

Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

EARLY BIRD

January 18 to February 6, 2006

Documents



Bulletized List of Incentives ...



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National News Articles

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Department of Defense Releases

“Uzbekistan Bargains with Germany for a Military Base in Termez.”

National News Articles

Local News Articles

Marina Saidukova. 2006. **“Uzbekistan Bargains with Germany for a Military Base in Termez.”** WPS: Defense & Security February 6, 2006

Uzbekistan Warned Close the German Military Base in Termez

Tashkent accuses Berlin of improper usage of their military base in Termez. It seems that on Moscow’s advice, Tashkent decided to abolish the base. A delegation from Germany would try to arrange things in the near future.

Tashkent accuses Berlin of the fact that “Germany had no right to send soldiers to Afghanistan through Termez – apart from their soldiers, there were more than 400 people from the United States, Hungary and Denmark”. We shall remind you that Germany is the only western state, which preserved its military base in Uzbekistan.

As Gazeta has already reported, last August, after the Americans heavily criticized the actions of the Uzbek authorities during disorders in Andizhan, the US got the official note with the demand to abolish the aircraft military base in Karshi-Khanabad. Shortly after that, the leadership of Germany started looking for a compromise in this connection – without waiting for when the same thing would happen to their base in Termez. So, despite the sanctions of the European Union, forbidding the arrival of 12 high-ranked Uzbek officials on its territory, German MFA gave a visa for Internal Affairs Minister Zakirzhon Almatov who came to Germany for medical treatment. December 10, 2005, the delegation headed

by Defense Minister Deputy Fridbert Pfluger signed a memorandum about prolongation of the soldiers’ stay.

The German base in Termez was established in 2002, in return for financial aid and military cooperation, which foresaw dispatches of armament and military hardware. During the three years, Germany modernized the airport, constructed a new take-off strip and a stop for nine big planes. Overall, in Uzbekistan there are 300 German soldiers and officers who support seven transport planes S-160 and five helicopters SN-53.

Famous political scientist, director of Kerber’s center in charge of the CIS at the German Foreign Policy Council Alexander Rar told Gazeta that such turn of the events could have been foreseen. “Uzbekistan did not have to forget that Germany, even being loyal to countries from the region of Central Asia (the Germans do not try to expand “orange revolutions” or impose their liberal values) is integrated into the European Union and is not going to play its own game in the region”, Rar considers. He made a supposition that “the Uzbeks counted on the independent position of Germany in the respect of the Iraq question, but it is impossible at Angela Merkel”.

Member of the Academic Council of the Carnegie center in Moscow Aleksey Malashenko, on the other hand, sees a “Moscow hand” in the intention of Tashkent to push away German soldiers from the country. According to his opinion, the declaration of the Uzbekistan MFA confirms the line of Tashkent aimed at closing in with Russia. “I think that Tashkent made a decision after at least discussing the problem with Moscow”, he said to Gazeta.

It is curious that at the same time, Tashkent demanded Berlin construct a hotel, a hospital and a rest center in Termez. It even quoted the sum needed – 20 million euro. Meanwhile, Germany has already invested 12 million euro in the modernization of the base and transacts 240 thousand euro for abode of the soldiers every month.

As they reported to Gazeta in the Moscow German Embassy, a delegation would be sent to Uzbekistan in the near future, which would try to arrange things.

Gazeta, February 2, 2006, p. 12

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Melvin R. Laird. 2006. **“Don’t Downsize The Guard.”** The Washington Post February 6, 2006

Funding Shortages Risk Creating a Second-Rate Army

There is great interest in the debate over our Army’s force structure, strategy and the relevance of the “Total Force” concept in the 21st century. Some have argued that the Total Force concept no longer “fits” our nation’s military strategy. Reflecting on all the reasons that the country adopted this concept in the 1970s, one must conclude that, to the contrary, it fits now more than ever.

We shouldn’t forget that the Total Force concept was based on the hard lessons of the Vietnam War and fiscal realities. The Guard and reserves were not mobilized during that conflict because President Lyndon B. Johnson preferred to use the draft rather than risk the political fallout of activating units in America’s heartland. When the Total Force concept was announced in August 1970, our plan was to integrate Guard and reserve

forces as full partners in defense. In so doing we were able to end the draft and establish the all-volunteer force. Better training and fully equipping our nation’s militia would be essential to ensure that we had a cost-effective force.

Fast-forward 30 years.

As we have experienced since the Persian Gulf War, when you call out Guard or reserve units, you call out America. The National Guard provides, through its dual state and federal mission, the necessary friction between the states and the executive and legislative branches to promote dialogue and debate about the nation’s defense priorities and policies. The Defense Department should learn a lesson or two from the recently completed Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Governors and members of Congress are stakeholders in the defense of America. The Defense Department would be wise to work with them when addressing the states’ Guard and reserve policies.

When examining the contributions to today’s war on terrorism, one sees a force in which the Guard and reserves have flown over 80 percent of all airlift missions and provided as many as half of the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. But under the rubric of transformation, the National Guard is in danger of becoming a second-rate force, falling behind in modern equipment and trained personnel. The new Quadrennial Defense Review reduces the Guard and reserves overall by more than 45,000 members, and it appears to be a polite way of starting downsizing.

The Defense Department should not tax its most cost-efficient agencies, the National Guard and reserves, to fund other shortfalls. The Army’s budget is not sufficient to

maintain or refit the regular forces, Reserve and National Guard, even to meet the limited military strategy being followed by the Pentagon. Our Army's equipment is in need of reconditioning and replacement after four years of war.

The percentage of military spending has not kept pace with the reality of a global war on terrorism. The nation is at war – at home and abroad. The cost of freedom has risen since Sept. 11. It will not be easy or popular to reverse the downward trend in defense spending. But the realities of the global terrorist threat and the outside possibility of conventional warfare from a challenge by a China, Iran or North Korea demand that we take off the blinders.

As one who was there at the formulation of the Total Force concept – with the end of the draft and creation of the all-volunteer force, with the Guard and reserves properly equipped and trained – I would argue that discontinuing these policies is not the answer to defense spending shortfalls. If we go back to the National Guard and reserves relegated to hand-me-down equipment – an afterthought – then the lessons of Vietnam will have been forgotten. Our economy is large, growing and productive, and can absorb needed additional outlays.

The Total Force concept has been a victory for America; I urge the Defense Department leadership not to turn it into a defeat. Energize the Total Force concept. The National Guard and reserves are – along with a properly configured regular force – the cost-effective solution for an uncertain future.

The writer was a Republican representative from Wisconsin for nine terms and then served as defense secretary from 1969 to 1973. He is senior counselor for national and

international affairs at the Reader's Digest Association Inc.

