

RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSFORMATION, ILLINOIS (ARMY RECOMMENDATION)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Close the United States Army Reserve Center in Marion, IL, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Carbondale, IL, if the Army is able to acquire suitable land for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate Illinois National Guard Units from the following Army National Guard Readiness Centers: Cairo, IL, and Carbondale, IL, if the state of Illinois decides to relocate those units.

Close the United States Army Reserve Center in Centralia, IL, and the United States Army Reserve Center in Fairfield, IL, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Mt. Vernon, IL. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate Illinois National Guard Units from the following Army National Guard Readiness Centers: Mt. Vernon (17B75), IL, Mt. Vernon (17B73), IL, and Salem (17C65), IL, if the state of Illinois decides to relocate those units.

Close the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Waukegan, IL, and re-locate units into a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Lake County, IL, if the Army is able to acquire suitable land for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC shall have the capability to accommodate Illinois National Guard Units from the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Waukegan, IL, if the state of Illinois decides to relocate those units.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation transforms Reserve Component facilities in the State of Illinois. 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 United States Army Reserve Centers and constructs three multicomponent, multifunctional Armed Forces Reserve Centers (AFRCs) throughout the State of Illinois capable of accommodating National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve units. This recommendation reduces military manpower and associated costs for maintaining existing facilities by collapsing ten geographically separated facilities into three modern Armed Forces Reserve Centers. These joint-use facilities will significantly reduce operating costs and create improved business processes. The Department understands that the State of Illinois will close six Illinois Army Guard Armories: Cairo, IL, Carbondale, IL, Mount Vernon, IL, Mount Vernon, IL, Salem, IL, and Waukegan, IL. 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 \$29.8M 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.