

Recommendation Supporting Information

Maneuver Training (Realign Fort Knox, KY)

22-Apr-05

Competing Recommendations and Other Information:

Several other alternative locations for the Maneuver Center were considered, including Fort Knox, Fort Bliss, Fort Hood, and Yuma Proving Ground. Fort Benning provided the lowest cost solution and the best use of existing capacity. This recommendation also considered other alternative installations along with Fort Knox for the relocation of modular support units. However, with the increase in the number of BCTs in the United States from 26 to 40 by the end of FY09, Fort Knox was considered the most viable. Fort Riley, KS and Fort Bliss, TX were both considered, but candidate recommendation USA-0221 substantially increases the number of BCTs and other units at these locations. Yuma Proving Ground was also considered, but not recommended based on its ongoing test mission, its lack of an existing, robust infrastructure, and the costs associated with creating the necessary infrastructure. Fort McCoy was also considered, but not recommended. Fort McCoy does not have sufficient facilities, maneuver training acreage (47,000 acres) and ranges to permanently support other operational units stationed there. The Army would also have to construct a wide-range of permanent facilities to accommodate these units if they were relocated to Fort McCoy.

Force Structure Capabilities:

This recommendation balances the mix of administrative and headquarters-type units with operational forces, takes maximum advantage of existing capacity and ensures the Army has sufficient infrastructure, training land and ranges to meet the requirements to transform the Operational Army as identified in the Twenty Year Force Structure Plan. As part of this transformation, the Army is activating 10 new BCTs for a total of 43 active BCTs with 40 BCTs stationed in the United States. The Army is also transforming the organizational structure of many of its support units. Combined, the modular force transformation, forces returning from overseas, and the Army's effort to convert selected military positions to civilian, the Operational Army stationed in the United States will grow by over 100,000 soldiers between FY05 and FY11. This recommendation is part of the Army's solution to accommodate this growth. Relocating the BCT and returning overseas units to other installations would create additional shortages in facilities and training asset availability and leave excess capacity at Fort Knox.

By efficiently consolidating ground maneuver institutional training at a single installation, this recommendation ensures that the Department will retain the necessary capabilities to support the Force Structure Plan (effectively addressing essential manning, training, organizing, equipping, and sustaining requirements). The efficiencies gained provide savings to meet other Army needs. The relocation of the 84th ARRTC could also position the Army Reserve to integrate it with the 100th Division and potentially gain additional manpower efficiencies in the future.

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MVA Results:

All three installations have relatively high military value, Fort Benning (9), Fort Knox (12) and Fort McCoy (25). The Education and Training military value for functional training is Fort Benning (2) and Fort Knox (11). The relocations described in this recommendation move activities from lower value installations to higher value installations; collectively these moves enhance overall military value to the Department. Moving the Armor Center and School to Fort Benning, and back filling Ft. Knox with Infantry, Combat Support, and Combat Service Support units, and with the Reserve Regional Training Center appropriately recognizes and takes advantage of the diverse training and maneuver capabilities available at each installation. The consolidation of the Infantry and Armor Centers and Schools enhances the military value by providing the same or better level of training and readiness at reduced costs. Consolidating these schools will improve coordination, standardization, and the quality of the institutional training for ground maneuver forces, and have a positive impact on Joint war-fighting, training, and readiness. The consolidation also promotes manpower and cost efficiencies needed to support the Army's force structure and modularity changes. See attached Army and Education and Training military value tables.

Capacity Analysis Results:

This recommendation improves training capabilities while using existing capacity at the affected institutional training installations. Consolidating the Maneuver Center at Fort Benning effectively utilizes its capacity for institutional training. It has the necessary buildable acres to effectively absorb the Armor Center and School and handle future unforeseen requirements. This move also creates space at Fort Knox, a high Military Value installation, for other activities better suited to take advantage of its strengths. As one of the Army's maneuver-type installations, Fort Knox has the capacity to support the stationing of various operational units, and the training for a wide-range of Active and Reserve Component units. Army BRAC capacity analysis indicates that ongoing Army force structure changes create situations where most traditional Army maneuver installations will face pressure for training facilities, training land, and ranges. Fort Knox has available existing facilities (788,000 square feet including some 600 Army Family Housing units) and training land. Activating an Infantry BCT, and relocating various support units and the 84th ARRTC takes advantage of available training land, and administrative and classroom space. See attached Army and Education and Training capacity tables.

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