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Jim Hodges. 2006. **“Black History Month: in the ‘Freedom Fort’.**” Daily Press (Newport News, VA February 5, 2006

Civil War-era engraving:

At Fort Monroe on May 24, 1861, Union Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler told Confederate Maj. John B. Cary that slaves Frank Baker, Sheppard Mallory and James Townsend would not be returned to their owners. Said Butler, “I am under no constitutional obligations to a foreign country, which Virginia now claims to be. ... I shall hold these Negroes as contraband of war.”

Some descendants of the 10,000 “contrabands” who sought freedom at Fort Monroe call the Peninsula home.

On the night of May 23, 1861, Frank Baker, Sheppard Mallory and James Townsend slipped into a skiff and rowed across Hampton Roads from Sewell's Point in Norfolk to Old Point Comfort.

Being out at night without permission was dangerous for slaves. That they didn't know what was ahead made their trip even more frightening.

But they knew what they were leaving: fortifications for a Confederate artillery battery that they helped build under the command of their master, Col. Charles K. Mallory.

And they knew that he was going to take them south for more war work, forcing them to leave their families in Hampton behind.

“Whatever they had, they knew they would get a better shake from the Northern troops,” says Gerri Hollins of Hampton, keeper of the flame for the Contraband Historical Society, which has the lot of Baker, Mallory and Townsend as its genesis.

The contraband story is one of courage. It’s one of hope.

And it’s one of blind luck.

“They had no idea what they could expect at Fort Monroe,” says Robert F. Engs, a history professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He’s the author of “Freedom’s First Generation,” about blacks in Hampton from the Civil War through Reconstruction.

Had Baker, Mallory and Townsend escaped two days earlier, they probably would have been sent back by Fort Monroe’s post commander, Col. Justin Dimick. The Fugitive Slave Act required it.

So did President Abraham Lincoln, who censured other officers for trying to free slaves. Lincoln was still trying to hold the union together.

Had Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler not been sent to Fort Monroe on May 22 – “to keep him out of trouble,” Engs says – the slaves probably would have been returned.

It had happened to others who sought refuge at the fort.

Had Hampton not voted on May 23 to endorse the ordinance of Virginia’s secession, the slaves probably would have been returned.

But on that night, Virginia was no longer a part of the United States.

That confluence of events gave Butler, a lawyer by trade, the evidence he needed to tell Confederate Maj. John Cary – an emissary sent by Mallory to reclaim his property – that Baker, Mallory and Townsend would be staying at Fort Monroe.

It was a reunion of sorts.

Butler and Cary had met at the 1860 Democratic National Convention in Charleston, S.C., where both voted for Jefferson Davis to be the party’s nominee to run against the Republicans’ Lincoln. Stephen Douglas ultimately got the Democratic nod.

(In 1864, Butler turned down an invitation to run as Lincoln’s vice president, saying he would do so only if the president promised “that within three months after his inauguration, he would die.”)

In his memoirs, Butler writes that he told Cary on May 24, 1861: “I mean to take Virginia at her word, as declared in the ordinance of secession passed yesterday. I am under no constitutional obligations to a foreign country, which Virginia now claims to be.’

“‘But you say we cannot secede,’ (Cary) answered, ‘and so you cannot consistently detain the Negroes.’”

Butler’s response:

“‘But you say you have seceded, so you cannot consistently claim them. I shall hold these Negroes as contraband of war, since they are engaged in the construction of your battery and are claimed as your property.’”

Butler offered Cary a deal: If Mallory were to take an oath of allegiance to the United States, his property would be returned.

That wouldn't happen.

From that day, the term "contraband" became synonymous with "freedom" for slaves. It became a pejorative in the jargon of their masters.

And Fort Monroe – built with slave labor more than 30 years earlier – became the "freedom fort."

"Fort Monroe is a beacon of hope for our people," says Hollins, descended from a contraband. "It was the birth of freedom for our people en masse."

The day after Butler's edict, eight more slaves showed up at Fort Monroe.

The day after that, 47 were there, most camped near the chapel inside the walls of the fort.

By war's end, as many as 10,000 had appealed for contraband status at Fort Monroe and its companion, Fort Calhoun, which later became Fort Wool. They had spilled into Hampton, which had been burned and evacuated by its citizens to deny it to the Union troops.

"Think about it," says Mike Cobb, curator of the Hampton Museum. "Think about what Fort Monroe must have looked like then – some kind of monolithic structure, not only to slaves but to everyone.

"It had to be intimidating. Put yourself in the role of a slave in the field and approaching this great place, appealing for your freedom."

Freedom?

Baker, Mallory and Townsend went to work for the Union army for \$8 a month plus rations. Many of those who followed were similarly employed – women at half pay.

But shortly after Butler left later that year for New Orleans, the quartermaster under his successor – Maj. Gen. John Wool – began cheating the contraband. Wages were withheld. So was food.

By then, the former slaves had created the Grand Contraband Camp, that area in Hampton that includes today's Union, Lincoln and Grant streets. Contraband moved in among the rubble of Hampton, building houses of roughed-out timber. They called the area "Slabtown."

"When you stop and think about it," says Engs, "they might have been living under worse conditions than they had been on the plantations."

Except at the end of the day.

"The floors of many of the houses were dirt, and they were rough houses," says Cobb. "It was a quasi-freedom, but when they shut the doors, they were free for the first time in their lives, living in a home of their own."

In 1863 residents of Slabtown and the Grand Contraband Camp gathered around a tree, now called Emancipation Oak on the campus of Hampton University. There they heard the Emancipation Proclamation read for the first time.

Reports are that they rejoiced.

"I don't think they realized that they were accepted from the Emancipation Proclamation," Engs says.

Well down the document – just past three paragraphs of flowery language – is written that Virginia is included “except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City (now Hampton), York, Princess Ann (now Virginia Beach) and Norfolk.”

They were still contraband.

“Technically, they weren’t freed until the 13th Amendment,” Eng says. That was in 1865.

Hollins of the Contraband Historical Society takes a philosophical approach – much, she believes, as her ancestors did.

“If you are working for wages and believe you are free, you’re free,” she says.

The descendants of the contraband flourish in Hampton, but the symbols of their ancestors are vanishing.

There is no historical marker for the Grand Contraband Camp or Slabtown. Houses in the old neighborhoods are giving way to redevelopment.

“The story will continue, but people want to see something to remind them,” says Frank Earnest, an officer in the Sons of the Confederate Veterans and member of the Contraband Historical Society. “They want to be able to look out at something tangible. It’s hard to get when you look out and see another bank.”

The Hampton Museum has a display cabinet dedicated to the contraband, but there’s little in it, save for drawings and an ax that Cobb says symbolizes the building of the houses of Slabtown.

