crane from complete closure but it cut about 680 jobs.

NWSC Crane is located in Greene, Martin and Daviess counties and currently employs about 5,000 contracted, civilian and military employees.

Crane to be realigned

Linton Daily Citizen

Nick Schneider

May 13, 2005

Realignment is the word for the massive Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division base.

The much-anticipated Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) announcement this morning at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. brought a restrained collective sign of relief among the more than 4,000 military, civilian and contracted employees who earn their livelihood from the state's 12th largest employer.

However, not all jobs will be saved.

An estimated 680 jobs will be cut -- an approximate 17 percent loss.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced this morning that the 54-year-old facility southern Indiana facility in Greene, Martin and Daviess counties will not close, but operations will change.

The secretary emphasized that the prime factor in each BRAC recommendation was an assessment of an installation's underlying military value.

"In a time of war, whenever we can find ways to increase support for military needs to help the warfighters, we should do no less," he said.

Rumsfeld said the 28-page list of 33 major base closures and numerous realignments will save the government an estimated \$50 billion in operational costs over the next 20 years.

NWSC Commander Capt. Mark Welsh addressed the workforce from his office by a live broadcast over the base's closed circuit television network shortly after the official.

"He wanted the workers to know first hand what we know," Sue Webster, public affairs officer Sue Webster said today.

Welsh also conducted a news conference at the entrance to the base early this afternoon to discuss the ramifications of today's announcement with the media.

Some other Indiana military establishments didn't fare as well as Crane and were tabbed for closure.

Among the Indiana based on the closure list are:

- Newport Chemical Depot
- Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Bunker Hill
- Navy Recruiting District Headquarters, Indianapolis
- Navy Reserve Center, Evansville
- U.S. Army Reserve Center, Lafayette
- U.S. Army Reserve Center, Seston

Linton resident Nyle Riegle, who serves on the board for a Bloomington-based lobby organization -- the Southern Indiana Business Alliance (SIBA) -- said announcement of Crane's realignment was not a surprise and presents a starting point for further study and work by his not-for-profit group.

"Being realigned is certainly better than being closed," Riegle said. "This (announcement) is a key step in a long process."

He said it's too early to speculate on exactly what this means for Crane or in what areas the projected job cuts will take place.

"We'll (SIBA) be working through the process and see what all of this means," Riegle said. "Most certainly it is not a closure."

He stressed that the list recommended by Rumsfeld can be altered and even added too by the BRAC Commission.

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, (IN-8) was satisfied with the DOD announcement and said, "I'm extremely pleased, but not surprised, that Crane survived this fifth round of base closures. I've long made the case that Crane, its mission and its people, are vital to our military. I'm glad the Department of Defense once again reached the same conclusion.

He continued, "This is a shared victory. Gov. Mitch Daniels and Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman made repeated trips to Washington to lobby for Crane at the highest levels. The Indiana Legislature strengthened Crane's hand with innovative legislation. The Indiana Congressional delegation worked together to secure

Crane's future. The Southern Indiana Business Alliance gave the community a bullhorn to make its voice heard."

Hostettler said a lot people worked to keep Crane open, but the men and women who work there get the real credit.

"The real credit belongs to the people of Crane. The Pentagon's decision was based on military value and when that's the case Crane comes through with flying colors. Crane employees are renowned for their hard work, innovation and expertise. When the military has a problem they look to

"Crane for solutions and its workforce always come through," Hostettler noted, "As more details of the Commission's report emerge and we analyze the impact of any significant realignment, I will remain actively engaged in protecting Crane's interests."

For more than 10 years, Rep. Hostettler has been an active supporter of the joint Navy and Army facility in Southwest Indiana, securing millions of dollars for new construction and projects, bringing then-U.S. Navy Secretary Gordon England to the base and championing Crane in Washington, D.C.

Hostettler is a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and serves as vice chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction of the base closure process.

"Whether successfully fighting for military construction funding at Crane or bringing Navy leadership to see the facilities first-hand, Congressman Hostettler has worked night and day to fight for this installation," said Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. "His efforts have been rewarded."

Michael Jahr, a spokesman for Hostettler's Washington D.C. office said, "A lot of communities around the country are feelings this (announcement).

He added, "The congressman is very committed to Crane, but they make it easy because of the job they do every day."

Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh said he was glad Crane will remain open and he was pleased that the state of Indiana stands to gain more than 2,000 new jobs because of additional work being moved

to the Government finance Center at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis and other bases around the state.

"The entire Indiana (congressional) delegation worked together to make the strongest case possible for Crane and all our bases, and the new jobs coming to Indiana proves that the Pentagon recognized the value of the work performed here to support our nation's military," the Democrat senator said.

Ron Arnold, a spokesman for the West Gate at Crane Tech Park project said he viewed the news as a welcome word in what he called a best case scenario.

He said the decision to keep Crane open speaks well about the base's ability to economically and efficiently deliver military products to the government that are essential to the national defense. It also should help attract more contractor tenants to the proposed tech park development because of the "low cost" of operating in the Midwest.

Arnold expects some current Crane contracts might now bring their non-military work to the area and give a much needed boost to the local economy.

In Arnold's view the real champions behind today's announcement are the workers at Crane.

"The folks at Crane they are the ones who are the reason for this by the job they do every day. They are the real heroes here," he stressed.

From here, Rumsfeld forwards his base recommendations to the nine-member BRAC commission. The commission will study the report, make recommendations and then forward its report to the president by Sept. 8. The president will have until Sept. 23, 2005 to accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety. If accepted, Congress will have 45 legislative days to reject the recommendations in their entirety or they become binding on the department.

Rumsfeld recommended fewer major base closures from the pool of 318 installations than had earlier been anticipated, due in part to the return of tens of thousands of troops through our global posture review, and also due to decisions to reduce lease space by moving activities from lease space into owned facilities," Rumsfeld said.

But more than simply eliminating infrastructure, the BRAC round will allow the U.S. military to reorder itself to face the new threats of the 21st century, the secretary said. He also said the closings and realignments will save \$21 billion a year.

"In 1961, President Kennedy took office and found a U.S. defense establishment that was still largely arranged to re-fight World War II," Rumsfeld said. "He ordered an extensive consolidation of bases to meet the challenges of the Cold War."

DoD finds itself in the same situation. The department is using the BRAC round to change an infrastructure more attuned to the Cold War to meet "the new demands of war against extremists and other evolving 21st century challenges," Rumsfeld said.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, said that BRAC gives the military the opportunity "to increase our combat efficiency and effectiveness, and return our forces to the deployable force structure, thereby reducing stress on the force."

Many BRAC recommendations will ease stress on service members by allowing the military to provide modern, world-class facilities and more efficient and joint organizations, the chairman said.

Previous BRAC rounds -- in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995 -- eliminated 21 percent of excess U.S. military infrastructure, and reallocated many billions of dollars to pressing military needs. "This year's recommendation ... should result in some \$5.5 billion in recurring annual savings, a net savings of \$48.8 billion over 20 years," Rumsfeld said.

