

Alabama Ammunition Plant, Alabama

The Commission recommends Alabama Ammunition Plant for closure. The military value of the installation is lower than other installations in the same category, primarily because it has been in an inactive status since 1954, pending disposal. No capability to manufacture propellants and explosives remains at Alabama due to the fact that all production equipment has been removed. No mission or tenants need to be relocated. This closure will be paid back immediately. The Commission expects annual savings to be \$27 thousand.

The plant has significant environmental cleanup problems. The installation is on the national priority list for hazardous-waste cleanup. It has numerous contaminated sites and asbestos in several facilities.

The closure will have minimal impact on local employment.

There are no realignments of units required for the closure.

New Orleans Military Ocean Terminal, Louisiana

The Commission recommends New Orleans Military Ocean Terminal for closure. The military value of the installation is lower than other installations in the same category, primarily because its facilities and piers cannot meet its mission to process and embark a combat force. Its peacetime mission is the temporary storage of privately owned vehicles and household goods. This mission can be eliminated.

There are no costs of closure and relocation; thus, there is an immediate

payback. The Commission expects annual savings to be \$1.0 million.

Poor wharf configuration, inadequate piers, and low accessibility of loading areas disqualify the site for continued military use. The facilities are the only property under Army control and ownership. All other property, including the land, belongs to the city of New Orleans.

The substation and transformers on the wharf need to be surveyed for asbestos, PCB's, and underground storage-tank contamination before property transfer. The closure will have minimal impact on local employment.

There are no relocations of units necessary.

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Fort Sheridan, Illinois

The Commission recommends Fort Sheridan for closure primarily because it is located in a heavily urbanized, high-cost area with minimal potential for future growth. Its mission and tenants can be relocated. The net cost of closure and relocation will be paid back within one year. The Commission expects annual savings to be \$40.8 million.

Fort Sheridan is the operations base for Headquarters, Fourth United States Army, and the United States Army Recruiting Command. Missions include command and control of reserve units in the area; recruiting functions for the Army; and area support for Reserve Component units and recruiting operations. Its relocation outside of the Chicago vicinity will reduce operating costs for the Army. Approximately 60 acres containing reserve support facilities should be retained. The Commission anticipates the cemetery will

be transferred to the Veterans Administration.

Fort Sheridan is located on high-value property. The installation can be easily relocated. The only stipulation is that the relocation of the Fourth Army Headquarters must be within its seven-state area. The Recruiting Command needs to be centrally located due to its nationwide mission. Both activities require accessibility to an adequate transportation network.

This closure will have minimal environmental impact. Concerns that need to be addressed during implementation include historical buildings, a contaminated munitions burning site, various landfills, PCB transformers, and possible leaking underground storage tanks. Cleanup of contamination on these sites is covered under the DoD Environmental Restoration Program. Cleanup is independent of the closure.

The closure will have minimal impact on local employment.

The Commission recommends the following relocations of major units:

- The Headquarters, Fourth Army, and Headquarters, United States Army Recruiting Command to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

- The United States Army Recruiting Battalion Chicago, Illinois, and the United States Army Recruiting Brigade Midwest to leased space in Chicago.

Army Material Technology Laboratory (AMTL), Massachusetts

The Commission recommends Army

Material Technology Laboratory (**AMTL**) for closure primarily due to the condition of its facilities and infrastructure. The laboratory's mission of developing new materials to enhance the effectiveness and warfighting capability of the Army can be performed at other Army installations. Relocating that mission will take advantage of existing Army property, reduce base operations costs, and combine research groups with those working on similar technologies. The net cost of closure will be paid back within one year. The Commission expects annual savings to be \$7.1 million.

Army Material Technology Laboratory supports other laboratories in the area of material-development research. It provides advice, technical assistance, and support to other Army laboratories. It also performs failure analyses on developmental and fielded systems.

AMTL facilities need major renovation or replacement, the laboratory can be relocated and the construction avoided. The facilities are located on high-value property that can be sold to offset realignment costs.

The laboratory is currently hampered in performing its mission by the condition of the facilities and the supporting utility systems. Major renovation or complete replacement of the facilities at AMTL would be costly but necessary to overcome all the operational deficiencies. Closure avoids major renovation costs and enables the research functions to be performed more efficiently elsewhere.

Closure of AMTL will require consideration of hazardous-materials sites, asbestos, PCBs, and historically significant areas. Cleanup of these sites is covered by the Defense Environmental Restoration