

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The local community contended that DoD did not accurately assess the military value of live-agent training at Fort McClellan. The decision to place the CDTF in caretaker status was not predicated upon military value, but rather on budgetary constraints. The loss of use of the CDTF could be detrimental to the services' chemical readiness and national security. The CDTF is the only **known** live-agent training facility in the free world.

Local officials claimed that environmental impediments and resulting costs will prevent the CDTF from being replicated at another installation.

Finally, closure of Fort McClellan could result in a CHAMPUS cost of **\$278** million by the year 2007.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission questioned maintaining the **CDTF** in caretaker status because it could contribute little if any to chemical defense preparedness. The CDTF could not be reactivated quickly. Moreover, the Army would have to obtain environmental permits for reactivation if the facility is shut down for more than one year, and start-up costs could range from **\$4** million to **\$7** million. Furthermore, depending upon the environmental and regulatory standards, the permitting process is currently estimated to require three to five years.

The Commission basically agreed with experts in the chemical field that the CDTF has high military value. The Commission also agreed that if a new CDTF cannot be built at the receiving base, then relocating the chemical school should not be implemented.

The Commission has not received any indication that another CDTF can be duplicated at any other installation. Duplicating the CDTF would require compliance with stringent environmental laws.

The Commission recognized the value of live-agent training in chemical defense.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission found a substantial deviation from criterion 1 (the current and future mission requirements and the impact of operational readiness of the Department of Defense's total force) and criterion 2 (the availability and condition of land, facilities, and associated air space) at both the existing and potential receiving locations. Thus, the Commission recommends that Fort McClellan remain open.

Fort Ord, California

Category: Fighting (Maneuver)
Mission: 7th Infantry Division
Cost to Close: \$150.8 million
Savings: 1992-97: -\$38.8 million;
Annwl: \$70.4 million
Payback: 2 years

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Close Fort Ord and relocate the 7th Infantry Division (Light) from Fort Ord to Fort Lewis, Washington.

The Army currently can house **13** divisions in the United States, but in **1995** will have **12** divisions. **Fort Ord** ranks relatively low in its category. Moving the 7th Infantry Division from **Fort Ord** to **Fort Lewis** reduces excess capacity, maintains flexibility, and capitalizes on the operational deployability and security attributes at Fort Lewis.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The community asserted that Fort Ord was penalized in the Army's ranking for being small, but that it is perfectly suited to train a light division. The community argued that the

Army could build (or enhance) an airfield at Fort Ord for approximately \$60 million–\$120 million. The community stated that closing Fort Ord would increase unemployment by 25 percent. The community also argued that the land value included in DoD's recommendation was overstated. Finally, the community asserted that adequate family housing existed at Fort Ord for all of the soldiers assigned to the installation.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission found that all installations in this category were treated fairly. It also found that moving the 7th Infantry Division from Fort Ord to Fort Lewis optimizes the use of Fort Lewis. The Commission also found that there will be an excess capacity of two installations in the category at the end of 1995. The Commission finds that the community assertion for deployability has some merit; however, stationing the division at Fort Lewis does enable the division to use nearby McChord Air Force Base for its deployment. Currently, the 7th Infantry Division uses a civilian airport or travels 150 miles to Travis Air Force Base. The Commission found that building an airfield at Fort Ord (or enhancing the existing airfield) will cost approximately \$97 million; however, environmental concerns may prevent the construction.

The Commission agreed that the land value was overstated, but the issue was not a factor in the Army's recommendation. The Commission found that family housing is limited and expensive. There are currently 1,365 families inadequately housed at Fort Ord. The Commission also found that training for the division, while readily available, is split among three different installations – Fort Ord proper, Fort Hunter-Liggett, and Camp Roberts.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission finds DoD's recommendation did not deviate substantially from the force-structure plan and the selection criteria. The Commission, therefore, recommends the

closure of Fort Ord, California, and the movement of the 7th Infantry Division from Fort Ord to Fort Lewis, Washington. This recommendation does not impact on the status of Fort Hunter-Liggett. Fort Hunter-Liggett therefore remains open and is still recognized as a valuable asset to the Army and DoD.

Fort Polk, Louisiana

Category: Fighting (Maneuver)

Mission: 5th Infantry Division (5 MX)

*Cost to Close: Fort Polk/Fort Chaffee
\$303 million*

Savings: 1992-97: –\$34.2 million;

Annual: \$22.9 million

Payback: 5 years

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) to Fort Hood, Texas, from Fort Polk, Louisiana; move the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) from Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, to Fort Polk; realign the 199th Separate Motorized Brigade (SMB) from Fort Lewis, Washington, to Fort Polk.

This realignment allows the Army to station the JRTC at the installation best suited to its requirements (Fort Polk) and to house two divisions at its finest fighting installation (Fort Hood). Realignment of the 199th SMB from Fort Lewis to Fort Polk to serve as the opposing force for units training at the JRTC enhances the JRTC capabilities and opens space at Fort Lewis for the 7th Infantry Division (Light).

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The community argued that the DoD recommendation would create excess capacity at Fort Polk. It also stated that unemployment would increase six to eight percentage points as a result of the combination of the Fort Polk recommendation and the Air Force's proposal to close England Air Force Base.