"When combined with the proposed changes to U.S. global posture, that projected 20-year net-savings increases from \$48.8 billion to \$64.2 billion, or some \$6.7 billion per year."

The BRAC process began more than two years ago. Senior civilian and military leaders looked at how to close and realign current infrastructure to maximize warfighting capability.

"We had three objectives when we did that: continuing the progress we have made in transforming our force, including how we integrate our reserve component into the total force, and preparing them for the 21st century; and how we posture our forces globally to be more flexible and agile," Myers said, adding, "Second, configuring our infrastructure to enhance joint warfighting, facilitate joint training and improve efficiency and, finally, converting unneeded capacity into warfighting capability."

The initial mission of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division when it opened in 1941 was to prepare, load, renovate, receive, store, and issue all ammunition, including pyrotechnics and illuminating projectiles, and to act as a principal source of supply at a most critical time -- the early days of World War II.

After the end of World War II, NSWC Crane began to develop expertise in engineering and electronics that carried the facility into a leadership position in today's Navy.

Today, NSWC Crane -- which also hosts the Army Ammunition Activity, is a multi-mission, multi-service product center with both a fleet support and industrial base mission. The fleet support mission is performed in a joint, cross-service, and cross-platform environment when possible. In fulfilling the industrial base mission, NSWC Crane acts as a steward of microwave tubes, printed wiring boards, pyrotechnics, radiation hardened devices and batteries. It serves a modern and sophisticated Navy as a recognized leader in diverse and highly technical product lines in the areas of ordnance, electronics and electronic warfare. NSWC Crane is an industrial leader in applying better engineering processes and technologies to the development, acquisition and support of modern naval combat weapons systems.

BASE STATUS JOBS

Linton Daily Citizen

Crane Naval Center Realignment 683 cut
Defense Finance Center Gain 3,495 added
Fort Wayne Air Guard Base Gain 313 added
Hulman Air Guard Base Realignment 136 cut
Newport Chemical Depot Close 571 cut
Others Various 221 cut
Total Gain or Loss 2,197 added

Reshuffling at bases concerns residents

The Indianapolis Star
Tammy Webber and Tim Evans
May 15, 2005

Those who live near facilities slated for job cuts, closing say effects could be devastating

BLOOMFIELD, Ind. -- Reed Wilkinson lit a cigarette, inhaled deeply and wondered aloud about the future of this Southern Indiana town.

The day before, residents learned the area's largest employer -- Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center, with more than 4,000 workers -- would lose almost 700 jobs under a Pentagon realignment. Wilkinson said he's not sure Bloomfield or the rest of the region could take more losses.

"I'm glad they're saving 3,300 jobs," Wilkinson said, as a small group gathered at the Spot Lounge nodded in agreement. "But 700 jobs is too much to lose. Keep this up, and there's not going to be a Bloomfield."

About 55 miles northwest, in Vermillion County, residents near the U.S. Army's Newport Chemical Depot expected the news that 571 jobs would be lost when the depot closes in a few years. The only activity at the base, idle for almost 35 years, is ongoing destruction of the deadly chemical nerve agent VX.

But residents near both bases say they're keenly aware that, while the military's Defense Finance and Accounting Service center in Lawrence will get 3,495 new jobs under realignment, rural Indiana will suffer the brunt of job losses.

Residents and state officials say there is a chance to make the best of the situation because bases listed for closure or realignment could receive federal money for redevelopment.

A military base planning council established by state lawmakers this year will be organized soon and is expected to establish a local redevelopment authority for the area around Crane, said Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, who will lead the council.

Economic development officials and others hope to draw high-tech firms that could provide such things as engineering support for Crane, where the Navy designs and procures military equipment, including electronic warfare systems.

In Vermillion County, economic development officials have been planning for years how they might reuse the 7,000-acre Newport base 30 miles north of Terre Haute as an industrial park; it has been off the tax rolls for decades.

Jobs already scarce

New jobs couldn't come fast enough to Southern Indiana, where hundreds were lost when the local KPT Inc. tile factory closed in 2001 and General Electric laid off workers at its Bloomington plant in March, residents said.

Now, one of the fastest-growing jobs is selling the illegal drug methamphetamine, said Sherry Benton, bartender at the Spot Lounge in Bloomfield.

"Oh Lord have mercy, there's a big meth problem," she said. "There's nothing for kids to do. There's no movie theater, no roller rink."

Wilkinson said some have turned to drug dealing because they have no job or money.

"I don't condone it, but when you're destitute and there's no jobs, it can make you do desperate things," he said.

In Bloomfield, about 46 percent of the jobs are tied to Crane. It's even higher -- 67 percent -- in the Martin County city of Loogootee, economic development officials said.

But even the base's presence hasn't kept vacant storefronts from dotting the downtowns. In Bloomfield, the state recently announced it would close the Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch.

"There's just no industry left in Greene County at all," said Basil Bennett, who said at least six stores have closed since he opened The Dancing Bear antiques store in Bloomfield eight years ago.

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"A lot of people have been putting off building homes around here," he said

Crane is Southern Indiana's second-largest employer, providing the bulk of its jobs in five counties -- Daviess, Greene, Lawrence, Martin and Monroe -- where the average poverty rate in 2002 was 11 percent overall and 12.6 percent for children younger than 18.

Wilkinson, who delivers newspapers for a living, thinks efforts to develop the area around Crane and the planned extension of I-69 through the area could be a godsend.

"I'd like to see something to entice more businesses down here and to provide more jobs for the area. There is just nothing here," he said. "Crane is about it.

"We don't even have a drug store anymore. It's a shame the town is drying up like this."

Redevelopment planned

In Newport, where most of the depot jobs were lost decades ago, economic development officials are looking forward to redeveloping the base once it closes to create more jobs.

Bob Sollars, 54, remembers when the Newport Chemical Depot employed thousands and fueled the local economy.

"We used to have three grocery stores, two restaurants, two gas stations. The town was flourishing when it was booming," said Sollars, as he helped his 12-year-old grandson, Bobby, feed a 4-H pig rooting in the mud in a pen behind their home. "About the only thing left now are the three taverns."

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"I don't know what my grandkids are going to do if they don't get out of here," he said.

Unemployment in Vermillion County was 8.4 percent in March, compared with a statewide average of 6 percent.

Few jobs in the western Indiana area pay the \$15 to \$20 in hourly wages and offer the benefits that came with civilian jobs at the depot, said Evelyn Ward, 63, of Newport. She worked at the depot for 22 years.

In the Newport area, the only comparable pay is at a Cinergy power station, an Inland Container plant and an Eli Lilly facility. And the future of jobs at the power plant became a question mark last week when Cinergy announced North Carolina-based Duke Power was purchasing it -- a move that could lead to the reduction of about 1,500 jobs.

Many residents in this rural area along the Wabash River south of I-74 already drive more than 30 miles to Terre Haute or Danville, Ill., for work. Several lost jobs when General Motors closed a plant in Danville.

Evelyn Ward's husband, Warner Ward, 69, worked at the depot for seven years and thinks its closing will hurt the local economy more than people realize.

