

FORT BLISS, TEXAS

(ARMY RECOMMENDATION - OPERATIONAL ARMY (IGPBS))

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign Fort Bliss, TX, by relocating air defense artillery units to Fort Sill and relocating 1st Armored Division and various echelons above division units from Germany and Korea to Fort Bliss, TX. Realign Fort Sill by relocating an artillery (Fires) brigade to Fort Bliss. Realign Fort Hood, TX, by relocating maneuver battalions, a support battalion, and aviation units to Fort Bliss, TX. Realign Fort Riley, KS, by inactivating various units, activating a Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and relocating 1st Infantry Division units and various echelons above division units from Germany and Korea to Fort Riley, KS. Realign Fort Campbell, KY, by relocating an attack aviation battalion to Fort Riley, KS.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This proposal ensures the Army has sufficient infrastructure, training land and ranges to meet the requirements to transform the Operational Army as identified in the Twenty Year Force Structure Plan. It also ensures the Army maintains adequate surge capacity. As part of the modular force transformation, the Army is activating 10 new combat arms brigades for a total of 43 active component brigade combat teams (BCTs). Including the results of the Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy (IGPBS), the number of BCTs stationed in the United States will rise from twenty-six to forty. Relocating the units listed in this recommendation to Fort Bliss, Fort Riley, and Fort Sill takes advantage of available infrastructure and training land. Fort Bliss and Fort Riley are installations capable of training modular formations, both mounted and dismounted, at home station with sufficient land and facilities to test, simulate, or fire all organic weapon systems. This recommendation enhances home station training and readiness of the units at all installations.

Relocating 1st Armored Division units and echelons above division (EAD) units to Fort Bliss will transform it from an institutional training installation into a major mounted maneuver training installation. This avoids overcrowding and overuse at other installations by stationing them at one of the installations with the greatest capacity. It also creates a potential opportunity for enhanced Operational Testing due to the close proximity of Fort Bliss to White Sands Missile Range.

Relocating an Air Defense Artillery (ADA) unit to Fort Sill supports the establishment of the Net Fires Center, combining the Artillery and ADA schools at Fort Sill and provides a force stabilization opportunity for soldiers in this unit. Relocating the Artillery (Fires) Brigade to Fort Bliss collocates the artillery with the maneuver units at Fort Bliss and vacates space at Fort Sill for the ADA unit.

Realigning Fort Riley by inactivating an Engineer Brigade Headquarters, two other engineer units, two maneuver battalions and other smaller units beginning in FY 06 directly supports the Army's modular force transformation. It also facilitates activating a BCT in FY 06, and relocating 1st Infantry Division Headquarters, the Division Support Command Headquarters, Aviation Brigade units and other units returning from overseas to Fort Riley. The relocation of an attack aviation battalion from Fort Campbell to Fort Riley supports the formation of a multifunctional aviation brigade at Fort Riley.

The Army obtained approval to temporarily station a BCT at Fort Hood in 2005 and another BCT at Fort Bliss in 2006. This recommendation validates the stationing of that BCT at Fort Bliss and relocates two maneuver battalions, an armored reconnaissance squadron and a support battalion from Fort Hood to support the activation at Fort Bliss. Relocating these battalions will provide the assets necessary to accomplish the activation. Relocating aviation units from Fort Hood supports the activation of a multifunctional aviation brigade.

While this recommendation does not in BRAC terms save money, the costs are mitigated by the non-BRAC savings that will accrue to the Department from the closure or realignment of the overseas locations from which these units come. Those non-BRAC savings amount to \$4,400M during the 6-year period and approximately \$20,000M of 20-year net present value savings.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Fort Bliss, TX was the only installation to express community issues to the Commission concerning the relocation of an operational air defense artillery (ADA) brigade to Fort Sill, OK. The Fort Bliss community argued relocating an operational ADA brigade to Fort Sill does not sufficiently consider the brigade's strategic deployment and training requirements. The community also believed that the certified data undervalued the airspace capacity at Fort Bliss. They urged the Commission to retain the ADA missile brigade at Fort Bliss and reject this DoD recommendation.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission found that realignments associated with this recommendation were consistent with the DoD justification.

The Commission conducted an independent and in-depth review of the requirements for training and live-fire of these systems. Fort Sill has 42,000 maneuver acres compared with 992,000 maneuver acres at Fort Bliss. While Fort Sill ranges cannot support live fire, and they are not compatible with tank or mechanized infantry unit maneuver requirements, they are compatible with the movement and positioning of artillery units. Field artillery units have trained at Fort Sill successfully for years, and the air defense artillery brigade will be able to accomplish its maneuver training at Fort Sill as well. The Commission's analysis confirmed that ADA units at Fort Sill will have to deploy to Fort Bliss to live-fire. The Avenger system requirement is to live-fire one missile per platoon every six months. Therefore, this will require additional simulation and deployments to Fort Bliss to meet the requirement. However, the Patriot system live-fire requirement is infrequent, with one missile launch per battery every other year, and only if missiles are available. This can be satisfied through simulation and deployments to Fort Bliss in conjunction with other joint exercises, to include Roving Sands.

The Commission found that relocating this brigade was not optimal, but it was suitable and did not rise to the level of a substantial deviation. It enabled the Net Fires center and concepts at Fort Sill through the collocation of an operational ADA brigade with an institutional ADA brigade, thus creating synergies and force stabilization opportunities between the units.

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.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign Fort Bliss, TX, by relocating the Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Center & School to Fort Sill, OK. Consolidate the ADA Center & School with the Field Artillery Center & School to establish a Net Fires Center.

