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BRAC Commission

AUG 17 2005

Received

REASONS WHY THE AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY SHOULD REMAIN AT WILLIAMS GATEWAY AIRPORT

- The 1995 BRAC Commission recommended the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) remain open and at WGA. What has changed since then to reverse the BRAC 1995 decision? The 1995 Commission noted "the activities are consistent with the community's plans for redevelopment of the Williams AFB property, including a university and research park". In the past ten years, Arizona's reuse efforts at Williams Gateway have resulted in development of ASU East and the attraction of several top flight private research institutions, all of which are actively involved with the Lab on a variety of research projects. There have been no coordination problems with either the provision of service or program systems – and the AFRL has made outstanding progress in their current location. To illustrate this point, below is a partial list of awards received by the AFRL in recent years
 - TSPG – Excellence in Team Performance, 2005
 - DoD Modeling & Simulation Award for Training 2002
 - The AFRL 2000 Scientific/Technical Achievement Team Award
 - The 2000 Annual DoD Antiterrorism/Force Protection Recognition Award
 - 1999 Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association Award
- The AFRL's award winning performance is the result of the existing significant interaction and synergy with ASU East and the eight support contractors located at Williams - that will be lost if the Lab is moved
 - ASU East faculty coordinate with AFRL staff to conduct research at the facility in conjunction with the Lab's mission - resulting in cost savings and greater productivity for the Lab.
 - The presence of the AFRL at WGA for the past twelve years has fostered the co-location of private contractors who assist the Lab with its research programs – all of which will be lost and will take years to re-establish at another location.
 - See page three for a complete list of the contractors and page four for the implications of the move to these contractors and the efficiency of the Laboratory
 - Functional synergy in completion of assigned tasks is more important than organizational synergy. Physical consolidation is an industrial age approach to synergy – and the antithesis of the distributed mission warfighter research program.
- The function of the AFRL and its operational readiness to provide service to the Department of Defense will be disrupted by the move – which should be avoided - especially during wartime conditions, as we have now. (Criteria One)
- There is significant potential for expansion of the AFRL's physical facilities at their current location if needed to accommodate an expanded military or research mission (Criteria Two, Three and Seven)
 - A private sector group is currently working with the Laboratory to construct the Mission Training Engineering Center adjacent to their existing facility. The Center is designed to expedite Laboratory technology transition to the Warfighter and our friendly forces. This facility is in the final design stages to initiate construction. See page four for more details.

- Williams Gateway Airport could lease the AFRL additional land and build new buildings for use by the Lab on Airport property.
 - ASU East could build a building for the Lab on the campus to the west
- **The cost to relocate the AFRL will be significant, and manpower seriously affected by relocation of the Laboratory – and tremendous cost savings by the Lab remaining at its present location. (Criteria Four and Five) Who can identify where the cost savings described by the Air Force from the proposed relocation will be achieved?**
- Cost to relocate the AFRL is estimated to be at least \$30 million
 - It is estimated only 20% of the current staff will relocate with the Lab.
 - Retraining, work disruption and down time costs will all be major additional uncalculated costs
 - Relocation of the AFRL to Luke AFB will still leave the Lab vulnerable to later closure, if Luke is closed in a later BRAC process. In that event, the relocation costs would be doubled.
- **Williams Air Force Base closed in 1993 and since then our local reuse effort for both Williams Gateway Airport and ASU East have relied, to a significant degree, on the investment and activity resulting from the continuing presence of the AFRL at the former base. (Criteria Six)**
- Closure of the Lab now will be a major set back in our local reuse efforts – efforts that have been recently lauded by Secretary Rumsfeld as an example of a successful local base reuse program.
 - Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek, the Gila River Indian Community and the Williams Gateway Airport Authority have relied on the AFRL to help weather the economic crisis created by the closing of the Base – and loss of the Lab now will be a second blow to our local economies, and a major setback for our base reuse efforts.
- **Closure of the Laboratory would have a significant adverse effect on the local economy (Criteria Six)**
- While the BRAC documents put the job loss at a total of 88 (42 military and 46 civilian), the actual job loss will be significantly greater.
 - Support contractors at the Laboratory indicates over 175 jobs will be lost, in addition to the 88 shown in the study
 - Many of these positions are high skill/high wage positions, which support significant secondary employment in the community
 - Five of the eight local contractors to the Lab would have to relocate to maintain their relationship with the Lab. These contractors are all located on WGA and lease over 36,000 s.f. of space and pay over \$545,000 annually in rent.
 - Loss of the aircraft using the airport in conjunction with the Lab will significantly affect Williams Gateway Airport. As an example, the airport has a military fuels contract and three C-17's operating at the airport in May, in support of the AFRL, purchased over 150,000 gallons of fuel valued at over \$450,000. Loss of these fuel sales could have a serious effect on the financial stability of the airport.
 - While the total job loss may not be significant to the entire Phoenix Metro area – they are very significant to the communities of Gilbert, Mesa and Queen Creek, which surround the former Base.

CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY

There are eight commercial entities at Williams Gateway that directly support or are associated with AFRL in a training or research mode of operation. Listing of these companies plus a short description of their relationship with the Lab follows:

Advanced Training Systems International (ATSI) - Collaborates with the Lab through a joint Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRDA) to collect data and gain insight as to how best to train fighter pilots and evaluate aircrew learning retention.

Anteon - Services, Engineering and Technical Administration (SETA) contractor providing direct support to the Laboratory.

Boeing - Member of the Laboratory Support Contractor Team. In addition, has a CRDA with the Lab to transition Lab products to the simulation industry.

International Simulation and Training Systems (ISTS) - Provides Distributed Mission Training/Operations support for the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command and Air Combat Command in association with AFRL through a CRDA. Customers receive benefit of latest Lab technological advancements applicable to DMO/T programs.

Karta Technologies - Services, Engineering and Technical Administration (SETA). Contractor providing direct support to the Laboratory.

Link Simulation and Training - Member of the Laboratory Support Contractor Team. Also, has a contingent on site which develops visual display systems and works with the Lab to transition Lab products to the simulation industry.

Lockheed Martin - Member of the Laboratory Support Contractor Team. Separately has the "A-10 Training System Support" contract with the Lab for simulation technology transition to the A-10 Full Mission Training Program.

US Positioning Group - Working with the Laboratory, ASU East and Williams Gateway through the Cognitive Engineering Research Institute (CERI) on Unmanned Air Vehicle Command and Control projects and training technologies.



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From: Lynn F. Kusy, Executive Director
 Williams Gateway Airport

Company: 2005 Defense Base Closure & Realignment Commission **Date:** August 17, 2005

Fax: 703-699-2735 **Pages:** 26 (including cover sheet)

Phone: 703-699-2950 **Re:** Air Force Research Lab

Urgent For Review Please Comment Confirm Receipt Have a Good Day

Please distribute the attached letters to the Commissioners listed above (along with the seven-page attachment at the end of this fax.)

If you have any questions, please call Gretchen Hawkins 480-988-7603

If you experience problems with this fax, please call Willie at Williams Gateway Airport - 480-988-7600

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