"It may only be a nickel here and a dime there, but it adds up," he said. "There are a lot of people who rent homes to the people who work there. They eat in the restaurant and buy gas and pay taxes.

"Their kids go to school here. When they're gone, people are going to feel it in places we don't think a lot about right now."

BRAC 2005: Special Office Aids Affected Communities

Linton Daily Citizen

Jim Garamone

May 13, 2005

WASHINGTON -- When a Department of Defense installation closes, the department doesn't just pull chocks and fly off.

DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment works with communities to help them through the base closing process and help them transform.

The motto of the office is "Helping Communities Help Themselves," and the men and women of the office take that very seriously, said office director Patrick O'Brien. O'Brien has worked his way up the ranks in the office since the first base realignment and closure process began in 1989.

"We're a field activity under the secretary of defense," he said during an interview. "Our mission is to work with communities affected by defense program changes."

The public thinks of base closures, but the office also helps communities gaining military assets, bases affected by elimination of weapons systems and bases being encroached on by civilian activities.

The organization has been around since the early 1960s.

"When a base closes, often it is a significant economic engine in the community," O'Brien said. "We work with the communities to develop their capacities and capabilities."

The office is the conduit for defense money and expertise to the affected communities, but it also serves as the bridge for other federal agencies, he said.

A number of federal agencies play in the closure and realignment process. These include Cabinet members like the Department of Labor, which helps communities with retraining efforts, and the Department of Commerce, which helps communities attract long-term economic development and investment.

But there are other helpers too. The Department of the Interior is often involved in transferring land. The Federal Aviation Administration is involved in helping communities as they seek to

reuse air bases. Even the Department of Housing and Urban Development helps communities as they address issues of the homeless.

The office helps communities also as they work with the military services.

"BRAC does not work if the community and the military services are not working closely together regardless of growth or downsizing," O'Brien said.

The office has learned from past BRAC rounds conducted in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995. Communities said the first thing they need is for OEA members to get to the communities as soon as they can after the defense secretary announces the base realignment and closure recommendations. "Basically, when the recommendations are released by the secretary and the communities are ready to receive us, we're ready to go," O'Brien said.

The communities also told the office that representatives need to be realistic.

"Communities said people told them that BRAC is an easy process to work through: It is anything but," he said. "Communities view (the Office of Economic Adjustment) as an honest broker in the process," and they count on the office to deliver a realistic appraisal of what lies ahead for affected communities.

Finally, the communities said they needed more support in looking at the environmental situations at the bases.

The most important thing O'Brien said he learned over the past four BRAC rounds is that communities span the range of capabilities. "Some communities have little capacity and require a lot of assistance, and other communities are very sophisticated and they are looking for a different menu of support," he said. The office, working with the military departments, must tailor approaches to the communities. There is no "one-size fits all" in the BRAC process, O'Brien noted.

CAAA miss out on cuts

Linton Daily Citizen

Nick Schneider

May 16, 2005

CRANE -- Crane Army Ammunition Activity (CAAA) -- the major tenant at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division -- emerged from Friday's base realignment and closure recommendations with no cuts in personnel numbers and came away with a new name for its military function.

Also, there is the likelihood that CAAA's workforce numbers might even increase, according to comments made by Crane AAA commanding officer Col. Todd Smith at a Friday afternoon news conference.

"We did not lose any people. We gained some functions in the realm of production and demilitarization of ammunitions. Don't ask me how many people that is going to involve, because I don't know. Those functions could possibly add some additional support in the future, we just don't know at this time what that may be."

In the future, Crane AAA will be known under a different name -- Crane Army Multi-Functional Munitions Center of Excellence.

"They redesignated Crane Army Ammunition Activity into a different name into a Multi-Functional Munitions Center of Excellence. It fields total munitions capability through munitions production, demilitarization and storage and distribution and maintenance. This is quite different. It gives more of a joint DoD flavor to Crane Army than it had before," Smith said.

CAAA, a designated Army Tier I depot, employs more than 600 workers who are involved in flexible manufacturing of pyrotechnics -- including aircraft decoy flares, illumination candles; bomb renovation; defusing and refusing, propellant charge renovation; demilitarization munitions, ordnance engineering; manufacturing of contingency support such as vehicle armor survivability kits; ammunition storage; and quality assurance specialty work.

The depot provides "first strike" and war reserve ordnance support for the Department of Defense. The facility supports 1,800 ammo storage magazines -- representing 7.9 million square feet for ordnance -- accounting for 20 percent of the DoD ordnance storage capacity.

No major changes are expected at the other primary tenants located at Crane -- Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Norfolk, Crane Detachment; and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Midwest, Crane Detachment.

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Newport Chemical Depot Indiana

National Articles

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National Articles

Several Vulnerable House Members Face Base-Closure Hits

Vulnerable House incumbents have much at stake with the Pentagon's release of its Base **Realignment** and Closure list today. The district of Rep. Rob Simmons, R-Conn. -- a perennial Democratic target -- was perhaps the biggest jobs loser with the Pentagon's recommendation that the New London Submarine Base be closed, at a projected expense of nearly 7,100 military and more than 950 civilian jobs. Simmons, a member of the Armed Services Committee, called the recommendation an "outrage" and vowed to fight it. "The recommendation to close the subbase cannot stand, and we are determined to fight, and we are going to win," Simmons said.

Other potentially vulnerable House members who face possible military and civilian job losses in their districts include Reps. John Barrow, D-Ga., Stephanie Herseth, D-S.D., John Hostettler, R-Ind., and Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D. The recommended closure of the Naval Supply Corps School could cost the Athens, Ga., area about 500 military and civilian jobs and hinder Barrow's bid for re-election under a GOP redistricting map. Herseth faces the closure of Ellsworth Air Force Base and an air guard station at a cost of nearly 3,700 jobs. The proposed closure of the **Newport Chemical Depot** and a naval support **realignment** could cost Hostettler's district nearly 1,000 jobs. Pomeroy faces a **realignment** of the Grand Forks Air Force Base, which could mean the net loss of more than 2,600 jobs. Rep. Louis (Louie) Gohmert, R-Texas, who won his seat last year by ousting Democratic Rep. Max Sandlin, faces 2,500 lost jobs -- nearly all of them civilian -- at the Red River Army Depot. Rep. Tom Allen, D-Maine, could lose 2,500 military and nearly 4,100 civilian posts with the closure of Portsmouth Naval Yard and the **realignment** of the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Not all House incumbents are job losers under the Pentagon's BRAC recommendations. Rep. Robin Hayes, R-N.C., could benefit from the more than 4,300 net jobs Fort Bragg is slated to pick up. Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., is also a jobs winner, as Fort Sill and Tinker Air Force Base are slated to pick up nearly 4,000 jobs. Rep. Jim Gibbons, R-Nev., who is running for governor, will lose some jobs if an army depot is closed, but those will be more than offset by about 1,400 jobs

added at Nellis Air Force Base.
-- by Mark Wegner

Local Articles

**Reshuffling at bases concerns residents;
Those who live near facilities slated for job cuts, closing say effects could be
devastating.**

BY TAMMY WEBBER AND TIM EVANS

BLOOMFIELD, Ind. -- Reed Wilkinson lit a cigarette, inhaled deeply and wondered aloud about the future of this Southern Indiana town.

