



TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY

DCN: 10273



Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

**Mission, Organization, Process, Rules of
Engagement and Prior Observations /
Concerns**



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BRAC Mission



- Reduce the number of military installations to improve military readiness and reduce infrastructure costs
- Independently review and analyze closure recommendations submitted by DOD
 - Ensure closure and realignment list follows force structure plan and selection criteria
- Conduct a fair and open process to effect the timely closure and realignment of military installations within the United States



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BRAC Commission Organization

- 8 Commissioners
 - 2 nominated by Speaker of House
 - 2 nominated by Senate majority leadership
 - 1 nominated by House minority leadership
 - 1 nominated by Senate minority leadership
 - 2 nominated by President (to include Commission chairperson)
- 2005 Round to include a 9th member to act as tie breaker



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BRAC Commission Organization

- Commission staff includes:
 - Staff director
 - Direct hires (in large part retired military officers and and a few retired industry executives)
 - Active duty officers from each military department
 - Government civilians detailed from military departments, EPA, FAA, Commerce, and GAO



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BRAC Commission Process



- Review and analyze recommendations made by military departments and endorsed by DOD
- Hold public hearings at various sites to receive testimony from interested parties
- Receive briefings and review thousands of pieces of correspondence providing varying views on DOD's proposed recommendations
- Visit installations recommended for closure or realignment. (At least one commissioner is expected to visit each installation -- more than 200 base visits in 1995)



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BRAC Commission Process



- Based on initial findings, Commissioners hold hearings to discuss alternatives (additions) to DOD's initial recommendations
- BRAC Commission staff assist the commissioners in all aspects of the review process, independently verifying and analyzing information provided by the services and the general public



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BRAC Commission Process



- Final deliberations and decisions made during public televised hearings. Commissioners accept or modify DOD's proposals based on their interpretation / understanding of the selection criteria and future force structure plan
 - For 1995, the Commissioners accepted 123 of the 146 recommendations made by DOD and 9 of the 36 alternatives closure candidates added by the Commission
- President must accept or reject Commission proposal in its entirety



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BRAC Rules of Engagement



- All discussions and deliberations attended by more than two commissioners must take place in public forums
- All documents provided to or obtained by Commissioners and staff are to be made available for public review and scrutiny
- Most key hearings and deliberations televised nationally



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Observations on Prior Rounds



- Legitimacy / accuracy of the COBRA model – the old system could be easily “gamed”
- Changes made to initial service recommendations by OSD and others raise flags (example: the suggestion to downsize rather than close ALC’s, changes to recommendations in prior studies)
- General lack of emphasis and recommendations featuring cross-service use of military installations



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Observations on Prior Rounds



- Lack of specificity in recommendations for realignments
 - Must clearly describe what stays and what transfers
 - Must address disposition of each major tenant organization
- Commissioner's opinions and ultimate recommendations sometimes based on personal concerns, preferences and intuitive observations (this base just looks better so lets keep it)



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Observations on Prior Rounds



- Future basing decisions must consider impact from the potential privatization of commercial activities as well as options for life cycle support of new systems by private sector providers
- Cost of environmental clean-up not a primary factor for selecting closure candidates, but nevertheless subject to continuing debate