

USAR COMMAND AND CONTROL NEW ENGLAND (CT, MA – ARMY RECOMMENDATION)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Close the Westover Armed Forces Reserve Center, Chicopee, MA, the MacArthur United States Army Reserve Center, Springfield, MA, the United States Army Reserve Area Maintenance Support Activity, Windsor Locks, CT, and realign the Malony United States Army Reserve Center on Devens Reserve Forces Training Area by disestablishing the 94th Regional Readiness Command, and relocate all units from the closed facilities to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center on Westover Air Reserve Base. Establish an Army Reserve Maneuver Enhancement Brigade headquarters in the new Armed Forces Reserve Center on Westover Air Reserve Base. Realign Devens Reserve Forces Training Area by relocating the 5th JTF, 654th ASG and the 382nd MP Battalion to the new Armed Forces Reserve Center on Westover Air Reserve Base. The new Armed Forces Reserve Center shall have the capability to accommodate Massachusetts Army National Guard units from the Massachusetts Army National Guard Armory in Agawam, MA, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation transforms Reserve Component facilities and command and control structure throughout the New England Region of the United States. 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 nation-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 supports the Army Reserve's Command and Control restructuring initiative to reduce Regional Readiness Commands from ten to four by disestablishing one major peacetime administrative headquarters, the 94th Regional Readiness Command, and creating a new deployable headquarters on Westover Air Reserve Base.

This recommendation closes one Armed Forces Reserve Center in Chicopee, MA, one United States Army Reserve Center in Springfield, MA, one United States Army Reserve Area Maintenance Support Activity in Windsor Locks, CT, and constructs a multicomponent, multifunctional Armed Forces Reserve Center on Westover Air Reserve Base. The Marine Corps Reserve units located in the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Chicopee will relocate to the new AFRC on Westover Air Reserve Base. The Department understands that the State of Massachusetts will close one Massachusetts Army National Guard Armory in Agawam, MA. The Armed Forces Reserve Center will have the capability to accommodate these units if the state decides to relocate the units from the closed facilities into the new AFRC.

Although not captured in the COBRA analysis, this recommendation avoids an estimated \$21.6M 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 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.

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.

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 force structure plan. Therefore, the Commission approved the recommendation of the Secretary.