The day before, residents learned the area's largest employer -- Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center, with more than 4,000 workers -- would lose almost 700 jobs under a Pentagon **realignment**. Wilkinson said he's not sure Bloomfield or the rest of the region could take more losses.

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About 55 miles northwest, in Vermillion County, residents near the U.S. Army's **Newport Chemical Depot** expected the news that 571 jobs would be lost when the depot closes in a few years. The only activity at the base, idle for almost 35 years, is ongoing destruction of the deadly chemical nerve agent VX.

But residents near both bases say they're keenly aware that, while the military's Defense Finance and Accounting Service center in Lawrence will get 3,495 new jobs under **realignment**, rural Indiana will suffer the brunt of job losses.

Residents and state officials say there is a chance to make the best of the situation because bases listed for closure or **realignment** could receive federal money for redevelopment.

A military base planning council established by state lawmakers this year will be organized soon and is expected to establish a local redevelopment authority for the area around Crane, said Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, who will lead the council.

Economic development officials and others hope to draw high-tech firms that could provide such things as engineering support for Crane, where the Navy designs and procures military equipment, including electronic warfare systems.

In Vermillion County, economic development officials have been planning for years how they might reuse the 7,000-acre Newport base 30 miles north of Terre Haute as an industrial park; it has been off the tax rolls for decades.

Jobs already scarce

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local KPT Inc. tile factory closed in 2001 and General Electric laid off workers at its Bloomington plant in March, residents said.

Now, one of the fastest-growing jobs is selling the illegal drug methamphetamine, said Sherry Benton, bartender at the Spot Lounge in Bloomfield.

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Contractor Ramps Up Pace of VX Destruction

(Newport) -- Army contractors are destructing a deadly nerve agent at double the pace less than a month after beginning the process.

Officials say workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Destruction Facility have successfully neutralized about 1500 gallons of VX since startup on May fifth. The process is expected to take more than two years to complete and produces a caustic chemical called hydrolysate, similar to liquid drain cleaner.

The hydrolysate will initially be stored at the depot about 30 miles north of Terre Haute. The Army then wants to treat it at a New Jersey plant and dispose of it in the Delaware River. But New Jersey and Delaware opposes the plan.

A single pinpoint droplet of VX can kill a healthy adult male and more than 250,000 gallons of it are stored at the depot.

Crane to see jobs cuts under Pentagon proposal

By RICK CALLAHAN, Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS

The Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center will remain open, but lose nearly 700 of its 4,000 jobs under the Pentagon's proposed military base closures.

The list given Friday morning to congressional offices has nearly 3,500 jobs being added to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service at the former Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. That center now has about 3,000 mostly civilian workers at the Army's accounting headquarters.

No major base closings in Indiana were included on the list.

The Pentagon's list, however, does include about 140 job cuts at the Air National Guard station at the Terre Haute International Airport and the addition of some 300 jobs to the Air Guard base at Fort Wayne's airport.

It also includes the anticipated closing of the **Newport Chemical Depot** in western Indiana after the destruction of the VX nerve agent stored there is completed.

Overall, the Pentagon's proposal has the state gaining nearly 2,200 jobs at the military sites.

Members of Indiana's congressional delegation said the mostly civilian jobs being added to the finance center in Indianapolis were coming from other centers around the country.

"This is great news for all of Indiana, and I am almost overjoyed," Rep. Steve Buyer said. "As much as all of want to claim victory, this is victory for us only in the first round."

Crane, about 30 miles southwest of Bloomington, has been the state's largest military employer and had been the Indiana site considered most endangered by the base closing process.

Many who live in the small towns around Crane had worried about its future.

Ja'Lene Meece, of Washington, has relatives who work about 20 miles away at Crane said the job cuts there would be harmful.

"I think it's still going to hurt," she said Friday. "Everybody's looking for jobs."

Indiana officials have already made plans to lobby to have Crane removed from the list.

Former U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, whom Gov. Mitch Daniels hired to lobby for Crane in Washington, has said he and other officials were already prepared to talk to the Base **Realignment** and Closure commissioners.

Mike Gentile, executive director of the Southern Indiana Business Alliance, said the lobbying moves into another phase after Friday's announcement.

"There's still an opportunity for getting your two cents in," Gentile said Thursday.

The Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission will consider the Pentagon's recommendations and send its own proposals to President Bush by Sept. 8. The president must send a list to Congress by Nov. 7.

Several smaller units were included among the closing recommendations. They are the Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center at Grissom Air Reserve Base; the Navy recruiting district headquarters in Indianapolis; the Navy Reserve Center in Evansville; and an Army Reserve Centers in Lafayette.

Pentagon officials had originally said the military had about 25 percent more capacity than it needed. Crane's loss of a projected 683 jobs is less than a 25 percent cut.

John Clark, senior adviser for economic growth in the governor's office, said this week that shedding fewer than 1,000 jobs at Crane would be a victory of sorts.

"Anything less than 25 percent would have to be viewed by some as a positive development in that context," he said.

Crane to lose jobs, but state will gain other military jobs under Pentagon proposal

MAUREEN GROPPE

WASHINGTON -- In stark contrast to previous base closing rounds, Indiana fared unexpectedly well under a nationwide military restructuring plan recommended by the Pentagon Friday.

The state's last major installation -- the Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center in Martin County -- would lose an estimated 683 jobs. But it was spared closure.

And, in a surprise move, the Pentagon said it wants to add an estimated 3,495 jobs to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service center in suburban Marion County.

Those changes, combined with others around the state, would give Indiana an estimated net gain of 2,197 direct military, civilian and contractor jobs, the Pentagon said. That's the 10th largest potential gain of any state.

Gov. Mitch Daniels called the news "the best result we could have hoped for."

"Winston Churchill once said there is nothing so exhilarating in life as to be shot at without result," Daniels said. "This is not a bullet we just dodged at Crane. It is a mortar shell."

On Monday and Tuesday, Indiana political and economic development leaders will huddle in Washington to strategize on how to hold their ground in the Base **Realignment** and Closure (BRAC) process, and perhaps gain back some jobs for Crane.

The proposed changes, which must be reviewed by an independent commission and approved by Congress and the president, are part of the military's effort to cut spending on excessive infrastructure and reorganize to fight modern threats like terrorism.

Other proposed changes in Indiana include:

- Adding 313 jobs at the Air Guard Station in Fort Wayne;
- Eliminating 136 jobs at the Air Guard Station in Terre Haute;
- Closing the Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center at Grissom Air Force Base, a loss of seven jobs;
- Closing the Navy Recruiting District Headquarters in Indianapolis, a loss of 38 jobs;
- Closing the Army Reserve Center in Lafayette, a loss of 21 jobs.

Changes to Reserve installations comprise the majority of the Pentagon's recommendations nationally.

