

Fairchild Air Force Base, WA

Recommendation: Realign Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington. The 141st Air Refueling Wing (ANG) will associate with the 92d Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base, and the 141st Air Refueling Wing's eight KC-135R aircraft are distributed to the 185th Air Refueling Wing (ANG), Sioux Gateway Airport Air Guard Station, Iowa. The 256th Combat Communications Squadron and 242d Combat Communications Squadron, which are ANG geographically separated units at Four Lakes and Spokane, are relocated into available facilities at Fairchild Air Force Base.

Justification: This recommendation realigns aircraft and streamlines operations at Fairchild by associating the Air National Guard KC-135 wing with the active duty wing. Fairchild Air Force Base (17) ranked just behind McConnell Air Force Base as the active duty tanker base with highest military value for a tanker mission. This realignment preserves remaining capacity for the next generation tanker aircraft, while maintaining the ANG experience and recruiting potential within the region. In distributing KC-135R force structure to Sioux Gateway Air Guard Station (67), the Air Force applied military judgment in replacing aging, higher maintenance KC-135E force structure at Sioux Gateway with newer models to increase the unit's capability and retain trained, experienced aircrews and maintenance technicians. By relocating two geographically separated units onto Fairchild, the Air Force best uses its available resources while reducing the cost to the government of leased facilities.

Payback: The total estimated one-time cost to the Department of Defense to implement this recommendation is \$6.4 million. The net of all costs and savings to the Department during the implementation period is a cost of \$1.6 million. Annual recurring savings after implementation are \$1 million, with a payback expected in seven years. The net present value savings to the Department over 20 years is \$8.3 million.

Economic Impact on Communities: Assuming no economic recovery, this recommendation could result in a maximum potential reduction of 413 jobs (198 direct jobs and 215 indirect jobs) over 2006-2011 period in the Spokane, Washington Metropolitan Statistical economic area, which is 0.17 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 cultural, archeological, or tribal resources; 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

air quality; dredging; marine mammals, resources, or sanctuaries; waste management; or water resources. No impacts are anticipated for the costs of environmental restoration, environmental compliance, or waste management activities. 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.