

DCN: 3056



TEXAS

FIVE STAR VALUE OF
NATIONAL DEFENSE

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RICK PERRY
TEXAS MILITARY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION



OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNOR

TEXAS
MILITARY
PREPAREDNESS
COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT
2004-2005



TEXAS

THE DEFENSE COMMUNITY



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RICK PERRY

MICHAEL B. SMITH, Brig. Gen. (Ret.)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TEXAS MILITARY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION
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A MASTER PLAN
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DCN: 1408



RECEIVED
3/21/05

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

March 21, 2005

The Honorable James Hansen
Nominee
Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Congressman Hansen:

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent nomination to serve on the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The responsibilities and decisions ahead of you will be great. Your recommendations will serve to position our nation's military as it transforms to address future challenges. They also will be of major consequence to military base communities nationwide.

With 18 major military installations, and more than 232,000 active duty service members, Reserve and National Guard members, and civilian employees of the armed services, Texas military installations are playing a vital role in our national defense. The military remains an important part of this state's heritage. Our nation's active international border with Mexico and our vibrant ports on the Texas Gulf Coast require a homeland security presence. Also, the defense industry presence in the state is significant and vital to our nation's defense infrastructure.

As Texas' top elected official, I join all Texans in supporting our military, not only in words, but by action. I offer for your consideration the enclosed packet of information highlighting my state's initiatives and commitment to maintaining the valued relationship that Texas so respects and enjoys with our military.

I am committed to continuing the state's role in a substantive partnership with our military installations and in the transformation of our national defense efforts, and I look forward to working with you in the coming months. Together, we can ensure that Texas remains at the forefront of national defense.

Sincerely,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

Enclosure

1408



RECEIVED
04/04/05

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 15, 2005

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

General Lloyd Warren "Fig" Newton, USAF (Ret.)
Commissioner
Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear General Newton:

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent nomination to serve on the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The responsibilities and decisions ahead of you will be great. Your recommendations will serve to position our nation's military as it transforms to address future challenges. They will also be of major consequence to military base communities nationwide.

With 18 major military installations, more than 232,000 active duty service members, Reserve and National Guard and civilian employees of the armed services, Texas military installations are playing a vital role in our national defense. Our nation's active international border with Mexico and vibrant ports on the Texas Gulf Coast also require a homeland security presence. As you know, given your former work in Texas as commander of the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base and in your current position with Pratt & Whitney, the military is an important part of this state's heritage. The defense industry in Texas is also significant and vital to our nation's defense infrastructure.

As Texas' top elected official, I join all Texans in supporting our military, not only in words, but by action. I offer for your consideration the enclosed packet of information highlighting my state's initiatives and commitment to maintaining the valued relationship that Texas so respects and enjoys with our military.

I am committed to continuing the state's role as a substantive partner with our military installations and in the transformation of our national defense efforts. I look forward to working with you in the coming months and would welcome the opportunity to personally update you on the value of the military installations in Texas. If a meeting is possible, please call my office at 512/463-1762, so I can accommodate your schedule. Together, we can ensure that Texas remains at the forefront of national defense.

Sincerely,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

Enclosure

1408



RECEIVED
04/05/05

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

March 21, 2005

The Honorable Philip Coyle
Nominee
Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Coyle:

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent nomination to serve on the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The responsibilities and decisions ahead of you will be great. Your recommendations will serve to position our nation's military as it transforms to address future challenges. They also will be of major consequence to military base communities nationwide.

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Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

Enclosure

1408



RECEIVED
04/05/06

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

March 21, 2005

The Honorable Samuel Knox Skinner
Nominee
Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Skinner:

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent nomination to serve on the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The responsibilities and decisions ahead of you will be great. Your recommendations will serve to position our nation's military as it transforms to address future challenges. They also will be of major consequence to military base communities nationwide.

With 18 major military installations, and more than 232,000 active duty service members, Reserve and National Guard members, and civilian employees of the armed services, Texas military installations are playing a vital role in our national defense. The military remains an important part of this state's heritage. Our nation's active international border with Mexico and our vibrant ports on the Texas Gulf Coast require a homeland security presence. Also, the defense industry presence in the state is significant and vital to our nation's defense infrastructure.

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I am committed to continuing the state's role in a substantive partnership with our military installations and in the transformation of our national defense efforts, and I look forward to working with you in the coming months. Together, we can ensure that Texas remains at the forefront of national defense.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

Enclosure

1408



RECEIVED
04/08/06

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 21, 2005

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Anthony Principi
Nominee
Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Principi:

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent nomination to serve on the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The responsibilities and decisions ahead of you will be great. Your recommendations will serve to position our nation's military as it transforms to address future challenges. They also will be of major consequence to military base communities nationwide.