The list also includes the expected closure of the **Newport Chemical Depot**, with its 571 jobs, after the military has finished destroying the deadly Cold War-era nerve agent VX stored there. Work is expected to be done in 2008.

"We all know that we're in the process of working ourselves out of a job," said Terry Arthur, public affairs officer at Newport.

Ed Cole, director of the Vermillion County Economic Development Council, said being on the closure list might give the area a better chance to seek federal transition assistance. Local leaders already are contemplating ways to use the 7,000 acres at Newport, probably as an industrial park, Cole said.

Previous base closing commissions took away the active duty military at Grissom Air Force Base, closed the Jefferson Proving Ground and Fort Benjamin Harrison and privatized the Indianapolis Naval Air Warfare Center. Indiana lost 84 percent of its active-duty military, the third-largest percentage decrease in active duty military in the nation.

In the economically strapped Martin County town of Loogootee, where 67 percent of jobs are tied

to Crane, many residents were relieved that fewer than 1,000 of the more than 4,000 jobs on the base would be cut.

"Can you imagine life without Crane?" said Sandra Sue Hunt, who owns Hunt's Steamer Cafe in Loogootee. "A lot of people had some sleepless nights. There's been so much pressure on everybody."

Ed McAtee, 44, an electrical engineer at Crane, agreed.

"It was good news, but then bad news because someone has to lose their job," he said.

McAtee, who's worked at Crane almost 18 years making printed circuit boards and whose two brothers also work there, did not know if his job was on the line.

"It's always in the back of my mind, but I just hope for the best," he said.

The Pentagon's proposed changes at Crane -- a direct loss of 683 jobs and an indirect loss of 308 - would reduce the region's employment by 11.6 percent, according to the military. That would make it among the hardest hit areas in the country.

The Army operations at Crane -- ammunition production and storage --- were untouched. The Navy's ordnance and electronic warfare components took the biggest hit, and many of the job losses would be among scientists, engineers and technicians, said Crane spokeswoman Sue Webster.

Webster said officials there will try to persuade members of the base closing commission, two of whom are expected to visit this summer, to restore some of the jobs.

"This process is not over," Webster said.

Then next step is a summer-long review by the commission, which can make changes. Past commissions have approved about 85 percent of the military's recommendations.

After that, the list goes to the president and then Congress, who must reject or accept it in its entirety with no changes.

Even if the defense jobs aren't restored, Daniels expressed confidence that Crane can bring in new business from the private sector and universities that would result in no net job loss.

The Indianapolis area, meanwhile, could gain nearly 6,000 jobs directly or indirectly under the military's proposal.

"That would be fabulous," said Lawrence, Ind. City Councilwoman Linda Treat. "Lawrence needs a big boost to the economy."

All the gains would be at the finance center at the former Fort Benjamin Harrison in Lawrence. Jobs would come from other finance facilities across the country as part of a major reduction in business facilities.

"It appears to me that they're going to make that one of the focal points for taking care of the military payroll, nationwide and worldwide," said Rep. Dan Burton, R-Indianapolis.

Three finance operation facilities are slated to pick up jobs from 23 others, with Marion County apparently getting the lion's share.

Having Daniels -- a former director of President Bush's Office of Management and Budget -- leading the fight made all the difference, said John Clark, a senior adviser to Daniels. He said Daniels could coach his team of advisers, including Clark and Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, on how to make their case on why Crane should be kept open.

As a former Cabinet member, Daniels is on a first-name basis with Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. He made two trips to Washington, one solely to lobby for Crane. The other trip included attending the National Governors Association conference, but he slept and dined at the White House.

But Daniels would not say whether or how he used his insider status to lobby for Indiana.

"We made every argument we could think of to every person who mattered or might matter," he said. "We made arguments on the merits."

Former Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis said that saving Crane also was a top priority for the Kernan administration. Daniels, a Republican, defeated Democratic Gov. Joe Kernan in 2004.

That was a crucial year for Crane, Davis said, because the facilities had to provide the information that the Pentagon would use to make its decisions. In addition, Davis said, the final route laid out that year for the proposed Interstate 69 extension included two interchanges to serve Crane. And some \$9 million in state grants were given for projects that boosted Crane's appeal to both the military and the private sector.

This year, the General Assembly voted to guarantee that the land around the facility will not be encroached upon by new businesses or homes, leaving room for the facility to grow.

Indiana's federal lawmakers have steered federal funding to Crane, including \$12.6 million approved last year to consolidate electronics operations facilities.

Editorial Articles

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to General Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve
Unit

- 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 Gen. Mitchell ARU (440th Airlift Wing).**
 - While the Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure of the installation could have on the surrounding community, the most important consideration in the Commission's evaluation is the military value of the installation.
 - The Commission understands the unique role that the 440th Airlift Wing serves both in Milwaukee and in the Midwest both as a defender and a projector of force. The defense contributions of the base will be taken into full account by the Commission.
 - The Commission recognizes the sensitive nature of such recommendations as roughly 200 members of the 440th AW are currently serving in the Iraq Theater.
 - The 440th Airlift Wing has served in a critical role in the defense of the nation. Home to eight C-130H Hercules transport planes, the 440th AW has provided necessary logistical support to various war-fighting efforts. The Commission will evaluate the current military value of the installation; DoD's strategic standards of military value have been based upon jointness, ease of mobility, efficiency, and other considerations.

- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestion to realign Gen. Mitchell ARU (440th AW) could have, should the suggestion be enacted.**
 - 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 larger Milwaukee area surrounding the base, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
 - The Commission is aware that the current recommendation to realign the 440th could affect the community both socially and economically. The Commission is aware of such nuances as the fire fighting role played by the 440th AW in the community, and will take all pertinent factors into account, as prescribed by statute.

- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through 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 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 community input. The public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: www.brac.gov.

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to General Mitchell Air Force Reserve Unit

Q1. Originally, the Commission claimed that the closure of General Mitchell Air Force Reserve Unit would result in a loss of 266 jobs. However, after further analysis by the state, the number civilian jobs that would be lost has been estimated at 379. Also at stake are 1,320 part-time reserve positions. Will the Commission consider the broader impact of such job loss on the community?

A1. The statute establishes the criteria. As outlined by the statute, the Commission places 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. Part of what has constituted the Department of Defense's (DoD) strategic determination of military value, in its suggestions to close or realign various installations, has been 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.

Q2. Economists have estimated that the cost of realigning the 440th Airlift Wing stationed at Gen. Mitchell International Airport would be approximately \$90 million. How would such an apparently significant economic impact factor into the Commission's final recommendation?

A2. The Commission places utmost importance on the military value of an installation in making its recommendation. The Commission understands the significant economic impact that realignment of a base can have on a community. Communities and military installations form an economic/social synergy and become progressively dependent on one another over time. As such, the Commission will carefully review the economic impact of each DoD recommendation.

Q3. Commissioner Skinner, a former White House Chief of Staff and Secretary of Transportation, is an Illinois native. Will Commissioner Skinner's background influence his position with regard to the realignment of the 440th Airlift Wing?