Fort Monroe is scheduled to vanish after a review by the Base Realignment and Closure commission.

“Fort Monroe won’t be gone,” Cobb insists. “It’s always going to be there in some way.”

Its Casemate Museum will probably survive in some form, says Dennis Mroczkowski, the executive director. But the Casemate has only a single window display dedicated to the contraband.

“You can’t display what you don’t have,” he says.

Hollins rails at what she sees as her heritage vanishing and campaigns for a contraband museum.

“When your history becomes null and void, you become invisible,” she says. “That’s what is happening in Hampton.”

Engs lived at Fort Monroe for two years and researched “Freedom’s First Generation” while his father was stationed at Fort Eustis. He hoped that his book would help perpetuate the contraband story.

He also teaches it in his classes.

“It’s a story that may be well-known in Hampton but not much anywhere else,” he says, “and it needs to be told.”

It’s the story of three men who led a migration to Fort Monroe, taking a giant step toward freedom.

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The Associated Press. 2006. “**WV Guard Fleet.**” Associated Press Newswires February 5, 2006

Charleston, W.Va. (AP) – Only months after escaping a plan that would have stripped the West Virginia Air National Guard’s 130th Airlift Wing of its planes, the unit has a new fleet.

The Charleston-based unit celebrated the arrival of the last of nine C-130H3 Hercules cargo planes on Saturday.

The planes, which had been based at the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg, replace nine older C-130H2 models as part of a modernization of both units.

The Martinsburg unit will get C-5 Galaxy aircraft, among the largest in the world, next year.

“We’re saying goodbye to an old friend that has taken care of us for 33 years,” said Lt. Andrew Schmidt, the 167th Airlift Wing’s public information officer.

After the planes touched down in Charleston, 167th commander Col. Eric Vollmecke handed a ceremonial key for the fleet to the 130th’s Col. Tim Frye, to cheers from National Guard members and others in attendance.

Unlike the H2s, the H3s have digital cockpits, as well as improved radar and better night vision, according to the National Guard.

“I woke up this morning and thought, ‘What a good day,’ because we could be at Pope Air Force Base instead of here in West Virginia,” said Adjutant General Allen Tackett, referring to the North Carolina facility that the Defense Department had recommended as the new home of the unit’s planes.

“That fight is over and we are still here” said Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., who has been credited with leading the effort to persuade the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to reject the Pentagon’s plan for the 130th.

“Is there some fight still left in the 130th Airlift Wing?” Byrd asked, to loud cheers. “You better believe it.”

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Staff. 2006. “**Alliance for Augusta Regional?** Augusta (GA) Chronicle February 4, 2006

Same Local Boosterism That Saved Fort Gordon Could Save Airport

Fort Gordon is in Augusta, but the entire Central Savannah River Area came together for several years in the struggle to keep the fort off the Pentagon’s 2005 base closure and realignment list.

Something like the region-wide campaign to save Fort Gordon needs to be applied to Augusta Regional Airport. Both the airport and the fort are crucially important to the area’s economy, albeit in different ways.

To be sure, Augusta Regional isn’t in danger of shutting down, says airport director Buster Boshears, but with a little help from area travelers and economic developers, Bush Field could be providing better service at lower cost. What it needs are more passengers.

Studies indicate that nearly 50 percent of the CSRA’s flying public choose to pass up Augusta Regional to fly out of other airports, particularly in Atlanta and Columbia, S.C. That’s an astounding figure, inexcusable for a major metropolitan area. Yet with a little awareness-raising effort and

a touch of Fort Gordon-like boosterism, much of the “leakage,” as it’s called in the aviation industry, could be plugged.

If Bush Field recovered a good percentage of the travelers it’s missing out on, more airlines would show interest in the local market, air fares would start to come down and service would soon improve. More airport traffic would generate more federal grants and user fees to further improve services and upgrade equipment.

The question is, how can the flying public be lured to Augusta Regional?

Price discrepancy, of course, is the main reason people don’t use local air service. If one can save several hundred dollars flying out of Atlanta or Columbia, says Boshears, then by all means take the savings. His point is that oftentimes the price discrepancy isn’t large enough to justify the drive time, gas and parking fees.

He urges CSRA travelers to balance the inconvenience and price of their out-of-town tickets against the value of their travel time and comfort. From that perspective they might find it’s cheaper to fly out of Augusta after all.

In any event, Boshears urges area travelers to first check with Augusta before making their travel plans – and that means both airlines, the Delta subsidiary and US Airways. Augusta is such a Delta town, says Boshears, that many folks forget about US Airways, which sometimes is considerably less expensive than Delta.

Timing also is important – advance bookings can often save a lot of money, even when compared with Atlanta and Columbia.

A few other key points Boshears makes is that Augusta Regional is the community’s airport. It’s owned by local taxpayers. This is where boosterism comes in. With active community support the airport can survive and thrive, paying dividends to taxpayers; without that support, business and the economy could be hurting. And the airport’s cost becomes a drag on taxpayers. Don’t let that happen.

Finally, Boshears points out that it’s wrong to blame the airport for ticket prices, as many misinformed travelers do. Airport personnel have nothing to do with ticket prices, which are set by the airlines. Only area travelers can bring airfares down by using the local airport whenever it’s practical and affordable for them to do so.

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February 2, 2006

County Wants Fairchild Buffer.

The Spokesman-Review (Spokane, WA)
Alison Boggs.

An effort to insulate Fairchild Air Force Base from any future threat of closure has Spokane County knocking on the governor’s door, asking for almost \$1 million.

Spokane County would like \$910,000 out of a \$5 million fund, which Gov. Chris Gregoire designated in her proposed budget to protect the state’s Air Force bases from encroachment due to residential or commercial development.

The \$5 million was set aside last year to assist Washington communities in fighting off efforts to close military bases during the recent federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission process. However, as none of the state’s bases was targeted for closure by BRAC, that money was never spent.

Spokane County would like to purchase 160 acres at the end of Fairchild's runway to eliminate a gravel pit and ponds that exist on the property, said Commissioner Todd Mielke. The county also is in the process of identifying property for the relocation of the Geiger Spur rail line and discovered the planned route runs across a small part of that land, Mielke said.

Encroachment issues were always something that could be held against you in a BRAC review, Mielke said. The land was cited as a potential liability in keeping Fairchild open in the last two BRAC reviews.

If the county is successful in acquiring the land, Mielke said, it would be zoned to prevent any future development or public use. Additional issues raised by the mining operations and ponds on the land include dust, electrical interference with aircraft controls and birds flying into the path of the planes, said Maj. Carol Gering, a Fairchild spokeswoman.

