

FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY

(ARMY RECOMMENDATION - MANEUVER TRAINING)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign Fort Knox, KY, by relocating the Armor Center and School to Fort Benning, GA, to accommodate the activation of an Infantry Brigade Combat Team (BCT) at Fort Knox, KY, and the relocation of engineer, military police, and combat service support units from Europe and Korea. Realign Fort McCoy, WI, by relocating the 84th Army Reserve Regional Training Center to Fort Knox, KY.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation enhances military value, improves training and deployment capabilities, better utilizes training resources, and creates significant efficiencies and cost savings while maintaining sufficient surge capability to address unforeseen requirements. It properly locates Operational Army units in support of the Army's Force Structure Plans and modular force transformation.

This recommendation supports the consolidation of the Armor and Infantry Centers and Schools at Fort Benning and creates a Maneuver Center of Excellence for ground forces training and doctrine development. It consolidates both Infantry and Armor One Station Unit Training (OSUT), which allows the Army to reduce the total number of Basic Combat Training locations from five to four.

This recommendation also relocates the 84th ARRTC to Fort Knox and supports another recommendation that relocates Army Reserve Command and Control units to Fort McCoy. These relocations enhance command and control within the Army Reserve and promote interaction between the Active and Reserve Components.

This recommendation directly supports the Army's operational unit stationing and training requirements by using available facilities, ranges, training land at Fort Knox, KY, (vacated by the Armor Center and School) to effectively and efficiently relocate various Combat Support and Combat Service Support units returning from overseas, and as the installation platform for the activation of a new Infantry BCT. These units are a combination of the relocation of Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy (IGPBS)-related units returning from overseas and the activation of units as part of the Army's modular force transformation.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The Fort Knox, KY, community reluctantly supported the loss of Ft. Knox's Armor Center and School and the related armor tradition because of offsetting gains at Fort Knox from other DoD BRAC recommendations. However, it questioned whether the same quality of Armor training could be reconstituted at Fort Benning due to its concern that insufficient training land and facilities are available at Fort Benning. Both Fort Knox and Fort Benning communities requested clarification of which Armor Center and School-related activities will relocate to Fort Benning. Fort Knox wanted to retain a museum to preserve its Armor legacy.

The Columbus, GA, and Fort Benning community welcomed the relocation of the Armor Center and School, and indicated full support for this portion of DoD's recommendation. However, the Fort Benning community was concerned that an additional brigade combat team (BCT), previously planned for Fort Benning, is instead now identified in this recommendation for stationing at Fort Knox. The Fort Benning community felt the Army ought to station additional units at Fort Benning to more fully use its available capacity.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

Although the Fort Benning community was concerned that the Army BRAC proposal revised a pre-BRAC plan to activate a brigade at Fort Benning but did not identify substitute units to be based at Fort Benning, the Commission found that the Army does not currently plan to add major units to Fort Benning as part of BRAC but may do so outside of BRAC. Both the Fort Benning and Fort Knox communities requested clarification from the Army about which specific units would relocate under BRAC from Fort Knox to Fort Benning, and the Commission obtained the needed Army clarification. Last, the Fort Knox community expressed concern that the Armor Center and School functions might not be readily accommodated at Fort Benning, but the Commission found the Army would implement the transfer only as the moves are fully supportable and that Armor student training will not be degraded by BRAC moves. The Commission found that Army BRAC plans relocate the museum portion on the Armor school manning document, and remaining museum issue resolutions can be addressed during implementation.

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.

FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY (JOINT CROSS SERVICE GROUP – HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES; CONSOLIDATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES INTO JOINT REGIONAL CORRECTION FACILITIES)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign Edwards Air Force Base, CA, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM, and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA, by relocating the correctional function of each to Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, CA, and consolidating them with the correctional function already at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, CA, to form a single Level II Southwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility.

Realign Lackland Air Force Base, TX, Fort Knox, KY, and Fort Sill, OK by relocating the correctional function of each to Fort Leavenworth, KS, and consolidating them with the correctional function already at Fort Leavenworth, KS, to form a single Level II Midwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility.