A3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, non-partisan entity to provide an independent evaluation of the suggestions put forth by DoD. The Commission will consider military value to be the most important factor in its evaluation. In addition, the Commission will take into account the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of a military installation could have on the surrounding community. The factors to be taken into account by the Commission have been specifically outlined by statute.

Q4. In the 1995 BRAC round, lobbyists were successful in removing the 440th Airlift Wing from the base closure list. What is different during this BRAC round? Why shouldn't the 440th be removed from the list again?

A4. The current BRAC round is the culmination of over two years of research by DoD in an effort to transform the military to counter changing global threats. As such, the Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the installation, but will also consider other factors. 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. If the 440th Airlift Wing were realigned the community could suffer significant economic loss. In addition, the loss of the 440th would also mean the loss of an important civil function—the fire response capability of the Unit. Will the Commission consider this side effect in its recommendation?

A5. The Commission will take into account, chiefly, the military value of the base, but will also consider other factors. The Commission understands the significant impact that realignment of a base can have on a community. Communities and military installations form unique relationships and become progressively dependent on one another over time. As such, the Commission will carefully analyze the ramifications that could occur from the suggestions made by DoD, should those suggestions be enacted, before the Commission comes to its final conclusion.

Q6. Currently, there are roughly 357 personnel from the 440th on Active Duty—of that number, roughly 200 are serving in the Iraq Theater. Does the Commission consider the effects on morale when recommendations to close or realign an installation are presented?

A6. The criteria upon which the Commission is to make its analysis and suggestions has been specifically outlined by law. The Commission will perform a full evaluation of the effects that could be had by the closure or re-installation, with the most important consideration, taken into account by the Commission, being military value. The Commission is very aware of the human impact that these suggestions could have, should the suggestions be enacted, yet at the same time, the Commission is committed to ensuring that the decisions to close or realign an installation have been based almost entirely upon military value, and as such, have been made in the interest of our country. The Commission will work tirelessly to ensure that the proposed recommendations have been made according to law and only after all pertinent factors have been evaluated.

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

A7. The BRAC Commission encourages community input into this transparent and objective process. The public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is www.brac.gov.

GEN. MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARS WISCONSIN

National News Articles

Commissioner studying base closings to visit 440th Airlift Wing
Trends in the Region: Midwest Fights BRAC Cuts While Considering Site Reuse

Local News Articles

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Wing on a prayer
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Pentagon aims to make aircraft more accessible
Officials explain goal of Reserve, Guard changes

Opinion/Editorial Articles

National News Articles

Commissioner studying base closings to visit 440th Airlift Wing

The Associated Press
June 11, 2005

One of the federal commissioners considering military base closings nationwide will visit the 440th Airlift Wing at **Milwaukee's** General Mitchell International Airport.

The announcement came Friday, a day after Gov. Jim Doyle and the congressional delegation wrote to ask for the visit.

In the letter, they said the potential for the loss of 379 full-time jobs at the Air Force Reserve unit exceeded a standard being used to determine which installations merit a visit by a commissioner.

Melanie Fonder, a spokeswoman for Doyle, said the governor and delegation are pleased at the opportunity to show the 440th's value.

The unit, which flies eight C-130H Hercules transport planes, also has 1,320 part-time reserve positions.

The Pentagon's plan would close 33 major bases and downsize 29 others nationwide, saving an estimated \$48 billion over 20 years. In Wisconsin, the plan would also move some jobs out of Fort McCoy in western Wisconsin and relocate reserve units in Madison and La Crosse.

Robert McCreary, deputy director of communications for the Base **Realignment** and Closure

Commission, did not say when the visit would happen.

Commission members are visiting bases and plan to make their recommendations to President Bush by Sept. 8.

Trends in the Region: Midwest Fights BRAC Cuts While Considering Site Reuse

The Bond Buyer

Carvlin, Elizabeth; Shields, Yvette

June 8, 2005

CHICAGO -- Midwest states are featured prominently on the Department of Defense's recommendations for military base closings and **realignments**, and in coming months they will make their pitches to retain threatened jobs in their communities. But for many, those pitches will eventually have to give way to acceptance and working toward redevelopment of closed or realigned bases.

Some states in the region will be among the hardest hit if the list of closings stays unchanged.

Two states, South Dakota and North Dakota, will absorb about 51% of the loss of military personnel and jobs of all of the domestic bases set for changes, said Mark Johnston, a spokesman for South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds.

By the time the Pentagon recommended closing 33 major bases and realigning 29 others on May 13, Midwest state and local leaders had begun work on meeting what in some cases will be a major challenge. The Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission began holding hearings to refine the list and make its final recommendations in September. If President Bush signs on, Congress would have 45 days to veto the plan with a majority vote from both houses, or allow it to pass.

That's a timeline that will be key for many communities as they look for options, said Patrick O'Brien, director of the Defense Department's Office of Economic Adjustment. The fight must come first, he said, but the track toward redevelopment must be taken in order to prepare communities that will be looking for financing options in the future once a base is closed or realigned.

"There is some time here for them to do their homework, to get familiar with what the process is," O'Brien said of local communities. Once the fight is done, however, "a clock starts ticking."

If adopted, the current 2005 BRAC recommendations would eliminate 26,187 military and civilian jobs, a figure which includes 13,503 at overseas bases, with as many as 189,565 servicemen and women moving from one base to another. Public finance officials have warned that the cuts stand to have a broad impact, hurting the economies of some communities.

One of those communities surrounds the Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. The base is slated for closing, which would eliminate the state's second largest employer, excluding state government and higher education. The economic impact would reach about \$ 278 million a year, Rounds' spokesman Johnston said. That's about 1% to 2% of the state's gross state product of about \$ 26 billion a year, he said.

"When you pull that out, it's pretty substantive," he said.

The first front in the state's fight is in Congress. First-term Sen. John Thune has co-sponsored several bills to be introduced as amendments to the defense authorization bill in the next few weeks, said Alex Conant, a spokesman for the senator.

The first bill would postpone the BRAC round until the Pentagon has finished its defense review, set to be completed by the end of 2006, and until the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan end, Conant said.

"Before we start shutting down domestic bases, we should finish that review so we have a better understanding of what our future domestic defense needs are going to be," Conant said.

The second bill would require the Pentagon to turn over data that explains its reasoning for the base **realignments**. Some states have complained that the lack of information has hindered their efforts in the fight to keep their bases open. The third bill would extend whistleblower protection to enlisted men and women who could be called to testify before the BRAC commission, Conant said.

The second line of defense against the cuts comes in the form of a task force made up of leaders from every sector of government. The BRAC panel will hear from many of an anticipated crowd of 6,500 people expected to attend a June 21 hearing on the base closing in the Rapid City Civic Center, Johnston said.

The Ellsworth community is banking on history, which shows that typically about 15% of the bases recommended for closure are taken off the list, Johnston said.

"We're certainly positive that Ellsworth could be one of those bases," he added.

Finally, a dual track toward economic redevelopment is in place, he said.