With 18 major military installations, and more than 232,000 active duty service members, Reserve and National Guard members, and civilian employees of the armed services, Texas military installations are playing a vital role in our national defense. The military remains an important part of this state's heritage. Our nation's active international border with Mexico and our vibrant ports on the Texas Gulf Coast require a homeland security presence. Also, the defense industry presence in the state is significant and vital to our nation's defense infrastructure.

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Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

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RECEIVED
04/04/06

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

March 21, 2005

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Nominee
Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Admiral Gehman:

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent nomination to serve on the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The responsibilities and decisions ahead of you will be great. Your recommendations will serve to position our nation's military as it transforms to address future challenges. They also will be of major consequence to military base communities nationwide.

With 18 major military installations, and more than 232,000 active duty service members, Reserve and National Guard members, and civilian employees of the armed services, Texas military installations are playing a vital role in our national defense. The military remains an important part of this state's heritage. Our nation's active international border with Mexico and our vibrant ports on the Texas Gulf Coast require a homeland security presence. Also, the defense industry presence in the state is significant and vital to our nation's defense infrastructure.

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Rick Perry
Governor

RP:tgp

Enclosure

Supporting the Military in Texas

Prepared by the Texas Military Preparedness Commission,
Office of Governor Rick Perry

With superb weather, world-class training areas, excellent transportation infrastructure, favorable military culture and a skilled, highly motivated civilian workforce, Texas offers unsurpassed opportunities for the military. Texas is focused on reducing base operating costs, increasing the military value of its installations, improving the quality of life of our military members and their dependents, and demonstrating that Texas “just makes sense” for national defense.

Texas is a Military Friendly State

- Texas is the home to more than 232,000 active duty service members, Reserve and National Guard and civilian employees of the armed services. The state has 18 major military installations and numerous guard and reserve locations. Texas’ active international border with Mexico and several ports on the Gulf coast require a homeland security presence. The defense industry presence in the state is significant.
- The Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC) – a nine member group of community leaders responsible for oversight, planning and execution of all military related state programs – was created in 2003 to support military installations and communities in Texas.
- Texas recently created the Texas Military Value Fund, a \$250 million low-interest, revolving loan fund that can be used by military dependent communities for economic development or needed infrastructure improvements that enhance military value of installations.
- Texas is extending and improving education benefits for military members and their families by allowing them to enroll in state supported colleges and universities at state resident tuition rates and to retain student status at the same rates, even if the military member is transferred out of state. Governor Perry has also directed the Texas Education Agency to work with other states to establish academic credential reciprocity agreements for military students transferring into and out of state schools.
- Governor Perry enacted legislation mandating discounted electrical utility rates for all military installations to lower base operating costs; this can release tax dollars for mission needs.
- Governor Perry directed state agencies to give priority to military leaders on issues such as condition of roadway deployment routes, quality of life, and environmental compliance issues.

Texas Offers Unsurpassed Opportunities for the Military

- The majority of military installations in Texas have a joint presence with multiple branches of the U.S. military, state and federal agencies, as well as international forces.
- Texas has numerous military bases with excess capacity that are prepared to accept new missions as well as reassignment of new military units from overseas or other locations.
- Texas has taken good care of its ports, rail and roadway systems, and airports that can accommodate rapid mobilization and deployment requirements.
- The mild climate of Texas reduces requirements for infrastructure maintenance and increases the year-round availability of our extensive air, sea and land training. Additionally, the sheer size of Texas offers cost effective opportunities for joint training in multiple terrain and threat scenarios.
- Texas’ strategic location is critical to the U.S. homeland security efforts.

Texas has made State Financial Commitments for Defense Transformation

Texas has committed \$60 million in state revenues to military installations and defense dependent communities that anticipate the need for expansion of their facilities through defense realignment or transformation. These commitments have been in the forms of grants and loans and it is anticipated that further commitments will be made as the Department of Defense continues to announce additional force realignments and mission changes. State financial commitments include:

- \$20.5 million to Fort Hood area defense communities to build new and improve existing roads and other infrastructure need to support 5,000 new troops;
- \$16.2 million in El Paso for improvement of infrastructure, mobility and traffic flow on and around Fort Bliss, which is currently expected to receive 3,800 new military personnel;
- \$13 million to communities adjacent to Red River Army Depot for improved highway access to the Depot in anticipation of new workload;
- \$3.5 million to the City of Temple for a new helicopter maintenance facility at the Draughton Miller Central Texas Regional Airport, which will expand capabilities for Army and Texas National Guard missions;
- \$5.2 million to the City of Corpus Christi for the upgrade of two existing roads to improve access to the Port of Corpus Christi and Naval Air Station Corpus Christi;
- \$5.2 million for the repair and improvement of rail lines at the Port of Corpus Christi, one of the nation's busiest strategic ports for military deployment. This commitment will allow the port to double its ship-loading capacity to better support additional military missions as well as increased commercial traffic; and
- Funding committed to establish a new Arabic Language degree in San Angelo, Texas that will be charged with providing supplemental training and education in coordination with the Defense Language Institute.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Rick Perry