We think mining in that area so close to the end of the runway is an incompatible use with our operation, said John Gibson, a community planner in Fairchild's civil engineering division. The base approached the county and the Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce about the county acquiring that land, Gibson said.

The land is owned by Northwest Industrial Services, which runs its gravel pit on 45 of the 160 acres. Ted Condon, a partner in that business, said negotiations have not begun for the purchase of that property, but his company would be open to discussing a sale if it will help protect Fairchild.

We wouldn't be in any position to hinder the process, Condon said. The Air Force base is Spokane County's largest employer, with more than 5,000 employees. We do other business with Fairchild directly, so we want to see it stay around as much as the next guy.

If the county lands the funding, Mielke said, its next step would be to commission an appraisal of the land. State law requires public agencies to pay no more than the appraised value for a piece of property, he said.

However, it's not clear whether the governor's proposed use for that \$5 million will survive in the House and Senate versions of the budget, neither of which has been revealed. State Rep. Hans Dunshee, D-Snohomish, chairman of the House's construction-budget committee, said he's unsure it's the state's responsibility to purchase buffer land around the military bases.

The bases are federal complexes, and the counties are responsible for the zoning that permits development to occur, he said.

I'm not closed to the possibility of state action, but the state shouldn't be the first place people come for money, Dunshee said. It's something we want to consider, but it's not an immediate, immediate threat.

Mielke, however, said the governor already has identified protecting military bases as a state priority.

She recognizes that and has stepped up to the plate, he said.

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Unattributed. 2006. Sen. Burns Comments on DOD's Quadrennial Defense Review,

Malmstrom, National Guard. US Fed News (February 3).

Washington, Feb. 3 * The office of Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., issued the following statement:

Sen. Conrad Burns (R * Mont.) today issued the following statement regarding the Defense Department's Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), which was released today:

Today the Defense Department released its Quadrennial Defense Review or QDR, which details their specific plan for restructuring the military.

I've been working with senior Defense officials for months through this process, including meetings with Secretary Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary England, Air Force Secretary Wynne and STRATCOM General Cartwright in the last two weeks alone.

I support restructuring the military to meet emerging threats around the globe. I believe Montana will play a key role in the transformation of the military. Today's QDR is a Master Plan for the next four years, and now DOD must come to Congress for funding. I sit on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and will have a key role in this process.

The QDR raises two important issues for Montanans:

1) The three missile states of Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota are slated to absorb a missile cut to 450 from 500. Although not specified in the report, we believe the 50 missiles will come from Malmstrom and be used for testing over several years. This is not a completed deal, and there will be debate on this point

between Congress and DOD. In order to offset the potential short-term loss for Malmstrom, I am working with the Air Force to re-open the runway and bring new missions to Malmstrom. Air Force Secretary Wynne confirmed to me the first step in this process will be taken in March, when an Attributes Study of Malmstrom is conducted. I believe the military will bring new missions to Malmstrom.

2) DOD also suggests that the Army National Guard force structure will be reduced to 106 Brigades, roughly 324,000 soldiers nationwide, down from the present force level of just under 350,000. Two weeks ago DOD assured me that the Montana Army National Guard will maintain its force structure of 2,500 soldiers. Although I am optimistic about this promise, the overall reductions that have been released for the Army National Guard across the country are unacceptable. Congress will not allow a cut in the National Guard, and I signed a letter to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld stating just that, and the letter bears the signatures of 78 senators. Cutting the National Guard when they've been stretched thin and perform miraculously over the past few years in unwise and will not happen.

I believe the QDR offers opportunities for a new mission at Malmstrom. Montana has clear skies, low population, unimpeded air space, and fantastic facilities at Malmstrom that can be better utilized with new missions.

Matt Mackowiak, 202/224-6830, 202/380-8183.

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Sen. Lieberman Lauds Sub Production Increase in Quadrennial Defense Review.
US Fed News (February 3).

Washington, Feb. 3 * The office of Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., issued the following press release:

Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT) made the following statement today in response to the Pentagon's release of the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR):

As announced in the Quadrennial Defense Review, I applaud the Defense Department's decision to increase submarine production to two boats a year in 2012. However, the latest Navy force structure plan calls for a fleet of approximately 50 submarines. If the Navy waits until 2012 to increase production to two submarines a year, it cannot maintain its targeted level.

As the BRAC Commissioners understood when they followed our recommendations to keep open Submarine Base New London, the United States must counter the growing threat of other nations that are rapidly increasing their submarine production. We must keep our maritime industrial base healthy in Connecticut, and increase production to two submarines a year before the targeted 2012 date. This is an issue which is vital to our local economy and our national security.

As our nation's military transforms from a fighting force skilled primarily in defeating conventional threats to a force tasked to respond to irregular and non-traditional threats, I know that Connecticut companies will step up to the plate and provide the defense research and products necessary to win the long war on terrorism.

Rob Sawicki, 202/224-4041.

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Cal State East Bay Deliberating Campus at Naval Weapons Base.

Contra Costa Times
(Walnut Creek, CA)
(February 3): F4.

Cal State East Bay students face a frustrating task driving to their Concord campus, perched in the Mount Diablo foothills at least five miles from freeways.

This access problem has led dean Peter Wilson to envision building a 200-acre campus at the former Concord Naval Weapons Station, not far from highways 4 and 242.

The current location along the congested Ygnacio Valley Road constrains what (enrollment) size we can think of and constrains the kinds of programs we can develop, said Wilson, who leads the Concord campus. It's an issue we have to resolve.

And the university has a bargaining chip: It could give about one-third or more of its current 386-acre property to the city as open space in exchange for some weapons station land, Wilson said.

The university property borders the Lime Ridge Open Space and could be a natural extension of the city's greenbelt. Cal State, which has built on only 5 percent of its Concord land, would hold on to its five buildings and continue some classes there.

Wilson and city leaders warn that such a proposal is in its infant stages and details of a precise location on the former base and

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how much it would cost have not been determined.

But Mayor Susan Bonilla said it's an idea worth exploring, especially since she envisions a university research center anchoring the area's development on the 5,170-acre former base.

I could see partnerships with the CSU and the research center, said Bonilla, a high school English teacher. I could see a high school component to it too with students in the labs. It's fun to think of all the possibilities.

Cal State's Concord branch was founded in 1992 as a satellite location of the main Hayward campus.

At the time, community leaders envisioned Concord would become its own separate university and an expressway linking Walnut Creek to East County would come by campus.

Environmental concerns killed the expressway idea and Wilson said it's doubtful Concord will become its own college anytime soon.

The Concord campus is the only place in Contra Costa County where students can earn a bachelor's degree from a public university. About 1,700 students * the majority from Central County, followed by East County * go there for upper-division classes that are primarily offered at night.