That fighting attitude varies from other states. While some estimate that Grand Forks, N.D., could lose as many as 5,000 jobs if the proposed **realignment** of the Grand Forks Air Force Base is approved, congressional leaders are looking at the bright side.

"We've got really, really good news," said a spokesman for Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D.

An open base has more potential than one that's closed, he said, adding that the state could see the "wave of the future in military" equipment and development at Grand Forks. This base stands to gain from the development of unmanned aircraft, though it will lose some air tankers, the spokesman said. North Dakota's public hearing will be held June 23.

The public hearing in St. Louis, which had been set for yesterday, was postponed until June 20 after Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., and others complained about a lack of data from the Pentagon.

In Illinois and Missouri, which combined could lose 6,400 jobs, officials will base their argument against closing two bases on their role in homeland security. Illinois joined with local communities to spend \$ 3 million to lobby for certain bases, including Scott Air Force Base, which would gain nearly 800 jobs with the plan.

Wisconsin's potential loss of jobs if the 440th Airlift Wing -- based at General Mitchell International Airport in **Milwaukee** -- is realigned brought criticism from Gov. Jim Doyle. The

economic impact is about \$ 90 million.

"The timing of this couldn't be worse. Right now, 357 personnel from the 440th are serving on active duty, including almost 200 in the Iraq theater," Doyle said in a statement. "It is especially disturbing for the airmen of this unit to get this news at a time when many of them are deployed overseas and flying missions in harm's way."

Though Ohio would see a net gain of 241 jobs, Cleveland would lose the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and about 1,028 jobs. Meanwhile, neighboring Indiana would benefit with a gain of 3,378 civilian jobs and 114 military jobs, including the DFAS to be located in Indianapolis.

As with many states, Ohio had been anticipating changes for some time. The state formed the Ohio Task Force to Save Defense Jobs several years ago, said Mark Rickel, press secretary for Gov. Bob Taft. The General Assembly, which put \$ 2.5 million aside to help communities, "put their best foot forward in encouraging the Department of Defense to reconsider their recommendation," he said. Cleveland has spent about \$ 300,000 to make its case, Rickel said.

In its current budget bill, the state included language to allow Cleveland to partner with the local business community to create incentives for redevelopment, he said. One option is to create a new building for the DFAS site, which could save the Pentagon the cost of moving.

The legislature amended the budget bill to include an additional \$ 1 million for the communities that will need to look to economic redevelopment, he said. The Mansfield Air National Guard Base would lose 295 jobs and the Springfield-Buckley Municipal Airport Air Guard Station would lose 291 jobs.

"First things first. The state's committeeman is going to make the argument on behalf of the communities," Rickel said.

The state boasts one of the success stories featured this past weekend in a national conference that brought together military communities to learn about tools for redevelopment. The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority was created in 1993 when the BRAC recommended closing the Newark Air Force Base.

Though the community was skeptical of the potential for owning what could be a "white elephant," the Port Authority's moves to privatize the functions of the base have been a success, said executive director Rick Platt.

The authority manages the base and leases the facilities to private military contractors. In 2006, the port will own the land where the base was located, Platt said. In addition, the port has acquired additional land with an eye toward development. The authority has issued about \$ 18 million of bank-qualified bonds as a conduit issuer and for expansion of infrastructure.

Set for closure in 1995, the Newark base was the first to use the privatization model, according to Platt. At a conference for installation developers held in Denver, the authority received an award for innovation and was cited as a model for other communities, he said.

Platt said the community took a risk that has paid off so far. However, the prospect of the military jobs drying up still exists.

"That white elephant looms," Platt said. "We've only tamed the white elephant. It could come back some day."

A more complete transformation occurred in the Chicago suburb of Glenview. The Navy handed over much of the Glenview Naval Air Station in 1995. The suburb north of the city sold \$ 123 million of general obligation debt to lay the groundwork for a \$ 500 million redevelopment. The city estimates that the development created more than 3,000 jobs and helped drive up sales volume in Glenview to more than \$ 450 million, triple the amount when the base was open.

There are many tools that will help communities to ward off that prospect, the Defense Department's O'Brien said. And though there's time, communities must plan so that key elements, such as financing, will be in place when the impact is felt from the changes.

"This is not a sprint," he said. "You have to pace yourself."

Local News Articles

**Commissioner plans to visit 440th;
Pentagon seeks to move wing from Mitchell to North Carolina base**
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Wisconsin)
KATHERINE M. SKIBA
June 14, 2005

Washington - Officials said Monday that a federal commissioner on Thursday would visit the **Milwaukee's** 440th Airlift Wing, which the Pentagon wants to move from Mitchell International Airport.

Samuel K. Skinner, who served as a White House chief of staff and as transportation secretary under President George H.W. Bush, will make the trip.

The wing would be relocated to Pope Air Force Base, near Fayetteville, N.C., under a Pentagon recommendation. Its eight C-130H Hercules transport planes would move to two other Southern states under the plan.

Skinner is one of nine members of the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission, which has the authority to revise the Pentagon proposals. The commission must tell the president by Sept. 8 which bases it wants to shut down or realign.

Commission spokesman Jim Schaefer said Monday that Skinner's visit would let him talk to those who manage the 440th and give him a feel for the unit's impact and military value.

Sen. Herb Kohl's spokesman, Patrick Morris, said Monday that the senator was pleased about the news. Kohl and the other federal lawmakers from Wisconsin, joined by the governor, had pushed for the visit when it appeared **Milwaukee** would be bypassed.

Skinner is an Illinois native and an adjunct professor of management and strategy at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Earlier posts saw him as chairman, president and chief executive officer of USF Corp., a transportation and logistics firm, and president of Commonwealth Edison and its holding

company, Unicom Corp.

Skinner was with the Illinois National Guard and U.S. Army from 1957 to 1968.

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**Barrett lobbies to keep 440th Wing open;
Team from state meets with base closure panel**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Wisconsin)

KATHERINE M. SKIBA

June 10, 2005

Washington - **Milwaukee** Mayor Tom Barrett on Thursday joined the ranks of officials from Wisconsin visiting to urge that the 440th Airlift Wing remain at Mitchell International Airport.

Barrett met two analysts from the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission in Arlington, Va., saying afterward that he was "guardedly optimistic" about the Air Force Reserve unit staying put.

The commission is evaluating the Pentagon's list of bases recommended for closure or **realignment**. While the panel may modify the list, only 15% of those identified for closure have survived previous rounds of base closings, he said.

Asked the likelihood of keeping the unit, Barrett said: "There's no question we're swimming upstream."

He was joined in his meeting by Paul Bock, chief of staff to Sen. Herb Kohl, a Wisconsin Democrat, and two lobbyists from Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, hired by the governor to make the case for the 440th. They are John Rogers and Steve Moffitt.

The 440th operates eight C-130H Hercules transport planes. The Air Force would send the wing to an Air Force base in North Carolina and distribute its aircraft to two other Southern states. Its aim is to have fewer, larger squadrons to streamline and bolster readiness.