Realign Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL, and Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, by relocating the correctional function of each to Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC, and consolidating them with the correctional function already at Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC, to form a single Level II Southeastern Joint Regional Correctional Facility.

Realign Naval Support Activity Norfolk, VA, Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA, and Camp LeJeune, NC, by relocating the correctional function of each and consolidating them at Naval Support Activity, Northwest Annex, Chesapeake, VA, to form a single Level II Mid-Atlantic Joint Regional Correctional Facility.

Realign Fort Lewis, WA, by relocating the management of correctional functions to Submarine Base Bangor, WA. The correctional facilities at Submarine Base Bangor, WA, and Fort Lewis, WA, will together form the Level II Northwestern Joint Regional Correctional Facility.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

The Department of Defense (DoD) Correctional program exists to enforce the military justice system, ensuring the safety, security, administration, and good order and discipline of its prisoners under guidance of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The UCMJ is legislation that is contained in Title 10 of the United States Code. It comprises a complete set of criminal military law and code. The DoD Correctional program currently consists of 17 DoD correctional facilities, which incorporate three facility classifications and four custody levels. There are eight Level I, eight Level II and one Level III correctional facilities. Level I is capable of providing pretrial and post-trial confinement up to one-year. Level II is capable of providing pretrial and post-trial confinement for prisoners/inmates with sentences to confinement of five years or less and Level III provides post-trial confinement exceeding five years, one day, to include life and death sentences.

This recommendation creates five Level II Joint Regional Correctional Facilities. The Southwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility consolidates the Naval Consolidated Brig Miramar, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar; the Edwards Confinement Facility, Edwards Air Force Base, CA; the Kirtland Confinement Facility, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM; and the Marine Corps Base Brig, Camp Pendleton, to a single Level II Joint Regional Correctional Facility at Miramar. The Midwestern Joint Regional Correctional Facility consolidates the Lackland Confinement Facility, Lackland Air Force Base, TX, the Army Regional Correctional Facility, Fort Knox, KY, the Army Regional Correctional Facility, Fort Sill, OK, and the components of the US Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, KS, into a single Level II Joint Regional Correctional Facility at Leavenworth. The Southeastern Joint Regional Correctional Facility consolidates the Naval Consolidated Brig Charleston, Naval Weapons Station, Charleston, SC; the Waterfront Brig Jacksonville, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL; and the Waterfront Brig Pensacola, Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, to a single Level II Joint Regional Correctional Facility at Charleston. The Mid-Atlantic Joint Regional Correctional Facility consolidates the Naval Brig Norfolk, Naval Support Activity, Norfolk, VA, Marine Corps Base Brig, Quantico, VA, and Marine Corps Base Brig Camp LeJeune, NC; to a single Level II Joint Regional Correctional Facility at Chesapeake. The Northwestern Joint Regional Correctional Facility consolidates the Army Regional Correctional Facility at Fort Lewis, WA, and the Waterfront Brig Puget Sound, Silverdale, Submarine Base Bangor, WA, to a single Level II Joint Regional Correctional Facility with correctional facilities at both locations.

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. Many DoD correctional facilities were built in the 1960s and 1970s; some were built in the 1950s. The Commission found that, clearly, new facilities are required to improve safety, security, and efficiency.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY
(JOINT CROSS SERVICE GROUP – HEADQUARTERS AND
SUPPORT ACTIVITIES; CONSOLIDATE/CO-LOCATE ACTIVE AND
RESERVE PERSONNEL AND RECRUITING CENTERS FOR ARMY
AND AIR FORCE)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign Army Human Resources Command leased facilities in Alexandria, VA, Indianapolis, IN, and St. Louis, MO. Relocate and consolidate all functions at Fort Knox, KY.

Realign the Air Reserve Personnel Center (Buckley Annex), CO, by relocating the Air Reserve Personnel Center processing functions to Randolph Air Force Base, TX, and consolidating them with the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, TX, and by relocating the Individual Mobilization Augmentee operational management functions to Robins Air Force Base, GA, and consolidating them with the Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, GA.

