

**BASE VISIT REPORT**  
**FORT BENNING, GA**  
**3 JUNE 2005**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

None

**COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT**

Mike Avenick, Army Analysts

**List of Attendees****Military Officials**

MG Freakley, USAIC Commanding General  
COL Riera, USAG Fort Benning, Garrison Commander  
COL Harmon, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Commander  
Chuck Walls, USAG, Deputy Garrison Commander  
Brandon Cockrell, USAG, Director Plans Analysis and Integration  
Jay Brown, SAIC, BRAC Coordinator  
Bob Brown, USAG, Director Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security  
Fred Weekley, USAG, DPTMS, Chief, Range Division  
Ken Holloway, USAG, Master Planner  
Dean Miller, USAG, Master Planning Division  
John Bastone, USAIC, Infantry Futures Group  
Dewey Patrick, Installation Management Agency Southeast Region Office  
CSM Winterfeld, Assistant Commandant, Non-Commissioned Officers Academy

**Civilian Officials**

Justin Clay, Senator Saxby Chambliss' Office, Defense Correspondence  
Tucker Shumack, Senator Isakson's Office, Military Liaison

**BASE'S PRESENT MISSION**

- Fort Benning is a complex installation with a training mission that spans all five services and three US Army Major Commands. Fort Benning conducts institutional training for Training and Doctrine Command, supports the collective training and deployment of three Forces Command Brigades, one of which is a Modular Heavy Brigade Combat Team; and also supports the initial entry (Ranger Indoctrination Program and Ranger Orientation Program) and collective training of the Special Operations Command's 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, as well as the cyclical deployment of the Regimental Headquarters and its 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion in support of the Global War on Terror. This is why Fort Benning was rated number two by DoD for functional training and number nine for military value by the Army.
- Fort Benning, the home of the US Army Infantry School and Center, is a premier US Army warfighting school and deployment center. In peacetime

and in war, Fort Benning provides the ranges and maneuver areas principally designed to support the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) mission of conducting to standard the initial entry training (IET) for Soldiers and officers; basic and advanced level noncommissioned officer (NCO) and officer training courses; the Department of Defense's only Airborne and the Army's Ranger schools; and the continued study, testing, and development of joint and combined Infantry doctrine, weapons testing, and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs). The Infantry School and Center, has the primary mission of training over 71,000 Soldiers, NCOs, and officers annually through FY07 for the Combined Arms and Joint force. This includes over 1240 Marines, 575 Airmen, 440 Sailors, 5 Coast Guard, and 830 foreign military annually.

- In addition, Fort Benning provides the home station and training facilities for Forces Command's (FORSCOM) 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized); the 36<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group; the 14<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, and the 988<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company. The Special Operations Command's (SOCOM) 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment and its 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment; and numerous other active duty deployable units are also tenants on Fort Benning.
- Fort Benning is also the home station for and provides training facilities for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), which has the mission to train cadets, NCOs, and officers from over 25 Western Hemisphere countries (over 1400 Soldiers annually).
- The only permanent Continental United States Replacement Center (CRC) is located at Fort Benning. The CONUS Replacement Center facilitates the individual readiness processing, training, and onward movement of non-unit related uniform service personnel from all service components, DoD civilian personnel, and civilian military contractors into and out of various combatant commanders areas of responsibility. In fiscal year 2003, the CRC processed over 13,000 and in fiscal year 2004 over 15,000 individuals that were further deployed or redeployed to and from 27 destinations around the globe. This was in support of six operational exercises and four operational contingencies.
- In support of the Global War on Terror a Mobilization Troop Command (MTC) executes unit mobilization operations on Fort Benning. The MTC supports all Reserve Components mobilizing and demobilizing through Fort Benning. Currently, the MTC manages up to 600 personnel daily with surge capacity of over 2,200 daily which we processed this past December.

#### **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>RECOMMENDATION NAME</b>	<b>Recommendation's Impact on Fort Benning</b>
<b>Maneuver Training</b>	-- (Gain) Relocate Armor Center & School from Ft. Knox to Ft. Benning
<b>Single Drill SGT School</b>	-- (Loss) Relocate Drill Sergeant School to Ft.