Post Office Box 12428
Austin, Texas, 78711

512-463-2000 (Voice)
711 for Relay Texas

For Immediate Release
August 09, 2004

Contact: Kathy Walt or Robert Black
512-463-1826

Perry Announces \$16.2 million for Infrastructure Improvements at Fort Bliss

Funds to Enhance Mobility and Traffic Flow in Anticipation of Additional Troops

EL PASO – Gov. Rick Perry today announced a \$16.2 million commitment by the State of Texas to improve infrastructure, mobility and traffic flow on and around Fort Bliss. Last month the Army announced it would move an additional 3,800 troops to Fort Bliss in 2006 and an additional 5,000 troops to Fort Hood in 2005.

“As one of the premier military installations in America, and home to the largest joint training exercises in the armed forces, Fort Bliss is critical to the war on terror, the livelihood of El Paso families and the entire State of Texas,” Perry said. “The Department of Defense recently recognized the importance of Fort Bliss by committing 3,800 additional personnel to the base, and today I am proud to announce that the State of Texas is committing \$16.2 million in infrastructure improvements to support their stationing here at Fort Bliss.”

Perry said that potential projects identified for funding include building an overpass between Fort Bliss and Biggs Army Airfield that will ease traffic congestion on Fred Wilson Boulevard and Airport Road and provide for the efficient movement of personnel and equipment between the base and the airfield.

“Not only will these infrastructure projects support the additional 3,800 soldiers and civilians that will call Fort Bliss home beginning in 2006, it will place Fort Bliss in a stronger position as the Department of Defense makes base realignment and closure decisions in the near future,” Perry said. “With the possibility of troops being moved from the European Theater, I believe Fort Bliss is an attractive option for relocation of additional Army personnel.”

Perry noted that the state has already helped secure the relocation of 5,000 additional troops to Fort Hood in Central Texas by committing \$20 million for transportation infrastructure improvements there.

“I’ve asked the Transportation Commission to place both the Fort Bliss and Fort Hood projects on its August 26 agenda because it is important that we get these projects moving quickly in light of the upcoming BRAC decisions,” Perry added.

In anticipation of the 2005 BRAC, Perry and state leaders have adopted a proactive policy to promote and enhance Texas military installations, the communities that surround them and the military families who call Texas home. Among the steps the governor and the Texas Legislature have taken are:

- Creation of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC), a nine member group of community leaders from across Texas responsible for oversight, planning and implementation of all military related state programs.

- Creation of the Texas Military Value Fund, a \$250 million low-interest, revolving loan fund that can be used by military communities for economic development or needed infrastructure improvements that enhance the military value of installations.
- Provision of education benefits that allow military families to enroll in state supported colleges and universities at state resident tuition rates and to retain student status at the same rates, even if the military member is transferred out of state.
- Legislation mandating discounted electrical utility rates for all military installations to lower base operating costs.
- Directives that state agencies give priority to military leaders on issues such as condition of roadway deployment routes, quality of life and environmental compliance issues.

“The majority of our bases are home to multiple branches of the U.S. military, many with excess capacity that can accept new missions as well as reassignment of new military units from overseas or other locations,” Perry said. “Texas has taken good care of its ports, rail and roadway systems, and airports that can accommodate rapid mobilization and deployment requirements. Additionally, Texas’ strategic geographic location is critical to United States homeland security efforts.”

Perry and members of the TMPC continue to work with representatives from the state’s other military communities in identifying how the state can help them in the BRAC process.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Rick Perry

Post Office Box 12428
Austin, Texas, 78711

512-463-2000 (Voice)
711 for Relay Texas

For Immediate Release
Sept. 29, 2004

Contact: Kathy Walt or Robert Black
512-463-1826

**Gov. Perry Announces \$13 Million Commitment
For Improvements at Red River Army Depot**

TEXARKANA – Gov. Rick Perry today announced that the state is pledging to make more than \$13 million in infrastructure improvements to the Red River Army Depot in an effort to secure expanded missions as part of the federal Base Realignment and Closure process.

“Once completed, these projects will relieve congestion and take the strain off existing local infrastructure, improve the Depot’s access to I-30 so that employees can respond more effectively to repair and maintenance demands in support of critical missions at home and abroad, and help the Depot support any new or expanded missions it may receive,” Perry said.

The financial commitment, contingent on a U.S. Department of Defense decision to expand operations at the Red River Army Depot, would be used to build an interchange at Interstate 30 and West Hooks County Road, along with a connecting road from this interchange to US 82. It also would be used to build continuous frontage roads between Spur 86 and FM 560. The funds would be made available through the Texas Department of Transportation.