Realign Robins Air Force Base, GA, by relocating Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service to Randolph Air Force Base, TX.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

The collocation of military personnel and recruiting functions for Army and Air Force creates Service Human Resources Centers for Excellence and improves personnel lifecycle management. This recommendation enables Business Process Reengineering transformation to support several significant Department of Defense initiatives such as increasing Active and Reserve Component Total Force integration and effectiveness and supporting the Department's goals for the Continuum of Service concept which permits a range of participation to assist in force management and relieve stress on military skills that have been in high demand during recent operations and also supporting the ongoing development and implementation of the Defense Integrated Military Human Resource System (DIMHRS).

For the Army, this recommendation eliminates over 1,100,000 square feet of leased space with annual lease savings of over \$31.0M and a one-time cost avoidance of over \$30.0M. In addition, it eliminates over 248,000 gross square feet of current excess capacity and moves a large support organization of over 2,000 personnel out of the National Capital Region. For the Air Force, this recommendation eliminates over 100,000 gross square feet of current excess capacity. The Air Force reserve Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) operational command and management functions will be relocated and consolidated with the Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, GA for improved command management of Reserve forces assigned to the Command. The HSA JCSG agrees with the Air Force that the operational alignment of personnel would benefit the Department and this action creates a similar organizational construct with the Marine Corps. The Air Force Recruiting Service is currently located at Randolph Air Force Base; this scenario will collocate Active and Reserve Component headquarters functions in a single location and assist with overall Total Air Force Recruiting management. Randolph Air Force Base is also the current location of the Air Education and Training Command, further improving opportunities to coordinate personnel life-cycle planning. The overarching strategy for these consolidated human resources and recruiting centers extends to other organizations within the Army and Navy. The relocation of Army Accessions Command and Cadet Command from Fort Monroe, VA, and their co-location with the US Army Recruiting Command Headquarters at Fort Knox, KY, is captured in the installation closure

recommendation for Fort Monroe. The relocation of the Navy Reserve Personnel Center, the Enlisted Placement and Management Center and the Navy Recruiting Command Headquarters from Naval Support Activity New Orleans, LA, and their consolidation with the Navy Personnel Command and Navy Recruiting Command Headquarters at Naval Support Activity Millington, TN, is captured in the installation closure recommendation for Naval Support Activity New Orleans.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The Army portion of this recommendation generated expressions of concern from the communities of Alexandria, VA, St. Louis, MO, and Indianapolis, IN, due to the negative economic impact of projected job losses associated with the DoD recommendation. In particular, community representatives from St. Louis vigorously opposed the DoD proposal, and claimed they have the space to host the Command there.

Concerns related to the Air Force portion of the recommendation came from the Denver community regarding the economic impact of jobs slated to be realigned to Randolph AFB, TX. The Denver community did not become aware of the projected job losses when the DoD BRAC report was released in May because the numbers related to the Air Reserve Personnel Center were incorrectly reported and related to another unit that shares the same facility. When the accurate numbers were finally revealed, Denver advocates opposed the plan and urged the Commission to reject it, arguing the benefits of consolidation were overstated and the costs understated.

The receiving community of Fort Knox, KY, strongly supported DoD's recommendation and looked forward to becoming the new host for the Army's Human Resources Command, especially given the significant job losses created by other DoD 2005 BRAC recommendations.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission's findings supported DoD's recommendation to consolidate the Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, KY, rather than in St. Louis as proposed by the Missouri community.

The Commission's review and analysis of the Air Force portion of this recommendation found that certain elements did not promote the same kind of synergy created by the other service departments. For instance, unlike the Army plan to consolidate all personnel functions into one place, the Air Force recommended moving Reserve Component recruiting and personnel functions away from their parent command. The Commission found DoD's plan created the potential for mission degradation and overstated the benefits of consolidation. Finally, the Commission found the Air Force portion of this recommendation was not cost-effective, with a net cost of more than \$6 million in 20-year net present value rather than savings. The Commission amended the recommendation by disapproving the two Air Force realignments of the Air Reserve Personnel Center at Buckley Annex in Denver and the Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service at Robins AFB, GA, to Randolph AFB, TX. The Commission found that because the DFAS unit located at Buckley Annex was closed by another recommendation (see discussion on DFAS), moving the Air Reserve Personnel Center out of the Buckley Annex facility to nearby Buckley Air Force Base in Denver will allow the Air Force to close the facility, reducing its infrastructure and thus enabling significant savings in annual operation costs while averting the potential for mission degradation.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission found that the Secretary of Defense deviated substantially from final selection criteria 1, 4, and 5 and the Force Structure Plan. Therefore, the Commission recommends the following:

Realign Army Human Resources Command leased facilities in Alexandria, VA, Indianapolis, IN, and St. Louis, MO. Relocate and consolidate all functions at Fort Knox, KY.