By building classrooms, labs, a library and other facilities at the former weapons station, Wilson estimated that enrollment could grow to more than 20,000 at build out.

One method to obtain that property is through a military program called a public benefit conveyance, said Harry Kelso, who leads Base Closure Partners, a consultant group.

Concord's leaders and the Navy could set aside land for schools, libraries, post offices or other public buildings at no cost or below market value. If the Navy follows recent models, it would then auction the remaining land to developers.

There's a very public benefit to having a university, Kelso said. The hardest part on this is not getting the military to play ball, it's that everyone in the community needs to be on the same page for the Navy to say OK.

In the next couple months, Concord officials plan to hold the first of many public hearings to get input on the future of the weapons station.

The city's nonbinding draft general plan calls for up to 13,000 homes on the former base and dedicating up to half the land as open space, trails and recreation fields.

In November, Congress approved closing the base's inland portion in a cost-cutting move that will save the federal government millions of dollars every year. The Army will continue to operate the Suisun Bay port and the 7,600 acres that surround it.

Ryan Huff covers Concord and Clayton. Reach him at 925-977-8471 or rhuff@cctimes.com.

Concorde Campus Snapshot

Campus founded in 1981 at former Pleasant Hill High School; moved to Concord in 1992.

1,700 students

Offers nine bachelor's and six master's degrees

Web site: www.concord.csueastbay.edu

Rep. Rehberg Deeply Concerned with Missile Reduction in DOD's Report.

US Fed News
(February 3).

Washington, Feb. 3 * Rep. Dennis Rehberg, R-Mont. (at large), issued the following press release: Montana's Rep. Denny Rehberg said the Pentagon's decision to reduce the number of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM) by 50 would negatively impact Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls. The Department of Defense released its Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) today outlining its strategic plan to realign military forces and technologies.

Malmstrom currently houses 200 of our nation's force of 500 ICBMs.

the report is disconcerting, but we have to be creative and stay focused on Malmstrom's strengths and assets, said Rehberg, a member of the Military Quality of Life Appropriations Subcommittee. Malmstrom makes crucial contributions to the community and plays a vital role in our national defense, and I will work to make sure it remains a key player on each of these fronts.

Anticipating the QDR, Rehberg consistently voiced his support for Malmstrom's ICBM force by sending letters to the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and the Secretary of Defense. Last April, Rehberg traveled to Colorado Springs to meet with Space Commander

General Lord to advocate on behalf of Malmstrom. Throughout the summer, Rehberg met with Air Force Procurement Generals Wood and Fletcher to discuss new missions for Malmstrom. Last fall, Rehberg authored legislation to make the maintenance of 500 ICBMs official U.S. policy. In 2004, Rehberg worked to form the Malmstrom Advisory Council on Base Realignment and Closure (MACBRAC), a body which worked to promote Malmstrom missions during the base realignment and closure process.

Conrad, Max and I will work together to map out a strategy for Malmstrom's future, Rehberg said. The future could include shifting warheads from nuclear to conventional, which would allow us to maintain the global protection, precision, and reliability that our ICBM's currently provide.

I know Malmstrom will continue to be a major asset for our national defense as well as the Great Falls region, Rehberg said. I look forward to working with the delegation to ensure a secure future for the base.

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BRAC-Affected People Will Need to Move to Find Jobs.

Air Force Reserve Command News Service
February 3, 2006.

Robins Air Force Base, Ga. (AFPN) * While many Air Force Reservists and civilians know their jobs will change under base realignment and closure, or BRAC, one of the most difficult things to grasp is how those shifts will happen.

To date, none of the BRAC actions affecting Air Force Reserve Command units will move entire units from one location to another, and no one will automatically get a

job at new locations. If affected by BRAC, old jobs will go away and people will have to compete for new positions wherever available.

Keeping our highly trained, highly experienced people is vital to our command's success, said Steve Mann, director of personnel at Headquarters AFRC here.

To ease the transition, gaining units will give first priority to those moving under BRAC.

Our goal is to take care of our people, Mr. Mann said.

To do that, the command is providing full-time civilians and Reservists new Web-based job placement services. Called clearinghouses, these virtual job fairs take personal career and location preferences into account and work to match BRAC-displaced people with new opportunities.

The clearinghouses will allow military personnel flights to work with commanders and individuals to give BRAC-impacted people priority over new hiring or internal placement, Mr. Mann said.

According to A BRAC Guide for Civilian and Military Personnel Issues * released by the command in January * gaining units must give first priority for placement in vacant positions to displaced people who register in one of the clearinghouses.

The technical reason why BRAC-displaced workers must find new jobs at new locations is because of the transfer of function rules. None of the command's BRAC actions qualify as a transfer of function. In cases where a job move is not a transfer of function, employees do not have a right to

move with their job to the new unit. While employees may be given a chance to apply, they may have to compete with other candidates for the job.

Command people displaced by BRAC can learn more by accessing the guide from a military computer at www.mil.afrc.af.mil/hq/dp/brac.

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BRAC Keeps Military Health System Relevant.

Department of Defense U.S. Air Force Releases
February 3 2006.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, process has created opportunities and challenges for the military community, and specifically the military medicine community, the commission's chairman said here Feb. 2.

Four BRAC actions affect large medical facilities. At least four more affect medical research and management activities, and seven outpatient hospitals will convert to clinics with ambulatory surgery capability, said Anthony J.

Principi at the State of the Military Health System 2006 Annual Conference.

The BRAC-mandated changes will help the military health system become a more modern, joint force capable of dealing with the changing environment, Mr. Principi said.

The worlds of national defense and of medicine are changing ever more rapidly and ever more profoundly. And just as chance favors the prepared mind, change favors the prepared organization, he said.

The decision to realign Walter Reed Army Medical Center here into a multiservice facility upset many people, Mr. Principi said. They perceived it as the loss of a facility with rich heritage and a world-class reputation. But the BRAC commission agreed the change will transform a legacy * an aging medical infrastructure * into a premier, modernized joint operational medicine platform, he said.

Another example of transformation is the decision to establish a joint medical facility at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and to convert nearby Wilford Hall Medical Center on Lackland Air Force Base into an ambulatory care center, Mr. Principi said.

The BRAC addressed many infrastructure issues, but the top priority for health care leadership is providing quality care for service members and their families, Mr. Principi said.

Those men and women look to you * the health care professionals in this room * to provide them and their families with the medical care they need, he said.

Change will be painful at first, as it is in all organizations, Mr. Principi said, but it is necessary to keep up with a society and an environment that will continually evolve.

Over the long run, the status quo and a dynamic environment are incompatible, he said.

The BRAC results will make the military health system able to adapt to this changing environment and continue to be relevant to its beneficiaries, Mr. Principi said.