FORT BLISS, TEXAS (JOINT CROSS SERVICE GROUP – EDUCATION AND TRAINING; NET FIRES CENTER)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation consolidates Net Fires training and doctrine development at a single location. The moves advance the Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN) model, currently in place at Fort Leonard Wood, which consolidated the Military Police, Engineer, and Chemical Centers and Schools. This recommendation improves the MANSCEN concept by consolidating functionally related branch centers and schools, fostering consistency, standardization, and training proficiency. It also facilitates task force stabilization by combining operational forces with institutional training. In addition, it consolidates both ADA and Field Artillery skill level I courses at one location, allowing the Army to reduce the total number of Military Occupational Skills training locations (reducing the TRADOC footprint). Additionally, it enhances military value, supports the Army's Force Structure Plan, and maintains sufficient surge capability to address unforeseen requirements. It improves training capabilities while eliminating excess capacity at institutional training installations. This provides the same or better level of service at a reduced cost. This recommendation supports Army Transformation by collocating institutional training, Modification Table of organization and Equipment (MTOE) units, research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) organizations, and other TDA units in large numbers on single installations to support force stabilization and engage training.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The Fort Bliss community agreed with the concept of consolidating the ADA and Field Artillery schools to create a Net Fires Center but believed it should be located at Fort Bliss because it would be less expensive at Fort Bliss, and Fort Bliss's missile ranges and maneuver space can accommodate the schools better than Fort Sill. For example, ADA missiles can be live-fired at Fort Bliss. Community representatives maintained that moving the ADA school to Fort Sill would degrade U.S. air defense weapon systems development and allied missile training conducted at Fort Bliss. They claimed that Fort Bliss is large enough to retain all units currently stationed there as well as the 1st Armored Division and that greater opportunity for stabilization exists at Fort Bliss because it will have more units than Fort Sill.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission found DoD's recommendation consistent with the Final Selection Criteria and the Force Structure Plan. The Commission carefully considered the seven major concerns raised by the Fort Bliss community. While it is true that ADA missiles cannot be live-fired at Fort Sill, the Commission found that the Army does not require live-firing of these missiles at Fort Sill. Similarly, the Commission found that sufficient training space exists at Fort Sill to accomplish the mission. Related to the concern that U.S. weapons system development and testing at Fort Bliss would be adversely impacted by relocating the ADA school and units to Fort Sill, the Commission found that development and testing are not tied to the location of these organizations and that these functions are principally the responsibility of other organizations. Moreover, the Commission found that training foreign allies at Fort Bliss is independent of the BRAC process, and allies would be free to choose to train at either Fort Bliss or Fort Sill. The Commission found compelling the Army's argument that the highest military value of both forts was obtained by relocating the ADA units from Fort Bliss to Fort Sill, including force and family stabilization.

Related to the concern that cost savings would be improved substantially by retaining ADA units at Fort Bliss while assigning other units to Fort Bliss, the Commission found that the approved recommendation correctly prioritized gains in military value relating to mission requirements, warfighting, training, and deployability, rather than generating higher potential cost savings from collocating all units of concern at Fort Bliss.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission finds 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 BLISS, TEXAS (JOINT CROSS SERVICE GROUPS – HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPLY ACTIVITIES; CREATE JOINT MOBILIZATION SITES)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC, and Naval Submarine Base New London, CT, by relocating all mobilization functions to Fort Dix, NJ, designating it as Joint Pre-Deployment/Mobilization Site Dix/McGuire/Lakehurst. Realign Submarine Base Bangor, WA, by relocating all mobilization processing functions to Fort Lewis, WA, designating it as Joint Pre-Deployment/Mobilization Site Lewis/McChord. Realign Fort Huachuca, AZ, by relocating all mobilization processing functions to Fort Bliss, TX, designating it as Joint Pre-Deployment/Mobilization Site Bliss/Holloman. Realign Fort Eustis, VA, Ft Jackson, SC, and Fort Lee, VA, by relocating all mobilization processing functions to Fort Bragg, NC, designating it as Joint Pre-Deployment/Mobilization Site Bragg/Pope.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation realigns eight lower threshold mobilization sites to four existing large capacity sites and transforms them into Joint Pre-Deployment/Mobilization Platforms. This action is expected to have the long-term effect of creating pre-deployment/mobilization centers of excellence, leverage economies of scale, reduce costs, and improve service to mobilized servicemembers. This recommendation specifically targets four of the larger capacity mobilization centers located in higher density Reserve Component (RC) personnel areas. These platforms have the added military value of strategic location, Power Projection Platform (PPP) and deployment capabilities. The gaining bases all have an adjoining installation from another service(s), thereby gaining the opportunity to increase partnership and enhance existing joint service facilities and capabilities. The eight realigned, lower thresholds/mobilization sites have significantly less capacity and many less mobilizations. The realignment of these pre-deployment/mobilization missions to the other joint pre-deployment/mobilization sites will not overload the gaining joint mobilization installations. These new joint regional predeployment/redeployment mobilization processing sites, Fort Dix, Fort Lewis, Fort Bliss and Fort Bragg, have the capability to adequately prepare, train and deploy members from all services while reducing overall mobilization processing site manpower and facilities requirements. Numerous other intangible savings are expected to result from transformation opportunities by consolidating all services' mobilization operations and optimizing existing and future personnel requirements. Additional opportunities for savings are also expected from the establishment of a single space mobilization site capable of supporting pre-deployment/mobilization operations from centralized facilities and infrastructure. The establishment of these Joint Pre-Deployment/Mobilization Sites will not preclude the services from using any/all of their other existing mobilization sites, nor will they affect any service rapid mobilization units/wings. These joint platforms will not affect any of the services units that

have specific unit personnel/equipment requirements necessitating their mobilization from a specified installation.

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.

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.