Texas has already helped secure the relocation of 5,000 additional troops to Fort Hood in Central Texas by committing \$20 million for transportation infrastructure improvements there. At Fort Bliss in El Paso, the state will fund \$16.2 million in infrastructure improvements to support the 3,800 new troops that will arrive at the base in 2006. These commitments are the first of their kind in Texas.

“But there is still more Texas can do to keep our bases in operation,” Perry added. “That is why I will be asking members of the legislature to give defense communities the authority to invest local sales tax revenue in projects to improve to their local military installations.”

Empowering local leaders to use local sales tax revenues for military base improvement projects is important to retaining bases and the jobs that depend on them, Perry said.

The Red River Army Depot is a designated Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for several major weapons systems and home to the only Patriot Missile Recertification capabilities in the Department of Defense. That makes the Depot “critical to the war on terror, the mission of our military, and the livelihood of Texarkana families, as well as the entire State of Texas,” Perry said.

U.S. Department of Defense expenditures in Texas exceed \$32.8 billion annually and equate to an economic impact of some \$77 billion.

“With another round of base closures on the horizon in 2005, we are aggressively positioning Texas as the ideal location for continued and expanded missions while working with local communities to ensure we do everything possible to keep our bases open and providing security for America,” Perry said.

Among the steps the governor and the Texas Legislature have taken are:

- Creation of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC), a nine member group of community leaders from across Texas responsible for oversight, planning and implementation of all military related state programs.
- Creation of the Texas Military Value Fund, a \$250 million low-interest, revolving loan fund that can be used by military communities for economic development or needed infrastructure improvements that enhance the military value of installations.
- Provision of education benefits that allow military families to enroll in state supported colleges and universities at state resident tuition rates and to retain student status at the same rates, even if the military member is transferred out of state.
- Legislation mandating discounted electrical utility rates for all military installations to lower base operating costs.
- Directives that state agencies give priority to military leaders on issues such as condition of roadway deployment routes, quality of life and environmental compliance issues.

#

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Rick Perry

Post Office Box 12428
Austin, Texas, 78711

512-463-2000 (Voice)
711 for Relay Texas

For Immediate Release
October 13, 2004

Contact: Kathy Walt or Rob Black
512-463-1826

Gov. Rick Perry Announces \$5.2 Million in Aid for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi

Low-Interest Loan to Be Used for Road Improvement Projects

CORPUS CHRISTI – Gov. Rick Perry announced today that Naval Air Station Corpus Christi will be receiving more than \$5.2 million in low-interest loans for three critical road improvement projects to enhance its capabilities and increase its value to the U.S. Armed Forces.

“Once completed, these projects will give our military personnel quick and easy access to the Port of Corpus Christi and Waldron Field and take some of the strain off existing local infrastructure so that civilians can spend less time stuck in traffic,” Perry said.

The loan funds, the first of their kind made available through a \$250 million low-interest revolving loan fund created by the state last year, will be used to completely reconstruct all four lanes of Port Avenue between Interstate 37 and U.S. 181, extend Mediterranean Drive to Waldron Road and realign a portion of Flour Bluff Drive to the north to allow for the extension of a runway at Waldron Field.

Perry made the announcement after touring Naval Station Ingleside facilities and meeting with military and community leaders. Perry said the tour and meetings strengthened his belief that Coastal Bend Naval installations are critical to the war on terror, the mission of our military and the livelihood of Coastal Bend families as well as the entire state of Texas.

“The commitment we are announcing today is just a part of our ongoing effort to support our servicemen and women, our military installations and the families that depend on them,” Perry added.

The Texas Department of Transportation last year provided more than \$650,000 to remove major traffic safety hazards around Naval Air Station Kingsville for sailors and airmen.

Texas has helped secure the relocation of 5,000 additional troops to Fort Hood in Central Texas by committing \$20 million for transportation infrastructure improvements there. At Fort Bliss in El Paso, the state will fund \$16.2 million in infrastructure improvements to support the 3,800 new troops that will arrive at the base in 2006. These commitments are the first of their kind in Texas.

And last month, the governor announced that the state is pledging to make more than \$13 million in infrastructure improvements to the Red River Army Depot in an effort to secure expanded missions as part of the federal Base Realignment and Closure process.

“But there is still more Texas can do to keep our bases in operation,” Perry said. “That is why I will be asking members of the legislature to give defense communities the authority to invest local sales tax revenue in projects to improve to their local military installations.

Empowering local leaders to use so-called 4A-4B funds to invest in base improvement projects is important to retaining our bases and the jobs that depend on them.”

With another round of base closures on the horizon in 2005, Perry and state leaders are aggressively positioning Texas as the ideal location for continued and expanded missions.

