



For more answers to frequently asked questions, visit:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/brac/02faqs.htm>

<http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsimweb/brac/FAQ.htm>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How were the bases selected for realignment or closure?

The primary consideration was Military Value:

- The current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of the Department of Defense's total force, including impact on joint warfighting, training, and readiness.
- The availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval, or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the Armed Forces in homeland defense missions) at both existing and potential receiving locations.
- The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge and future requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training.
- The cost of operations and the manpower implications.

### BRAC 2005 Mission

*Effectively and efficiently implement the congressionally approved BRAC 2005 recommendations, while maintaining the well-being of Army Soldiers, civilians and their families, and considering impacts to the Army's primary missions and to local communities.*

### BRAC 2005 Vision

*The Army's vision for BRAC 2005 addresses the challenges of new threats, force structure changes, and expanding missions: "A campaign quality Joint and Expeditionary Army positioned to provide relevant and ready combat power to Combatant Commanders from a portfolio of installations that projects power, trains, sustains and enhances the readiness and well-being of the Joint Team."*

### Were there other considerations?

Yes. While Military Value was the primary consideration, other factors taken into consideration were:

- The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.
- The economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations.
- The ability of both the existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions, and personnel.
- The environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance activities.

### The Secretary's list was released, what happens next?

- The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (consisting of nine members appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate) conducts open hearings, and issues its report and recommendations to the President by 8 Sept 2005.
- President must approve or disapprove the Commission's recommendations on an all or none basis by Sept 23, 2005.
  - If disapproved, Commission revised report due to President by Oct 20, 2005
  - President has until Nov 7, 2005 to approve revised report and send to Congress
- Congress has 45 legislative days or the adjournment *sine die* for the session to enact a joint resolution disapproving President's recommendations on an all or none basis, or the recommendations become binding.



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## Additional Questions and Answers

### What does closure mean?

Closure is defined as: All missions of the installation have ceased or have been relocated. All personnel positions (military, civilian and contractor) have either been eliminated or relocated, except for personnel required for caretaking, conducting any ongoing environmental cleanup, and disposal of the base, or personnel remaining in authorized enclaves.

### What does realignment mean and how will it be applied in BRAC 2005?

- Realignment is defined as: Any action that both reduces and relocates functions and DoD civilian personnel positions, but does not include a relocation in force resulting from workload adjustments, reduced personnel funding levels, skill imbalances, or other similar cause. Realignment may terminate the DoD requirement for land and facilities on part of an installation.
- Realignments in BRAC 2005 may result in installations gaining significant numbers of additional personnel, both civilian and military.
- Realignments in BRAC 2005 may result in more joint service basing as DoD seeks to maximize resource utilization.

**BRAC is a key strategic initiative for shaping the structure of the Future Army.**

### What about the environmental conditions at the closing bases?

- The Army's BRAC Environmental Cleanup Program is focused on expediting cleanup to make property available for reuse and transfer to communities, while protecting human health and the environment.
- Expedited cleanup is accomplished through early characterization of the property designated for disposal and evaluation of cleanup strategies, including performance based contracting and privatization of cleanup that incorporates redevelopment.
- An Army BRAC Environmental Coordinator (BEC) will be assigned for each closing installation to facilitate environmental restoration at that location.

### What happens to the base employees?

The Army is committed to taking care of its employees, both civilian and military.

- Military members and their families will be relocated to other active installations to continue their mission support roles.
- Civilian employees have a large number of programs in place to support several scenarios including relocation, retirement, job loss, retraining, and priority hiring at other federal agencies.
- Civilian employees are also provided with full-service placement assistance and job search preparation, retirement planning, financial incentives, credit counseling and crisis counseling services.

### How long will it take to close the base and transfer the base?

- Under the BRAC law, all operations must cease and the base be closed within six years of the closure decision.