New Orleans to Be First AF Reserve BRAC Closure.

Air Force Reserve Command News Service
February 3, 2006.

Air Force Reserve Command's 926th Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans will be the command's first wing affected by the most recent Base Realignment and Closure.

Moved up a year, resources from the 926th will realign to four bases: Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.; Nellis AFB, Nev.; Whiteman AFB, Mo.; and Barksdale AFB, La. The first A-10 Thunderbolts will move to Whiteman and Barksdale March 15. The A-10 moves will remain temporary until environmental impact assessments are completed.

Headquarters AFRC officials here announced the realignments Jan. 20.

While the timeline for realigning the wing is earlier than expected, officials stress it is necessary because Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage to the New Orleans base.

□ The timeline for moving aircraft and closing the 926th Fighter Wing is based on key factors * the need to transform the military, the way we do business and taking care of our personnel, □ said Maj. Gen. Charles Stenner, director of plans and programs at Headquarters AFRC.

□ In order to promote the readiness of our flying wings, resources from the 926th must shift to other bases, □ General Stenner said.
□ Mission demands dictate that timeline. □

After assessing the damage done by the hurricane, it was determined that the unit would not be able to maintain wartime readiness.

□ Moving the A-10s to two of our other bases will increase overall mission effectiveness, □ the general said.

Before the moves are considered permanent, the units receiving the BRAC additions must successfully complete environmental impact evaluations. In addition to the aircraft and equipment moves, the realignment is scheduled to move about 840 people from New Orleans by Sept. 30.

□ It is never the easy or desirable course of action to displace men and women who have devoted their lives to defending our nation, □ General Stenner said. □ People are our most valuable asset and we'll do everything possible to assist every member of the unit * traditional Reservists, technicians and civilians * in finding new jobs. □

While closing the New Orleans wing early in the BRAC process will help meet mission demands, it will also provide displaced members with a head start on making long-term plans.

□ Our people will be given the first shot at job positions created by this move, □ said Col. Steve Arthur, wing commander. □ I feel confident that anyone who wants a job will have opportunities.

The 926th is just one unit of many affected by BRAC. In AFRC alone, BRAC will affect more than half the command in the next five years.

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Maines Ship Comes In.

Bangor (ME)

Daily News

February 3, 2006:

The excellent news this week that Maine had received a \$15 million federal grant over three years to help Brunswick and other coastal areas strengthen their economies is another opportunity for this state to develop its boat-building capacity. Maine has development advantages in relatively few industries. Marine products are among them.

The grant, called the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative, comes from the U.S. Department of Labor and funds a state partnership known as The North Star Alliance as part of the competitiveness agenda discussed by President Bush in his State of the Union address.

The alliance includes businesses, research and development facilities, universities and state government. Its purpose is to expand composite-related industries in areas such as marine and waterfront infrastructure, boat building and construction and a range of other products. Brunswick is working on a recovery plan after losing its air station to the last base-closure round, but development of these fields is of statewide interest.

The North Star Alliance's goal is to create 2,000 new jobs in advanced composites over the next several years. That will require a lot of education to prepare workers for these fields. And that means new ways of thinking about delivering courses in boat building to produce an able work force.

Maine, of course, has the fine school for boat building in Washington County

Community College. But the demand for workers suggests there is room for expanded programs elsewhere too.

The funding of \$5 million a year to Maine is large enough to have a serious effect on the important and growing industry of advanced composites. But it is also small enough

to be wasted, leaving Maine after three years with a task force report concluding the state needs more money. Both the administration and legislators should follow updates on this funding closely to ensure it has the desired impact.

Opportunities like this don't come along often; Maine is poised to do great things in an industry where its reputation and products already shine.



Land Unavailable to City for Years.

The Hartford (CT) Courant
January 24, 2006
Josh Kovner.

Middletown * The federal land off Mile Lane, coveted by the city as an extension to the high school campus, would not be available to Middletown until late 2009 or 2010, an Army spokesman said Monday.

The high school building committee asked last week for the status of the federal property, but is proceeding with construction of the new high school on the adjacent, city-owned Wilderman's Way site. Work to prepare for the foundation is about one-third complete.

If they're digging in the ground and ready to pour concrete, then they're not going to want to wait for us, Master Sgt. Richard

Lambert said Monday from Fort Devens, Mass.

The 42-acre Army Reserve Center Maintenance Support Facility was one of a half-dozen reserve centers in Connecticut ordered closed last year by the Base Realignment and Closing Commission.

Congress has yet to release the money to shut those bases, and the funds aren't expected until October 2009, said Lambert, public affairs supervisor of the 94th Regional Readiness Command.

The Middletown facility is home to the 1205th Transportation Railway Operating Battalion. Some of its members are deployed in Iraq. The unit's mission would have to be complete before the base is shut, even if the money is in hand, Lambert said.

And if the Army goes ahead with plans for a new regional reserve center in the Middletown area, that building would have to be built before the Mile Lane maintenance depot is shut.

Lastly, another federal agency would have the first shot at the land before it became available to the city.

City officials, who want the higher, drier ground offered by the Mile Lane property, see one possible way to get access to the land sooner.

How about a portion of the property? City Planner William Warner said Monday.

Only about 2 acres was really being used. Does the army need 42 acres there?

That's the card being played by Washington, D.C., lobbyist David Giordano, whose firm is on retainer with the city.

_ I've started conversations with the staffs of our congressional folks, and they'll start conversations with the Pentagon, _ Giordano, of Hartford-based Panuzio & Giordano, said Monday.

_ What's on our side is there might not be a whole lot of environmental cleanup work needed. But the chances of it happening fast are still not good, _ Giordano said.

Giordano has been asked to see whether the city can get permission to do an environmental survey of the property.

If Lambert's time frame is correct, the city would pursue the federal land as a place to develop athletic fields after the high school is complete in 2008, Mayor Sebastian Giuliano said Monday.

He said last week that city parents, eager for a replacement to crowded Middletown High School on Hunting Hill Avenue, might be willing to wait a year or so for the Mile Lane site.

_ But we can't wait too long, because the solutions we're looking for from the new high school would slip away, _ Giuliano said.

When the high school is built, Woodrow Wilson Middle School will be demolished and the current Middletown High will become the new middle school. A new high school football stadium would be built where Wilson now stands.

The federal land _ is still a piece of property the city should be very interested in. We can incorporate it into the high school campus later, _ Giuliano said.

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Rantoul, Air Force Far Apart on Cleanup Expenses.

The News-Gazette (Champaign-Urbana, IL) (January 4): A1.
Tim Mitchell. 2006.