	Jackson
<b>Fort Gillem, GA</b>	-- (Gain) Relocate the 81 <sup>st</sup> RRC Equipment Concentration Site from Ft. Gillem to Ft. Benning
<b>RC Transformation in Georgia</b>	-- (Gain) Create an United States Army Reserve Center on Ft. Benning

### **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION**

- Establishes a Maneuver Center of Excellence combining the Armor and Infantry Centers and Schools. Locating the center at Fort Benning enhances training effectiveness, doctrine, combat development, and operational effectiveness. Additionally it consolidates both Infantry and Armor One Station Unit Training (OSUT) which allows the Army to reduce the total number of Basic Combat Training location from five to four.
- Relocating the Drill Sergeant School to Ft. Jackson fosters consistency, standardization and training proficiency. It enhances military value, supports the Army's force structure plan, and maintains sufficient surge capability to address future unforeseen requirements.
- Relocating the 81<sup>st</sup> RRC Equipment Concentration Site will provide improved training opportunities with operational forces, as well as, being consistent with the Army's force Structure Plan, and maintains adequate surge capabilities to address future unforeseen requirements.
- Establishing a new United States Army Reserve Center will enhance military value, improve homeland defense capability, greatly improve training and deployment capability, create significant efficiencies and cost savings, and is consistent with the Army's force structure plans and Army transformational objectives. Additionally, it provides the opportunity for other Local, State, or Federal organizations to partner with the Reserve Components to enhance Homeland Security and Homeland Defense at a reduced cost to those agencies.

### **COST CONSIDERATIONS DEVELOPED BY DOD**

	Maneuver Center	Single DSS	Fort Gillem, GA*	RC Transformation in GA
One-time Costs	\$773.1M	\$1.8M	\$56.8M	\$21.4M
Net Savings during Implementation	\$244.1M	\$7.6M	\$85.5M	\$3.54M
Annual Recurring Savings	\$123.3M	\$2.5M	\$35.3M	\$5.0M
Return on Investment Year	5	1	1	5
Net Present Value over 20 Years	\$948.1M	\$31.3M	\$421.5M	\$44.8M

\* All of Ft. Gillem recommendations do not involve Ft. Benning.

**MANPOWER IMPLICATIONS OF ALL RECOMMENDATIONS (EXCLUDES CONTRACTORS)**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Installation</b>	<b>Mil Net</b>	<b>Civ Net</b>	<b>Student Net</b>
Maneuver Training	Fort Benning	2,186	596	7,877
Single Drill SGT School	Fort Benning	-18	0	-153
Fort Gillem, GA	Fort Benning	0	91	0
RC Transformation in Georgia	Fort Benning	0	0	0
		<b>2,168</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>7,724</b>

**IMPACT**

- Gain – 2,186 military, 687 civilians jobs, and 7,877 average daily students
- Loss – 18 military and 153 students

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- Fort Benning has no significant environmental impact from the recommendations.

**MILITARY ISSUES**

- Fort Benning fully supports and is prepared to implement all BRAC recommendations proposed for the Maneuver Center.
- Fort Benning's net maneuver training area consists of 142,126 acres. The maneuver area is further divided into 63,694 acre for light maneuver and 78,432 acres for heavy maneuver. While utilization has increased over last three years, the utilization percentages for each training area varied from 1% to 23%. The available training days to support Armor School training is in excess of 190 days. Based on the data submitted by the Armor School (major training requirements, training land categories, and required days to train), Fort Benning can support the relocation of the Armor School and Center to Fort Benning.
- Fort Benning possesses unrestricted air space. Since first starting Airborne operations in the 1940's, military aircraft fly daily without civil airspace restrictions. Consequently, Fort Benning performs over 103,000 Airborne jumps annually, close air support training with Air Force aircraft during field exercises, and recently became the home of all RAVEN Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) training.
- Fort Benning tested the second phase of Basic Officer's Leader's Course (BOLC II). In July Fort Benning will execute the pilot course to train initial students and certifies all BOLC II instructors in a train the trainer format. In January 2006 Fort Benning will stand-up two companies of BOLC II for classes. With the establishment of the Maneuver Center at Fort Benning, and the currently available facilities, Fort Benning can accept the additional two companies programmed to operate at Fort Knox in FY06. Additionally, Fort Benning can accommodate this decision for \$10M where Fort Knox requires \$15M to establish facilities for the two companies, train