Barrett, for his part, said the strongest case for retaining the unit was its successes in recruitment and retention of personnel.

While the unit recruits from **Milwaukee**, he noted that it has offices in Chicago and Green Bay, giving it a population base of 12 million from which to draw.

"There's the issue of patriotism," he remarked, saying people wanted to serve as reservists in the armed forces, particularly the Air Force, while living at home. "They should not be denied that opportunity," he said.

1995 list

Barrett, who spent 10 years representing **Milwaukee** in the House of Representatives, had a hand in getting the 440th off the base closure list in 1995. Rogers, a former Pentagon official, also played a role then as a lobbyist.

Rogers said the mayor's arguments seemed to have resonance with the analysts, calling that the

day's good news. "The bad news is this is an incredibly tough lift," he added.

In a related development, Gov. Jim Doyle and the state's 10 federal lawmakers asked Thursday that a federal official visit the 440th Airlift Wing. An analyst visited last week, but the lawmakers want one of the nine commissioners to assess the unit.

In a letter to commission chairman Anthony Principi, the lawmakers disputed a report that 266 full-time civilian jobs would be lost at the wing, saying the number is 379. Also at stake are 1,320 part-time reserve positions.

Commissioners have been visiting installations facing 300 or more civilian job losses or a combined 400 civilian and military jobs.

Wing on a prayer

Efforts to save 440th Airlift Wing already taking flight: *More than 109 reservists from Waukesha County*

GM Today

DENNIS A. SHOOK

May 16, 2005

WAUKESHA - The possible closing of the 440th Airlift Wing at Milwaukee's Gen. Mitchell International Airport will have a major impact on not just Milwaukee but Waukesha County as well.

But John Rogers of Whitefish Bay, a former deputy assistant secretary of plans and operations under President Bill Clinton, said the announcement Friday is anything but final.

Rogers said Friday the closing would have "a terrible impact locally."

He said the C-130 transport planes now stationed at Mitchell would likely end up at bases in Georgia and Arkansas, under the consolidation recommended by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on Friday.

"There would be about 220 civilian positions lost as well," he said.

He shared some statistics on the impact of the closing on Waukesha County.

Rogers said there are 109 reservists living in Waukesha County and about \$157,500 is spent with vendors in the Waukesha County area, based on statistics from the 440th.

Rogers, who is now president of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek Government Affairs, meets daily with state and federal decision-makers on such military and government topics. He said it is important to remember Rumsfeld's recommendations are merely the start of the process.

The Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure Commission will now consider the list and make a final recommendation to the president by Sept. 8, Rogers said.

"The BRAC Commission will go through the hearings and, at end of the day, they will make the recommendations," Rogers said.

While he said that politics plays a role in the process, local leaders should not convince themselves that political pressure can change the outcome.

Yet, state political leaders are already criticizing the decision.

Gov. Jim Doyle and U.S. Sens. Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold, both Wisconsin Democrats, have already prepared a series of reports detailing the importance of Wisconsin's military installations that have been presented to Pentagon officials involved in the decision-making process.

"The 440th is playing a key role in our nation's defense, operating almost nonstop since Sept. 11, 2001," Feingold said Friday. "I had the honor of witnessing firsthand the professionalism and heroism of this wing in action when I flew with them in Iraq earlier this year. It makes no sense to me that this critical asset to the nation has been targeted by the administration for closure."

Doyle added, "The 440th's \$90 million economic impact would be lost, along with the majority of Mitchell airport's fire response capability to the surrounding community.

"The timing of this couldn't be worse. Right now, 357 personnel from the 440th are serving on active duty, including almost 200 in the Iraq theater. It is especially disturbing for the airmen of this unit to get this news at a time when many of them are deployed overseas and flying missions in harm's way."

The Pentagon also recommended a realignment of Wisconsin's Fort McCoy, which could mean a loss of jobs there.

The moves are part of a proposal to shut 150 military installations nationwide, including 33 major bases. It is the first round of base closures in a decade and comes as communities and Doyle have been fighting to save the facilities, which have a positive local economic impact on the communities where they are located.

Doyle met last week with Phillip Grone, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, in Washington, D.C., to discuss protecting the state's military installations at Fort McCoy, Volk Field, and Mitchell and Truax airfields.

Doyle said the total economic impact of the state's military bases is significant. More than 8,200 military, civilian and contract workers are employed by the state's military bases and generate an estimated \$918 million annually into the economy. So he wrote Grone in April asking that the military bases be kept open.

**Pentagon aims to make aircraft more accessible
Officials explain goal of Reserve, Guard changes**

KATHERINE M. SKIBA

May 16, 2005

A top defense official said Monday that the Pentagon's proposal for changes to Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units, such as those at Mitchell International Airport, would position aircraft at fewer locations.

Richard B. Myers, a four-star Air Force general and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the service has small numbers of aircraft at many locations, so planners sought to change unit sizes by making aircraft more accessible for missions, such as those in Iraq.

Mentioning the C-130, which Mitchell stands to lose, Myers said the Pentagon wants to position enough transport planes in one location so military planners "don't have to go to five or six units to find enough aircraft."

He and other top officials testified before the independent nine-member commission that is charged with reviewing the Pentagon's massive blueprint for realigning and closing military bases.

The blueprint, released last week, affects Mitchell this way:

- The 440th Airlift Wing would send its eight C-130H Hercules aircraft to units in Georgia and Arkansas. The wing would move to North Carolina's Pope Air Force Base, which the Army's Fort Bragg would absorb.
- The Air National Guard's 128th Refueling Wing at Mitchell, which has nine KC-135R Stratotankers, would gain three from a unit in Mississippi.

According to Myers, all the Guard and Reserve units losing aircraft would retain missions, some involving unmanned aircraft and some involving combat support.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who also testified, said the military has 318 major bases, and that the Pentagon list calls for 33 to close and 29 to realign.

"Major" bases are those that would cost \$100 million or more to rebuild.

Rumsfeld said the current round of realignments would mean \$5.5 billion in recurring yearly savings plus \$48.5 billion over the next 20 years.

Still, there are costs inherent in the reorganization, including aid from the Pentagon and the Commerce and Labor departments, which Rumsfeld said would be made available to affected military personnel and communities.

Rumsfeld said the Pentagon's analysis leading to the reorganization was an exhaustive 2½-year undertaking involving 25 million pieces of data and 1,000 scenarios.

He made no changes to the blueprint, although he had the right to do so.

More light might be shed today on the fortunes of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units when commissioners hear from Michael L. Dominguez, acting secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. John P. Jumper, its chief of staff.

Meanwhile, a Pentagon official clarified how the changes at Mitchell would affect personnel.

Moving out the 440th would result in the loss of 351 full-time positions - earlier, the Pentagon said 346 - and 1,320 so-called drill positions, meaning reservists, said Col. Audrey A. Bahler, chief of public affairs for the Office of Air Force Reserve.

Sending more aircraft to the 128th would mean a gain of 80 full-time jobs and 73 part-time National Guard slots, she said.

Opinion/Editorial Articles