

RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSFORMATION, DELAWARE (ARMY RECOMMENDATION)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Close the Major Robert Kirkwood United States Army Reserve Center and its organizational maintenance shop in Newark, DE, and re-locate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center and organizational maintenance support facility in Newark, DE, if the Army is able to acquire suitable land for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate Delaware Army National Guard units from the William Nelson Armory in Middletown, DE, if the state decided to relocate those units.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation transforms Reserve Component facilities in the State of Delaware. The implementation of this recommendation 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.

This recommendation is the result of a state-wide analysis of Reserve Component installations and facilities conducted by a team of functional experts from Headquarters, Department of the Army, the Office of the State Adjutant General, and the Army Reserve Regional Readiness Command.

This recommendation closes an Army Reserve Center in Newark, DE and relocates units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center and organizational maintenance support facility capable of accommodating Delaware Army National Guard units. This recommendation reduces military manpower and associated costs for maintaining existing facilities by collapsing two facilities into one. The Department understands that the State of Delaware will close the William Nelson Armory in Middletown, DE. The Armed Forces Reserve Center will have the capability to accommodate these units if the state decides to relocate the units from the closed facilities into the new AFRC.

The implementation of this recommendation 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.

This recommendation considered feasible locations within the demographic and geographic areas of the closing facilities and affected units. The site selected was determined as the best location because it optimized the Reserve Components' ability to recruit and retain Reserve Component soldiers, and to train and mobilize units affected by this recommendation.

This recommendation 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.

Although not captured in the COBRA analysis, this recommendation avoids an estimated \$10.9M in mission facility renovation costs and procurement avoidances associated with meeting AT/FP construction standards and altering existing facilities to meet unit training and communications requirements. Consideration of these avoided costs would reduce costs and increase the net savings to the Department of Defense in the 6-year BRAC implementation period and in the 20-year period used to calculate NPV.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

There were no formal expressions from the community.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission found no reason to disagree with the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense. In addition, the Commission notes that the Army's process was well thought-out and inclusive of the leadership of the Reserve Components and the State.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission found the Secretary's recommendation consistent with the final selection criteria and force structure plan. Therefore, the Commission approved the recommendation of the Secretary.