

## **Birmingham International Airport Air Guard Station, AL**

**Recommendation:** Realign Birmingham International Airport Air Guard Station (AGS), Alabama. Distribute the 117th Air Refueling Wing's (ANG) KC-135R aircraft to the 101st Air Refueling Wing (ANG), Bangor International Airport AGS, Maine (two aircraft); the 134th Air Refueling Wing (ANG), McGhee-Tyson Airport AGS, Tennessee (four aircraft); and the 161st Air Refueling Wing (ANG), Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport AGS, Arizona (two aircraft). The 117th Air Refueling Wing's firefighter positions will move to Dannelly Field AGS, Alabama, and the remaining expeditionary combat support (ECS) will remain in place.

**Justification:** Phoenix Sky Harbor (37) scored higher than Birmingham (63) in military value for the tanker mission. This recommendation takes advantage of available capacity at Phoenix by robusting the air refueling squadron size from eight to ten aircraft, increasing the wing's overall capability. It also capitalizes on the favorable recruiting environment of the greater Phoenix region that can sustain this increased squadron size. Although McGhee Tyson (74) and Bangor (123) ranked lower, military judgment argued in favor of retaining and adding force structure to these installations to increase their overall effectiveness. Bangor was increased in squadron size from 8 to 12 aircraft because of its critical role in the Northeast Tanker Task Force, as well as its participation in the transatlantic air bridge. The Air Force considered McGhee Tyson's available capacity and Air National Guard experience in replacing aging, high maintenance KC-135E aircraft with re-engined KC-135R models and in increasing the squadron from 8 to 12 aircraft. Birmingham's ECS remains in place to support the Air Expeditionary Force and to retain trained and experienced Air National Guard personnel.

**Payback:** The total estimated one-time cost to the Department of Defense to implement this recommendation is \$11 million. The net of all costs and savings to the Department during the implementation period is a cost of \$7.7 million. Annual recurring savings to the Department after implementation are \$0.82 million, with a payback expected in 18 years. The net present value of the savings to the Department over 20 years is \$0.46 million.

### **Impacts:**

**Economic Impact on Communities:** Assuming no economic recovery, this recommendation could result in a maximum potential reduction of 307 jobs (183 direct jobs and 124 indirect jobs) over the 2006-2011 period in the Birmingham-Hoover, Alabama Metropolitan Statistical economic area, which is less than 0.1 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 missions, forces 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; land use constraints or sensitive resource areas; noise; threatened and endangered species or critical habitat; and wetlands that may need to be considered during the implementation of this recommendation. There are no anticipated impacts to cultural, archeological, or tribal resources; dredging; marine mammals, resources, or sanctuaries; waste management; or water resources. Impacts of costs include \$165 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.