Great Falls International Airport Air Guard Station, MT

Recommendation: Realign Great Falls International Airport Air Guard Station, Montana. Distribute the 120th Fighter Wing's F-16s to the 187th Fighter Wing Dannelly Field Air Guard Station, Alabama (three aircraft); the 132d Fighter Wing, Des Moines International Airport Air Guard Station, Iowa (three aircraft); and retire (nine aircraft). The wing's expeditionary combat support (ECS) elements remain in place.

Justification: Great Falls (117) ranked low in military value. The reduction in F-16 force structure and the need to align common versions of the F-16 at the same bases argued for realigning F-16s out of Great Falls. The F-16s realign to Dannelly (60) and Des Moines (137). Although Des Moines was somewhat lower in military value ranking that Great Falls, the realignment to Des Moines creates a more effective unit of 18 aircraft. The wing's ECS will remain in place to support the Air Expeditionary Force and to retain trained, experienced Air National Guard personnel.

Payback: The total estimated one-time cost to the Department of Defense to implement this recommendation is $9.3 million. The net of all costs and savings to the Department during the implementation period is a savings of $0.7 million. Annual recurring savings to the Department after implementation are $1.8 million with a payback expected in four years. The net present value of the costs and savings to the Department over 20 years is a savings of $18 million.

Economic Impact on Communities: Assuming no economic recovery, this recommendation could result in a maximum potential reduction of 174 jobs (107 direct jobs and 67 indirect jobs) over the 2006-2011 period in the Great Falls, Montana Metropolitan Statistical economic area, which is 0.35 percent of economic area employment. The aggregate economic impact of all recommended actions on this economic region of influence was considered and is at Appendix B of Volume I.

Community Infrastructure Assessment: A review of community attributes indicates no issues regarding the ability of the infrastructure of the communities to support forces, missions, and personnel. There are no known community infrastructure impediments to implementation of all recommendations affecting the installations in this recommendation.

Environmental Impact: There are potential impacts to air quality; cultural, archeological, or tribal resources; land use constraints or sensitive resource areas; noise; and wetlands that may need to be considered during the implementation of this recommendation. There are no anticipated impacts to dredging; marine mammals, resources, or sanctuaries; threatened and endangered species or critical habitat; waste management; or water resources. Impacts of costs include $352 thousand in costs for environmental compliance and waste management. These costs were included in the payback calculation. There are no anticipated impacts to the costs of environmental restoration. The aggregate environmental impact of all recommended BRAC actions

affecting the installations in this recommendation have been reviewed. There are no known environmental impediments to the implementation of this recommendation.