Realign the Air Reserve Personnel Center (Buckley Annex), CO, by relocating the Air Reserve Personnel Center to Buckley Air Force Base, Denver, CO, and by relocating the Individual Mobilization Augmentee

operational management functions to Robins Air Force Base, GA, and consolidating them with the Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, GA.

The Commission found this change and the recommendation as amended are consistent with the final selection criteria and the Force Structure Plan. The full text of this and all Commission recommendations can be found in Appendix Q.

FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY (JOINT CROSS SERVICE GROUP – HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES; RELOCATE ARMY HEADQUARTERS AND FIELD OPERATING AGENCIES)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign the Zachary Taylor Building, a leased installation in Arlington, VA, by relocating the Army Installation Management Agency headquarters to Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Realign Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, as follows: relocate the Army Installation Management Agency Northwest Region headquarters to Fort Sam Houston, TX, and consolidate it with the Army Installation Management Agency Southwest Region headquarters to form the Army Installation Management Agency Western Region; and relocate the Army Network Enterprise Technology Command Northwest Region headquarters to Fort Sam Houston, TX, and consolidate it with the Army Network Enterprise Technology Command Southwest Region headquarters to form the Army Network Enterprise Technology Command Western Region.

Realign Crystal Square 2, a leased installation in Arlington, VA, by relocating the Army HR XXI office to Fort Knox, KY.

Realign the Park Center IV Building, a leased installation in Falls Church, VA, by relocating the Army Center for Substance Abuse to Fort Knox, KY.

Realign Seven Corners Corporate Center, a leased installation in Falls Church, VA, and 4700 King Street, a leased installation in Alexandria, VA, by relocating the Army Community and Family Support Center to Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Realign Rosslyn Metro Center, a leased installation in Arlington, VA, by relocating the Army Family Liaison Office to Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Realign Skyline Six, a leased installation in Falls Church, VA, by relocating the Army Contracting Agency headquarters to Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Realign the Hoffman 1 Building, a leased installation in Alexandria, VA, by relocating the Army Contracting Agency E-Commerce Region headquarters to Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Realign Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, by relocating the Army Contracting Agency Southern Hemisphere Region headquarters to Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Realign Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, by relocating the Army Environmental Center to Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Realign Fort Belvoir, VA by relocating Army Materiel Command (AMC) and the Security Assistance Command (USASAC, an AMC major subordinate command) to Redstone Arsenal, AL.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation relocates several Army Service Provider headquarters and regional offices in order to create operating efficiencies via co-location and/or consolidation. A new Installation Management Agency (IMA) Western Region office is created at Fort Sam Houston by relocating the IMA Northwest Region headquarters from Rock Island Arsenal; it collocates the IMA Headquarters with the IMA Western Region. Separate Army recommendations relocate other IMA regional offices to create the IMA Eastern Region at Fort Eustis.

This recommendation creates a new Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM) Western Region at Fort Sam Houston by relocating the NETCOM Northwest Region headquarters from Rock Island Arsenal. Separate Army recommendations relocate other NETCOM Region headquarters to create the NETCOM Eastern Region at Fort Eustis.

The Army Contracting Agency (ACA) is relocating the ACA Southern Region office to Fort Sam Houston where it will consolidate with the ACA Southern Hemisphere Region office that is relocating from Fort Buchanan. The ACA Headquarters and ACA E-Commerce Region will collocate with the ACA Southern Region at Fort Sam Houston. By a separate Army recommendation, the ACA Northern Region headquarters will relocate from Fort Monroe to Fort Eustis in order to collocate with the ACA Northern Contracting Center.