Among the steps the governor and the Texas Legislature have taken are:

- Creation of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC), a nine member group of community leaders from across Texas responsible for oversight, planning and implementation of all military related state programs.
- Creation of the Texas Military Value Fund, a \$250 million low-interest, revolving loan fund that can be used by military communities for economic development or needed infrastructure improvements that enhance the military value of installations.
- Provision of education benefits that allow military families to enroll in state supported colleges and universities at state resident tuition rates and to retain student status at the same rates, even if the military member is transferred out of state.
- Legislation mandating discounted electrical utility rates for all military installations to lower base operating costs.
- Directives that state agencies give priority to military leaders on issues such as condition of roadway deployment routes, quality of life and environmental compliance issues.

#

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Rick Perry

Post Office Box 12428
Austin, Texas, 78711

512-463-2000 (Voice)
711 for Relay Texas

For Immediate Release
December 1, 2004

Contact: Kathy Walt or Robert Black
512-463-1826

**Gov. Perry Lauds Department of Defense's Study of Bringing
Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to Texas Air National Guard**

AUSTIN – Gov. Perry today applauded the U.S. Department of Defense's initiative to potentially bring a squadron of U.S. Air Force Predators to the Texas Air National Guard. The department announced its intention to review the move as part of its Total Force Plan, which is designed to prepare the military for the demands of the 21st Century. This would be the first Air National Guard squadron of the unmanned aerial vehicles in the United States.

"The fact that the U.S. Air Force is considering assigning a squadron of Predators to the Texas Air National Guard shows that the Air Force recognizes the unique commitment Texas has made to the military, as well as the state's potential for military operations and training," Perry said. "As the Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) process approaches, I don't want to merely protect the status quo in Texas; I want to see the missions and manpower of our bases and posts expanded."

"With President Bush's announcement that 70,000 troops stationed overseas will be relocated to the U.S, now is the time for defense communities to take an inventory of infrastructure needs, develop a proposal and be prepared to present a plan to the Texas Military Preparedness Commission," Perry said. "I want to see thousands of troops deployed abroad call Texas home in the near future."

Earlier this year, the governor helped secure the relocation of 5,000 additional troops to Fort Hood and 3,800 additional troops to Fort Bliss by committing \$20 million and \$16.2 million respectively for infrastructure improvements. Additionally, Perry also announced a \$13 million commitment to the Red River Army Depot for infrastructure improvement in an effort to secure expanded missions. These commitments are the first of their kind in Texas.

Among the other steps the governor and the Texas Legislature have taken to prepare Texas for BRAC are:

- Creation of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC), a nine member group of community leaders from across Texas responsible for oversight, planning and implementation of all military related state programs.
- Creation of the Texas Military Value Fund, a \$250 million low-interest, revolving loan fund that can be used by military communities for economic development or needed infrastructure improvements that enhance the military value of installations.
- Provision of education benefits that allow military families to enroll in state supported colleges and universities at state resident tuition rates and to retain student status at the same rates, even if the military member is transferred out of state.
- Legislation mandating discounted electrical utility rates for all military installations to lower base operating costs.
- Directives that state agencies give priority to military leaders on issues such as condition of roadway deployment routes, quality of life and environmental compliance issues.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Rick Perry

Post Office Box 12428
Austin, Texas, 78711

512-463-2000 (Voice)
711 for Relay Texas

For Immediate Release
Dec. 3, 2004

Contact: Kathy Walt or Robert Black
512-463-1826

Gov. Perry Meets with Pentagon Officials to Promote Texas Military Communities

Pledges State Will Meet Needs of Our Military

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Gov. Rick Perry today told key Pentagon officials that Texas not only strongly supports its military bases and communities but also is working aggressively to enhance their value to the U.S. Department of Defense.

“As we approach the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), I want to make certain that our top leaders in Washington know the deep support Texans have for our military communities and the aggressive steps Texas has taken to enhance and expand the importance of our bases to the overall military mission of the United States,” Perry said.

Perry met today with Phil Grone, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment; Gen. Mike Moseley, vice chief of staff for the U.S. Air Force; Secretary of the Navy Gordon England; Dino Aviles, undersecretary of the Navy; John Young, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition; Nelson Gibbs, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations and environment; Geoffrey Prosch, assistant secretary of the Army for installations and environment; and Wayne Army, acting Assistant secretary of the Navy for installations and environment.

“We are here to demonstrate that Texas is committed to doing everything it can to enhance the value of its 18 military installations and to attract additional missions and troops to them,” Perry said. “If the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard have a need, Texas will fill that need.”

U.S. DoD expenditures in Texas exceed \$32.8 billion annually and equate to an economic impact of \$77 billion.

In his meetings, Perry emphasized steps Texas already has taken, including providing \$20 million in funding to Fort Hood and \$16.2 million in funding to Fort Bliss to assist with road improvements and other infrastructure needed to support additional troops at those bases. Shortly after Perry announced the state would commit those funds, the DoD announced it would relocate an additional 5,000 troops to Fort Hood and 3,800 additional troops and civilian personnel to Fort Bliss.

