

RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSFORMATION, RHODE ISLAND (ARMY RECOMMENDATION)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Close the Bristol Army Reserve Center, Bristol, RI, the Harwood Army Reserve Center, Providence, RI, the Warwick Army Reserve Center and Organizational Maintenance Shop, Warwick, RI. Relocate all units to a new Army Reserve Center on Newport Naval Base, RI.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation transforms Reserve Component facilities in the State of Rhode Island. 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 three Army Reserve Centers in Bristol, Harwood and Warwick, RI; and closes one Army Reserve Organizational Maintenance Shop in Warwick, RI, and constructs a multifunctional Army Reserve Center (AFRC) on Newport Naval Base, RI. This recommendation reduces the number of separate DoD installations by relocating to an existing base.

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 optimizes 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 \$20.8M 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.