Several other Army entities will relocate in order to collocate with the aforementioned organizations at Fort Sam Houston: the Army Community and Family Support Center, the Army Family Liaison Office, and the Army Environmental Center. The Army Center for Substance Abuse and the Army HR XXI office are relocating to Fort Knox. Finally, the Army Materiel Command (AMC) and the Security Assistance Command will relocate to Redstone Arsenal in order to collocate with one of AMC's major subordinate commands, the USA Aviation and Missile Command.

This recommendation meets several important Department of Defense objectives with regard to future use of leased space, rationalization of the Department's presence within 100 miles of the Pentagon, consolidation of Headquarters operations at single locations, and enhanced security for DoD activities. It collocates the Headquarters of the Army's regional service providers that typically interact daily. It results in improvement in military value due to the shift from leased space to locations on military installations and from re-location of organizations from installations lying outside of the Army's portfolio of installations they intend to keep to installations with higher military value. The military value of the affected Army activities range from 219th to 303rd of 334 entities evaluated by the Major Administration and Headquarters (MAH) military value model. Fort Sam Houston is ranked 19th out of 334; Fort Knox is ranked 32nd, and Redstone Arsenal is ranked 48th.

Implementation will reduce the Department's reliance on leased space which has historically higher overall costs than government-owned space and generally does not meet Anti-terrorism Force Protection standards as prescribed in UFC 04-010-01. The recommendation eliminates approximately 234,000 Usable Square Feet (USF) of leased administrative space within the National Capital Region (NCR) by relocating 8 organizations to military installations that are farther than 100 miles from the Pentagon, thereby providing dispersion of DoD activities away from a dense concentration within the NCR. This, plus the immediate benefit of enhanced Force Protection afforded by locating service providers within a military installation fence-line, will provide immediate compliance with Force Protection Standards. Operational synergies and efficiencies gained by co-locating Headquarters and newly consolidated Regional offices will likely result in additional operational efficiency and/or personnel reductions in the future.

The relocation of AMC and USASAC to Redstone Arsenal will result in the avoidance of future military construction costs; this future cost avoidance is not reflected in the payback calculation because it is planned for post-FY05. This military construction would provide for a new headquarters building for AMC and USASAC on Fort Belvoir; the majority of AMC's current space on Fort Belvoir is currently in temporary structures.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

No community concerns were voiced during the review and analysis process regarding this specific recommendation. All organizations visited or contacted by the analyst stated that they could perform their mission from the new location. While there were some individual issues that would require adjudication during implementation, none were of such a nature as to conflict with the move or mission performance.

Community concerns over leased space in general received by the Commission questioned DoD's security standards, stating they were unnecessarily more stringent than those developed by the Interagency Security Committee (tasked with developing and evaluating security standards for Federal facilities.) Also, they questioned whether DoD had surveyed each facility to determine compliance and the level of compliance with the DoD security standards (or even those "less stringent" standards approved by OMB in September 2004).

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission found that all organizations had indicated that they could perform their mission from the new location. Individual issues requiring careful adjudication during implementation would not conflict with the move or mission performance, and none rose to the level of a substantial deviation.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY (JOINT CROSS SERVICE GROUP – MEDICAL; CONVERT INPATIENT SERVICES TO CLINICS)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC by disestablishing the inpatient mission at Naval Hospital Cherry Point; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign Fort Eustis, VA, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at the Fort Eustis Medical Facility; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign the United States Air Force Academy, CO, by relocating the inpatient mission of the 10th Medical Group to Fort Carson Medical Facility, CO; convert the 10th Medical Group into a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign Andrews Air Force Base, MD, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at the 89th Medical Group; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign MacDill Air Force Base, FL, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at the 6th Medical Group; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign Keesler Air Force Base, MS, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at the 81st Medical Group; convert the medical center to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign Scott Air Force Base, IL, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at the 375th Medical Group; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign Naval Station Great Lakes, IL, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at Naval Hospital Great Lakes; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign Fort Knox, KY, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at Fort Knox's Medical Facility; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