Texas also has pledged \$13 million in funding to the Red River Army Depot if the military expands operations at the Texarkana facility. The Red River Army Depot is a designated Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for several major weapons systems and home to the only Patriot Missile Recertification capabilities in the DoD.

This is the second trip Perry has made to Washington to meet with Pentagon officials to discuss BRAC issues.

One of the key steps the governor and Texas Legislature took to aggressively promote and enhance Texas military communities was the creation of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC), a nine member group of community leaders from across Texas responsible for oversight, planning and implementation of all military related state programs. U.S. Sens. John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison are ex-officio members of the TMPC, which planned the Washington trip.

The TMPC has visited all military communities in Texas and has made several trips to Washington, D.C., to visit with federal officials.

Other steps the governor and the Texas Legislature have taken are:

- Creation of the Texas Military Value Fund, a \$250 million low-interest, revolving loan fund that can be used by military communities for economic development or needed infrastructure improvements that enhance the military value of installations. Naval Air Station Corpus Christi will be receiving more than \$5.2 million in low-interest loans from the fund for three critical road improvement projects to enhance its capabilities and increase its value to the U.S. Armed Forces. The road projects will give our military personnel quick and easy access to the Port of Corpus Christi and Waldron Field and take some of the strain off existing local infrastructure so that civilians can spend less time stuck in traffic.
- Provision of education benefits that allow military families to enroll in state supported colleges and universities at state resident tuition rates and to retain student status at the same rates, even if the military member is transferred out of state.
- Legislation mandating discounted electrical utility rates for all military installations to lower base operating costs.
- Directives that state agencies give priority to military leaders on issues such as condition of roadway deployment routes, quality of life and environmental compliance issues.

Perry is also urging the Texas Legislature to remove certain restrictions on local sales taxes that will allow local leaders to use those funds to enhance military installations within their communities.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Rick Perry

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Austin, Texas, 78711

512-463-2000 (Voice)
711 for Relay Texas

For Immediate Release
Jan. 14, 2005

Contact: Kathy Walt or Rob Black
512-463-1826

Gov. Perry Announces Enhanced Defense Language Program for Goodfellow AFB

New Arabic Language Program at Angelo State University Would Prepare Soldiers for Deployment

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry today announced his commitment to work with the legislature to fund and create a new Arabic language degree program at Angelo State University (ASU) that will directly benefit the U. S. Department of Defense's Defense Language Institute at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo.

Perry said the creation of the degree program would be contingent upon the Department of Defense (DOD) enhancing its commitment at Goodfellow Air Force Base and is similar in concept to the proposal Perry made to the DOD with regards to Ft. Hood and Ft. Bliss that resulted in the transfer of 8,800 additional troops being stationed at those bases.

"Goodfellow Air Force Base is the perfect place for our soldiers to master the language skills that will be needed for future missions," Perry said. "If the DOD will commit to enhancing the Defense Language Institute at Goodfellow, the state of Texas is ready to do its part by creating a new Arabic language program at ASU that can help train our men and women in uniform."

Perry's proposal calls for the state to develop and fund a new degree program at ASU to provide regional and cultural education to linguists training at the Defense Language Institute. The new resources at ASU could also provide readily available capacity for contract linguistic support, Perry noted in a letter to Undersecretary of Defense David Chu. ASU is ideally suited to serve as a host site for the distance learning capabilities currently sought by the DLI because of ASU's relative proximity to Fort. Hood and Fort Bliss, he added.

"Texas' commitment to the U. S. Military effort and our troops is unparalleled," Perry said.

Perry noted that last year, Texas committed more than \$36 million in infrastructure improvements at Fort Hood and Fort Bliss if the DOD enhanced missions and increased capacity at those two bases. Shortly after those proposals were made, DOD announced that additional missions and 8,800 additional troops were being moved to those military bases. Perry has also made a similar proposal on behalf of the Red River Army Depot in Texarkana.

"Goodfellow AFB is also ideally located to serve Fort Hood and Fort Bliss with language and cultural knowledge training, both of which are becoming increasingly necessary for our soldiers as they prepare for deployment," Perry said. "The bottom line is that Texas is prepared to take unprecedented steps to keep our bases open and provide security for America."

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas State University Board of Regents have been notified of the governor's proposal.

