

UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON MICHIGAN, SELFRIDGE

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Close United States Army Garrison Michigan at Selfridge, which is located on Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Retain an enclave to support the Dynamic Structural Load Simulator (Bridging) Laboratory and the Water Purification Laboratory on Selfridge.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation closes the US Army Garrison Michigan (USAG-M) at Selfridge, which is located on federally owned property at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. USAG-M at Selfridge is the primary provider of housing and other support and services to certain military personnel and their dependents located in the Detroit area. Sufficient housing is available in the Detroit Metropolitan area to support military personnel stationed in the area. Closing USAG-Michigan at Selfridge avoids the cost of continued operation and maintenance of other unnecessary support facilities. A Bridging Lab and Water Purification Lab located on Selfridge, which are part of the Tank Automotive Army Research and Development Center at Detroit Arsenal, will be retained and enclaved. Six garrison personnel (Garrison Commander and staff) will be relocated to Detroit Arsenal. This recommendation enhances military value, supports the Army's Force Structure Plan, and maintains sufficient surge capability to address unforeseen requirements.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The community asks that the Army land be transferred to the Air Force when the Army's activities cease to preclude private development that could lead to encroachment problems for the flight mission. They also expressed concern that the loss of housing areas, lodging operation, post exchange, commissary, and other Garrison activities would have a negative impact on recruiting and retention for the remaining units, and would negatively affect the retiree and veterans' community as well.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission carefully considered the community's expressed concerns that closure of the Army Garrison Activity creates the potential for future encroachment that could affect the continuing flying mission at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The Commission found that the BRAC implementation screening process provides sufficient protections from development and possible encroachment. Federal and state agencies, — such as the US Air Force, US Air Force Reserve, National Guard Bureau, Michigan Air National Guard, or other federal or state agencies — have the opportunity to claim this land during the federal screening process. The Commission found that this, and community concerns for the effects of withdrawal of services provided by the Army Garrison, did not rise to the level of a substantial deviation.

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.