Village's Efforts to Acquire Airport Run into Snag

Rantoul * The village of Rantoul and the Air Force are \$80 million apart over the cost to clean up the former Chanute Air Force Base.

In addition, it appears the village is back to square one in its efforts to acquire ownership of the Rantoul airport from the federal government.

Rantoul Village Administrator David Johnston told the village board Tuesday that the Air Force has proposed allowing a private firm take over the environmental cleanup work on the former base for \$50 million.

However, the cost could be as high as \$130 million, according to International Risk Group, the Littleton, Colo.-based company hired by the village in October to negotiate on behalf of the village. Those estimates don't include the cost to clean up the old steam plant and White Hall.

Johnston said the Air Force's proposal underestimates the cleanup costs, does not include liability costs and fails to include the costs of managing the property.

_ When the Air Force saw our estimate, it put the brakes on it (negotiations) immediately, _ Johnston said. _ The Air Force never thought it would cost so much to do the environmental cleanup work. _

Johnston said the negotiations have been complicated because of changes in the

personnel making decisions for the Air Force.

William Harris, environmental coordinator for the Chanute Air Force Real Property Agency, left Rantoul in November to take another position at the former McClellan Air Force Base in McClellan, Calif.

Harris had launched a \$20 million program to complete capping Chanute's landfills, restricted fishing at Salt Fork Creek after his staff detected elevated amounts of polyaromatic hydrocarbons in the water, worked with the village to repair some holes that developed near the east-west runway after some storm drainage tiles collapsed, began testing of soil beneath several former Chanute buildings and temporarily closed the Rantoul airport while work crews looked for munitions near the north-south runway. A successor to Harris has not yet been named, and a Chanute Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board meeting scheduled for November was canceled.

With the Department of Defense beginning a new round of base closures, Johnston said Air Force leaders have changed their philosophy on base closure.

"The Air Force has learned that the traditional ways of closing a military base are not working," Johnston said.

The village had been planning on taking over ownership of the 630-acre Rantoul airport, but Johnston said that property remains in the federal government's hands for the foreseeable future.

Johnston said the village had been working with the Federal Aviation Administration to sponsor the village's acquisition of the airport property and to help Rantoul get grants to further develop the airport.

"But the FAA suddenly got some new middle managers, and the new management said it doesn't want to get involved with Chanute," Johnston said. "The environmental issues have become a hot potato for them. According to the FAA, the Air Force caused these problems, so the Air Force should clean it up."

Meanwhile, the village plans to proceed with plans to demolish three substandard buildings on the south side of the former base.

Johnston said that on Dec. 22 Rantoul received proposals from eight firms interested in taking down three buildings near the intersection of Century Boulevard and Chandler Road.

Village officials have wanted to tear down the old Chanute bakery building, the former Splat Tactics paintball building and the former Pallet Concepts building since October, when staff learned the buildings contain asbestos and lead-based paint.

At that time, Rantoul Aviation and Economic Development Director Reed Berger asked the Air Force for some \$500,000 in assistance to demolish the buildings, but the Pentagon turned down the request, citing lack of funding.

The Air Force still holds the deeds for the property, but it has proposed turning over the site to the village. Since then, the village has learned about possible contamination to groundwater beneath the three old structures, as well as asbestos and lead-based paint. The basements are all flooded.

Berger told the Economic Development Commission last year that he would like to convert the area into a business air park,

which is an industrial park located around one or more airport runways.

Last year the village board recommended using money from Rantoul's tax increment financing district to pay for the demolition work, as well as improvements to Smith Hall, a former Chanute building being developed as a business center.

Hope edition, Pt I

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. Navy Will Boost Pacific Presence.

Associated Press Newswires (February 3, 17:49). Audrey McAvoy. 2006

No Word on Aircraft Carrier

Honolulu (AP) * The Pentagon's latest strategy paper said Friday the Navy will boost its presence in the Pacific. But the report does not say whether the military would base an aircraft carrier in Hawaii or Guam.

The Pentagon has been mulling moving an aircraft carrier to either of the two Pacific locations to place more sailors closer to potential trouble spots in Asia.

The Quadrennial Defense Review, the Pentagon's latest strategy paper, only says that the Navy plans to adjust its force posture and basing to meet its plans for a greater presence in the Pacific.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, said he would continue to push for bringing one of the warships to the islands.

It remains under consideration, Inouye said in a statement. The United States faces many

challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, and I remain convinced that having a carrier based in Hawaii will be crucial for our national security.

The report avoids mentioning specifics about aircraft carrier basing, saying only that the Navy plans to have at least six operationally available and sustainable carriers in the region.

The Navy currently bases five aircraft carriers in the Pacific: two in San Diego, two in Washington state, and one in Japan.

It bases seven of the ships on the East Coast, including six in Norfolk, Va. and one in Mayport, Fla. One of the carriers based in Norfolk will move to Japan in two years when the Navy sends the USS George Washington to Yokosuka Naval Base to replace the USS Kitty Hawk, which is being retired.

The Quadrennial Defense Review also says that the Navy plans to have 60 percent of its submarines in the Pacific, but does not say where the submarines would be based.

The report says the shift would be in line with the global shift of trade and transport.

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Gene Rector. 2006. Defense Review Includes Changes to Impact Robins.

Macon
(GA) Telegraph (February 3).

The Defense Department says its Quadrennial Defense Review, scheduled for formal release to Congress on Monday, will incorporate * and in some cases accelerate * changes building since the 9/11 attacks and refocus the department on what it describes as the long war.

The Telegraph obtained a copy of the report late Friday and the 100-plus-page document outlines a number of initiatives that will directly impact the Air Force and Robins Air Force Base. The overriding principles emphasized in the report include:

A shift from static defense, garrison forces to mobile, expeditionary operations.

A shift from major conventional combat operations to multiple irregular, asymmetric operations.

A shift from emphasis on ships, guns, tanks and planes to information technology, knowledge and timely, actionable intelligence.



End Pt I

Navy Sees Big Bucks in Selling Closed Military Bases to Developers. Associated Press Newswires February 5, 2006.
Gillian Flaccus.

Irvine, Calif. (AP) * With nearly two dozen major bases preparing to close around the country, the military and private developers say the sale of a shuttered Marine station for nearly \$650 million could be a blueprint for redevelopment in suburban hotspots.

The private auction of El Toro Marine Air Base in fast-growing Orange County last year set a Department of Defense sales record when it became the fourth major property sold directly to developers by the Navy for a total of more than \$1 billion.

While all those sales involved California properties, the latest round of base closures includes nearly a half-dozen military installations in other crowded commuter markets near such places as Atlanta, New

York and coastal Virginia * and developers are interested.