In anticipation of the 2005 BRAC, Perry and state leaders have adopted a proactive policy to promote and enhance Texas military installations, the communities that surround them and the military families who call Texas home. In addition to personal visits to top military officials at the Pentagon, Gov. Perry and the Texas Legislature have taken numerous steps to enhance the military values of Texas installations, including:

- Creation of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC), a nine member group of community leaders from across Texas responsible for oversight, planning and implementation of all military related state programs. Commission includes representation of Sen. Hutchison's and Sen. Cornyn's Office.
- Creation of the Texas Military Value Fund, a \$250 million low-interest, revolving loan fund that can be used by military communities for economic development or needed infrastructure improvements that enhance the military value of installations.
- Provision of education benefits that allow military families to enroll in state supported colleges and universities at state resident tuition rates and to retain student status at the same rates, even if the military member is transferred out of state.
- Legislation mandating discounted electrical utility rates for all military installations to lower base operating costs.
- Directives that state agencies give priority to military leaders on issues such as condition of roadway deployment routes, quality of life and environmental compliance issues.

"The majority of our bases are home to multiple branches of the U.S. military, many with excess capacity that can accept new missions as well as reassignment of new military units from overseas or other locations," Perry said. "Texas has taken good care of its ports, rail and roadway systems, and airports that can accommodate rapid mobilization and deployment requirements. Additionally, Texas' strategic geographic location is critical to United States homeland security efforts."

Perry and members of the TMPC continue to work with representatives from the state's other military communities in identifying how the state can help them in the BRAC process.

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[letter attached]

March 21, 2005

The Honorable David Chu
Undersecretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
4000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

Dear Secretary Chu:

I am writing to express my appreciation for your leadership in the critical area of personnel and readiness and to seek your support for a collaborative partnership between the State of Texas and the United States Department of Defense (DoD) to enhance the nation's foreign language training capacity.

During the past several weeks, my staff have developed and presented proposals at Goodfellow Air Force Base (AFB) in San Angelo, Texas, that will help to improve foreign language training in the U.S. These concepts have been presented to Colonel Dan Scott, Assistant Commandant, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, as well as to Susan Kelly within your office. From these discussions, I am working with the leadership of Angelo State University (ASU) to develop a language associate's degree program that will be made available to the soldiers trained within the Defense Language Institute (DLI). My goal is to have this program in place by the fall of 2005.

I would like to continue to work with you to explore opportunities for Texas and DoD to partner and leverage our joint resources on this important matter. Accordingly, I propose that the State of Texas, contingent upon the enhancement of DLI operations at Goodfellow AFB, will fund the creation of a new Arabic language degree program at ASU. The benefits of this new degree program will primarily be to produce a new recruiting base of Arabic speaking professionals.

It is my hope that the resources of this new degree program will also address the critical needs of improving regional area expertise and surge capacity identified by the Defense Foreign Language Steering Committee. Although we have several options, this collaborative effort could allow ASU to provide regional and cultural education to linguists training within DLI. The new resources at ASU could also provide readily available surge capacity for contract linguist support. ASU is ideally suited to serve as a host site for the distance learning capabilities currently sought by the DLI.

Based upon the DLI Foreign Language Center Transformation White Paper, the need to expand a dispersed language training capability is clear and is currently being achieved through Language Training Detachments (LTD). Goodfellow AFB is an excellent site for a future LTD that would allow linguists to achieve and maintain higher levels of reading, listening and speaking skills. Goodfellow AFB is also ideally located to serve Fort Hood and Fort Bliss with language and cultural knowledge training, both of which are becoming increasingly necessary for our soldiers as they prepare for deployment. These two bases are expanding from the recent overseas base realignment but already represent about one-third of the United States' Army ground combat power.

Thank you for giving this proposal your serious consideration and I look forward to your favorable response. Please feel free to contact me or Logan Spence within my office to discuss the details of this promising opportunity. Mr. Spence can be reached at 512/463-3329.

Sincerely,

RICK PERRY
Governor of Texas

RP:lsp

cc: The Honorable John Cornyn
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
The Honorable Mike Conaway
The Honorable Robert Duncan
The Honorable Scott Campbell
The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
The Honorable Pete Geren
Mr. Philip W. Grone, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations
and the Environment

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Rick Perry

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For Immediate Release
February 17, 2005

Contact: Kathy Walt or Rob Black
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Texas Commits \$5.2 Million to Upgrade and Enhance Port of Corpus Christi

CORPUS CHRISTI – Gov. Rick Perry today announced that the State of Texas will commit \$5.2 million for rail enhancements to the Port of Corpus Christi; one of the nation’s busiest strategic military deployment ports. This commitment will allow the port to double its ship-loading capacity to better support additional military missions as well as increased commercial traffic.

“As we continue to aggressively position Texas bases as the ideal location for continued and expanded military missions, we must also look beyond the bases themselves and address other infrastructure needs that can improve our ability to support our men and women in uniform,” Perry said. “Today I am proud to announce that the State of Texas is committing \$5.2 million to expand and enhance cargo loading capabilities at the Port of Corpus Christi - the most recently designated strategic deployment port in the state for the United States Military.”

