

RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSFORMATION, WEST VIRGINIA (ARMY RECOMMENDATION)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Close the Elkins US Army Reserve Center and its supporting Maintenance Shop in Beverly, WV, and re-locate units into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in the vicinity of Elkins, WV, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate West Virginia Army National Guard Units from the Readiness Center in Elkins, WV, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.

Close the 1LT Harry Colburn US Army Reserve Center and its supporting Maintenance Shop in Fairmont, WV, and re-locate units into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in the vicinity of Fairmont, WV, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate West Virginia National Guard Units from the Readiness Center in Fairmont, WV, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.

Close SSG Roy Kuhl US Army Reserve Center and Maintenance Facility in Ripley and the MAJ Elbert Bias USAR Center, Huntington, WV, and re-locate units into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in the vicinity of Ripley, WV, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate West Virginia National Guard Units from the West Virginia Army National Guard Readiness Center in Spencer, WV, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation transforms Reserve Component facilities throughout the State of West Virginia. 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 four Army Reserve centers, three supporting Maintenance Shops and constructs three multicomponent, multifunctional Armed Forces Reserve Centers (AFRCs), throughout the State of West Virginia, capable of accommodating National Guard and Reserve units. This recommendation reduces military manpower and associated costs for maintaining existing facilities by collapsing ten separate facilities into three modern Armed Forces Reserve Centers. These multicomponent facilities will significantly reduce operating costs and create improved business processes. The Department understands that the State of West Virginia will close three West Virginia Army Guard Armories: Spencer, Fairmont, and Elkins, WV. The Armed Forces Reserve Centers will have the capability to accommodate these units if the state decides to relocate the units from these closed facilities into the new AFRCs.

This recommendation considered feasible locations within the demographic and geographic areas of the closing facilities and affected units. The sites selected were determined as the best locations because they optimize 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 \$43.6M 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.