The Department will rely on the civilian medical network for inpatient services at these installations. This recommendation supports strategies of reducing excess capacity and locating military personnel in activities with higher military value with a more diverse workload, providing them with enhanced opportunities to maintain their medical currency to meet COCOM requirements. Additionally, a robust network with available inpatient capacity of Joint Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO) and/or Medicare accredited civilian/Veterans Affairs hospitals is located within 40 miles of the referenced facilities.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The Keesler Air Force Base, MS community questioned DoD's decision asserting a flawed military value analysis, an ineffective analysis of the effects of shutting down Keesler's Graduate Medical Education program on the community, and disputing the costing data used in estimating savings. If the recommendation is not reversed the community fears healthcare services for active duty personnel, dependents, veterans, and retirees will be drastically reduced in the 4-state area served by Keesler. Additionally, the readiness of medical training for deployment teams, and the medical support provided to the education and training mission of the base, would be adversely affected. Other community effects would be the loss of the current support provided for emergency services, medical support to retirees, and the loss of synergies and personnel support with VA and local hospitals.

Community leaders representing Kentucky questioned DoD's decision to convert Ireland Army Hospital at Fort Knox to an outpatient clinic and ambulatory surgery center when the Army planned to locate a brigade combat team (BCT) at Fort Knox. Standing up a BCT at Fort Knox will result in an increase in permanent party and families, thereby changing the overall demand for soldier and family medical support. Additionally, the community was concerned that if the Ireland Hospital were converted into an outpatient clinic, the local civilian hospitals could not absorb the projected increase in obstetrical care that will be required by the Ft. Knox population.

Community representatives from Cherry Point, NC and North Chicago, IL expressed concerns about converting their hospitals, Halyburton Naval Hospital, NC and Great Lakes Naval Station, IL to clinics with ambulatory surgery centers because active duty service members and their families would no longer have nearby access to inpatient medical services.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission found that DoD did not make a sufficiently detailed assessment of the available health care services within the referenced communities and failed to determine whether the civilian medical network would be able to provide needed medical services. Additionally, the Commission noted that GAO's analysis showed DoD did not coordinate with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to determine whether military beneficiaries in the referenced communities could have adequate access to care at VA hospitals.

More specifically, the Commission found that the civilian medical network around Ireland Hospital at Fort Knox would have difficulty providing medical services, particularly obstetrical care, to the service members and their dependents who would use Ireland Hospital. Moreover, the demand for health care services would measurably grow when Fort Knox gained an overseas brigade. Finally, the Commission acknowledged community concerns about available health care in the area surrounding Keesler Air Force Base and found DoD's proposal created a risk of insufficient health care services available to Keesler

beneficiaries if the medical center was downsized to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center. It was noted that several hospitals in the area of Keesler AFB are not part of the TRICARE network.

Additionally, in that this recommendation realigns several facilities to clinics with ambulatory surgery centers, increasing demand on outpatient services, the Commission urges DoD to provide the appropriate mix of healthcare providers and the proper level of staff to meet the demand.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission found that the Secretary of Defense deviated substantially from final selection criteria 1, 3 and 7, as well as from the Force Structure Plan. Therefore, the Commission recommends the following:

Realign Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at Naval Hospital Cherry Point; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign Fort Eustis, VA, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at the Fort Eustis Medical Facility; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign the United States Air Force Academy, CO, by relocating the inpatient mission of the 10th Medical Group to Fort Carson Medical Facility, CO; convert the 10th Medical Group into a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign Andrews Air Force Base, MD, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at the 89th Medical Group; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign MacDill Air Force Base, FL, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at the 6th Medical Group; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign Keesler Air Force Base, MS, by convert the medical center to a community hospital.

Realign Scott Air Force Base, IL, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at the 375th Medical Group; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

Realign Naval Station Great Lakes, IL, by disestablishing the inpatient mission at Naval Hospital Great Lakes; convert the hospital to a clinic with an ambulatory surgery center.

The Commission found that this change and the recommendation as amended are consistent with the final selection criteria and the Force Structure Plan. The full text of this and all Commission recommendations can be found in Appendix Q.