In the past two years, the ports of Corpus Christi and Beaumont combined have shipped 40 percent of all military cargo to overseas locations. Perry said that these funds, made available by the Texas Department of Transportation, will allow the port to make critically needed improvements to rail infrastructure that will significantly reduce the time it takes to get military transport ships on their way. These improvements will also benefit commercial shipping and help boost Corpus Christi’s reputation as a vital hub of commerce in North America.

“With this important infrastructure investment, we are reinforcing our message to decision-makers in Washington, D.C., that Texas continues to be a full partner in supporting the mission of our military like no other state,” Perry said. “Our commitment is evidenced by real dollars that will not only help support current missions but also build our capacity to accept expanded missions and additional personnel in the future.”

Perry noted that in recent months Texas has taken unprecedented steps to increase the value of Texas bases and welcome a greater military presence in our state. In October, Perry announced that Naval Air Station Corpus Christi would be receiving more than \$5 million from a newly created low-interest loan fund for critical infrastructure improvements to enhance its capabilities and increase its value to the U.S. Armed Forces. Additionally, Texas has helped secure the relocation of 8,800 troops to Fort Hood and Fort Bliss by committing \$36 million to improve roads on and around those bases and has also committed \$13 million in transportation improvements at the Red River Army Depot in Texarkana contingent upon the Department of Defense expanding military missions or workload there.

“In Texas we value and appreciate our servicemen and women and we are proud of our strong ties to the military from our Commander in Chief to the thousands of members of the Armed Forces who serve at our 18 major military installations,” Perry said. “We also recognize that a strong military presence is important to our economy as Department of Defense expenditures in Texas exceed \$32.8 billion annually, equating to an economic impact of some \$77 billion.”

Perry was joined at the event by Army Lieutenant General Robert Dail, Deputy Commander of the United States Transportation Command and Army Brigadier General Maynard Sanders, Deputy Commander of the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command.

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For Immediate Release
July 14, 2004

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512-463-1826

Perry Announces \$20.5 million for Infrastructure Improvements at Ft. Hood

Funds Contingent Upon Additional Military Resources Committed to Base by DoD

FORT HOOD –Gov. Rick Perry today announced an unprecedented \$20.5 million commitment to bolster the state’s chances of securing expanded military operations at Fort Hood as part of the federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The commitment – made through the Texas Department of Transportation – would be used to build new and improve existing roads and other infrastructure needed to support expanded operations if the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) decides to increase operations at Fort Hood.

“In Texas, we are proud of our servicemen and women, value the contributions made by our 18 military installations, and appreciate the fact that the military’s presence pumps \$49 billion into our state’s economy,” Perry said. “Today I am announcing a unique commitment by the State of Texas to enhance Fort Hood’s standing in the BRAC process: If the Department of Defense decides to add 5,000 new soldiers and civilian employees to Fort Hood, the state of Texas will make more than \$20 million in infrastructure improvements necessary to support their stationing.”

The infrastructure projects include an extension of State Highway 195 at Fort Hood Street; an overpass ammunition route on Highway 190, an alternate route to relieve traffic at the intersection of Mohawk and Clear Creek Roads and a widening of Tank Destroyer Boulevard. Perry said he has notified Deputy Under Secretary Raymond Dubois of the state’s commitment to these projects should the military expand its Fort Hood personnel.

“As the BRAC approaches, I don’t want to merely protect the status quo at Fort Hood, I want to see its mission and manpower expanded.” Perry said. “As the U.S. military’s largest active duty armored post, and the only post in the country that supports two full armored divisions, Fort Hood is critical to the war on terror, the mission of our military and the livelihood of Central Texas families as well as the entire state of Texas.”

In anticipation of the 2005 BRAC, Perry and state leaders have adopted a proactive policy to promote and enhance Texas military installations, the communities that surround them and the military families who call Texas home. Among the steps the governor and the Texas Legislature have taken are:

- Creation of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC), a nine member group of community leaders from across Texas responsible for oversight, planning and implementation of all military related state programs.
- Creation of the Texas Military Value Fund, a \$250 million low-interest, revolving loan fund that can be used by military communities for economic development or needed infrastructure improvements that enhance the military value of installations.
- Provision of education benefits that allow military families to enroll in state supported colleges and universities at state resident tuition rates and to retain student status at the same rates, even if the military member is transferred out of state.
- Legislation mandating discounted electrical utility rates for all military installations to lower base operating costs.
- Directives that state agencies give priority to military leaders on issues such as condition of roadway deployment routes, quality of life and environmental compliance issues.

“The majority of our bases are home to multiple branches of the U.S. military, many with excess capacity that can accept new missions as well as reassignment of new military units from overseas or other locations,” Perry said. “Texas has taken good care of its ports, rail and roadway systems, and airports that can accommodate rapid mobilization and deployment requirements. Additionally, Texas’ strategic geographic location is critical to United States homeland security efforts.”

Perry and members of the TMPC continue to work with representatives from the state’s other military communities in identifying how the state can help them in the BRAC process.

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