

# **WATERVLIED ARSENAL, NEW YORK (JOINT CROSS SERVICE GROUP – INDUSTRIAL)**

## **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION**

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Realign Watervliet Arsenal, NY, by disestablishing all capabilities for Other Field Artillery Components.

## **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION**

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The Department no longer requires the capability for Other Field Artillery Components at Watervliet Arsenal. The Department will require and will retain at Watervliet Arsenal the capability to support core cannon tube, rotary forge, and swage. Disestablishing the Other Field Artillery Components capability will allow the Department to reduce its overall footprint at Watervliet Arsenal. It will also allow the Department to explore partnering with the local community, perhaps through a leaseback arrangement. This type of partnering could allow the government to reduce its footprint while maintaining that portion of Watervliet Arsenal needed to fulfill core capabilities.

## **COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

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The community did not oppose the realignment of the Watervliet Arsenal. The workforce at the arsenal has experienced a steady and significant decline over the last ten years, creating economic hardship in the city of Watervliet. While supporting the recommendation, the community desired a clarification of the Secretary's recommendation on the issue of leaseback arrangements. The DoD recommendation addressed the option of partnering with the local community and exploring leaseback options, but did not directly address the issue of conveyance. The community proposed that the entire arsenal site be conveyed to a Local Reuse Authority that will in turn lease it back to the Army for \$1 dollar per year, for as long as DoD needs facilities to continue the core functions detailed in the recommendation. Conveyance to, and leaseback from, a Local Reuse Authority would provide a greater opportunity to establish a high-technology business park that would support the Arsenal's core functions and the technology research and development functions of tenant Benet Laboratory.

## **COMMISSION FINDINGS**

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The Commission agrees with the Department's goal of reducing its footprint while maintaining the portion of the arsenal needed to fulfill core capabilities. The Commission encourages continued interaction between the Department and the Local Reuse Authority to develop an industrial development plan.

## **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Commission found the Secretary's recommendation consistent with the final selection criteria and the Force Structure Plan. Therefore, the Commission approves the recommendation of the Secretary.