for two years, and then relocate, at an unknown cost, to Fort Benning and Fort Leonard Wood. According to Fort Benning if \$10M of the \$15M is redirected to Fort Benning, BOLC II can begin with four companies in FY06 at Fort Benning.

#### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED**

- The community fully supports the recommendations and is currently preparing to support and welcome the realigned Soldiers, families, civilians and support staff into the tri-community.

#### **VISIT FINDINGS**

- Fort Benning currently stated and showed (see attached Fort Benning Maneuver Center Plan) that it has a concept for the future Maneuver Center and a phased realignment plan that implements the recommendations to create a Maneuver Center that combines the Armor Center and School with the Infantry Center and School.
- MG Freakley, the Commanding General of the US Army Infantry Center and School, Fort Benning, GA, presented an initial concept plan and schedule for the Maneuver Center recommendation's implementation at Fort Benning. The plan will implement the recommendations by activating the Maneuver Center in FY07, consolidating the Armor School's non-tank specific programs of instruction in FY08, and consolidating the Armor School's tank specific programs of instruction in FY09.
- MG Freakley, on 3 June 05, directed the formation of a Maneuver Center Realignment Coordination Cell (MCRCC) led by an Armor Colonel in coordination with the US Army Armor Center and School. On 6 June 05 the MCRCC will begin operations and jointly work with Fort Benning's Maneuver Center 2009 Process Action Team established on 17 May 05. This organization will develop for consideration by the Army's leadership concepts and planning schedules for the BRAC Maneuver Center recommendations implementation.
- Fort Benning believes the synergy created by the Maneuver Center will provide a combined arms (Armor and Infantry) warrior culture that will produce the finest Soldiers and adaptive leaders for a joint and expeditionary force. Fort Benning indicates that Armor and Infantry training will be done to Army standards through the current, projected, and BRAC implementation constructed facilities.
- Fort Benning indicated that the scheduled and unobligated 2005 expenditure at Fort Knox of \$15M for construction to initiate an officer training course (Basic Officer Leadership Course – Phase II "BOLC II") in the next few years is uneconomical since that course will be transferred to Fort Benning and Fort Leonard Wood, and therefore would later incur duplicate construction costs.
- Fort Benning indicates it is ready to implement the recommendation to relocate the Drill Sergeants School from Fort Benning to Fort Jackson in 2006.

- Fort Benning indicated it is ready to implement the recommendation to relocate the 81<sup>st</sup> RRC Equipment Concentration Site from Fort Gillem to Fort Benning in FY09.
- Fort Benning indicated it is ready to implement the recommendation to construct and facilitate occupancy of a new United States Army Reserve Center in FY09 to consolidate Fort Benning area Reserve Component units into one center.
- An Army Research Institute (ARI) field office at Fort Knox supports with research the Armor Center, and similarly at Fort Benning another ARI field office supports the Infantry Center. When the implementation of the Maneuver Center recommendation causes the Armor Center to relocate to Fort Benning, the Fort Knox ARI field office is directed by BRAC recommendation to relocate to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD, to perform assigned research. The Fort Knox ARI field office has indicated that the BRAC recommendation (Maneuver Training) for ARI realignment does not meet ARI research needs. ARI officials confirmed in an email (attached) on 3 June 05 via the Fort Benning ARI office that the recommendation as written is inconsistent with ARI's view of Army needs. The Army is being asked to comment on whether or not the recommendations affecting ARI realignment correctly reflects the Army's intention.