At Fort Monmouth in central New Jersey, the Army has made no decision on how to dispose of the 1,100 acres at the base, which is scheduled to close by 2011, said spokesman Tim Rider.

The Army will deal with a local redevelopment agency once it is formed, Rider said. State and local officials have not agreed on membership of the agency.

Fort Monmouth is among 22 major military bases on track to close within six years, and another 33 will be reconfigured, following a final decision by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission late last year.

The money would be a windfall for the military, which in the past disposed of most of its bases by transferring the property to local * and often inexperienced * redevelopment agencies for little or no money.

The new strategy gets the property out of the Department of Defense's hands much, much faster than if you went through the other routes that we've taken before, said Harry Kelso, whose company Base Closures LLC helps developers navigate the complex market of base real estate.

If you wait on the government to do it, it's going to take a lot more time, he said.

Cities and counties aren't necessarily upset about the direct-to-developers approach. Local officials say bases could be reused more quickly and efficiently under a profit-driven private developer.

In some cases, savvy communities can use zoning and other statutes to keep long-term

control of redevelopment and even establish future revenue sources through retail and other uses.

In Irvine, for example, city planners gave zoning concessions to developer Lennar Corp. in exchange for \$400 million in cash and bonds and 1,300 acres of land. The city now plans a huge, much-needed park on the open land as Lennar develops 2,700 acres.

The Navy has made no secret of its desire to seek fair market value for base land in at least two other prime locations: the 9,000-acre Roosevelt Roads Naval Station in Puerto Rico and the 5,200-acre Concord Naval Weapons Station in the San Francisco Bay area.

Other branches of the military haven't said publicly that they plan to pursue public auctions. But developers and experts familiar with base closures say all military branches are looking at fair market value sales following the Navy's success.

The change stems, in part, from a shift in philosophy by the federal government after the last round of closures in the mid-1990s, said Tim Ford, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Association of Defense Communities.

Previously, it had been focusing on doing whatever we can do to help this community recover, he said. But the Bush administration started to think about it as, How much can we get for the Department of Defense and how much can we get from the land?

For the Navy, the answer has been a lot.

Since 2003, it has collected more than \$1 billion from deals involving four properties. Before that, total sales for shuttered Navy

property amounted to just \$40 million, said B.J. Penn, assistant secretary of the Navy for installations and environment.

Along with El Toro, which closed in 1999, the sales included portions of the Marine Corps Air Station in Tustin, a former naval hospital near San Francisco and former naval housing in San Pedro, south of Los Angeles.

This was a very successful method for the Navy. We were extremely fortunate, Penn said. But it's location, location, location.

Developers echo that mantra and caution that high-priced sales for soon-to-be-closed bases might not be feasible outside suburban New York, Atlanta, Virginia and California. In California, a frenzied real estate market has produced median home prices that hover around a half-million dollars in some areas.

Developer's interest can be tempered, however, by zoning laws, pollution and federally designated historic sites on the property. One of Kelso's clients was interested in Fort Monroe, a U.S. Army base on the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia * until the developer learned that a 1979 estimate showed \$635 million in environmental cleanup in one corner of the base alone.

It's a matter of knowing what you're going to get so you're not left holding the bag, Kelso said. Developers need to adopt the approach that I have, which is to know more about that military base than the military does.

In Concord, city officials are holding out hope for a public sale that could transform their community. The Navy, for its part, hasn't made a final decision but is looking closely at the possibility of an auction.

Estimates of the land's worth have ranged from \$500 million to \$1 billion, said Jim Forsberg, city planning director.

It's the issue that overwhelms all other issues in Concord right now, he said. For us, this is enormous. This is something that's really valuable for the region.



Liz Sidoti. 2006. **National Guard Plan Proves a Tough Sell.** Associated Press Newswires (February 4, 22:21).

Washington (AP) * A Pentagon plan to restructure the Army National Guard has sparked bipartisan outcries in Congress even before President Bush's formal proposal, showing the clout of a force that draws members from communities across America.

Lawmaker's pre-emptive objections also point out the hurdles facing the administration as it seeks to persuade Congress to accept any defense changes that might hurt people back home.

Bush will ask Congress on Monday to give the Pentagon \$439.3 billion, excluding the costs of fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, for the budget year that begins Oct. 1. The plan will include about \$5.25 billion to pay for the current numbers of Army National Guard forces, but not the higher level that Congress has authorized and lawmakers say is needed in wartime.

Additionally, the Pentagon wants to shift some Guard brigades from combat roles to support units.

I don't see how in the world the Guard meets its mission, said Rep. Robin Hayes, R-N.C. Added Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa.: You can mark my words. They're not going to cut the National Guard.

His point is that lawmakers will not allow it, even though Congress is controlled by Bush's own Republican Party.

In fact, a bipartisan group of 75 senators said in a letter Thursday to the president that they strongly oppose these proposals.

From the Capitol to statehouses, Republicans and Democrats are making the argument that the country's ability to defend itself would suffer under the Pentagon's plan, given reservist's major roles in Iraq and hurricane recovery.

The restructuring also will run into this political reality: Lawmakers are fiercely protective of citizen-soldier units that bring jobs and pride to their hometowns.

Fights over other Pentagon proposals are brewing and could prove a tough sell for Bush, especially because budget pressures from the wars, hurricane recovery and federal deficits are forcing even the military to live with smaller spending increases than it might like.

Lawmakers from the Northeast * home to a chunk of the shipbuilding industry * are sure to argue that the Navy must build more vessels than planned to ensure continued U.S. domination of the seas.

Ohio, Massachusetts and Indiana lawmakers are lobbying to retain money for an alternative engine for the Joint Strike Fighter, a next-generation combat plane. Scrapping the program, as the Pentagon wants, would affect plants in those states.

Additionally, lawmakers in North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming are expected to fight Pentagon plans to reduce the U.S. nuclear missile stockpile by 10 percent, starting in

2007. The country's 500 Minuteman III missiles are at bases in those states.

It is the Guard proposal that has caused the most political consternation so far.

The Pentagon wants to pay for about 333,000 citizen soldiers * the current total * rather than the 350,000 that Congress has authorized. The Army Reserve force of 188,000 would be paid for instead of the 205,000 benchmark approved by Congress.

In addition, six of the 34 current Guard combat brigades would take on support roles.

Military officials say the changes will result in a more capable Army. Those assurances have not swayed lawmakers.

Similar opposition arose when Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld proposed during the 2005 round of military base closures to restructure the Air National Guard * and leave many units without planes.

Rep. Bill Young, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's defense panel, said he wanted the Army to explain the Guard proposal.

Governors will not be happy with this at all, said Young, R-Fla.

Governors control Guard units unless the president mobilizes them for federal duty. Bush did that after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001; since then, the Guard has played a large role in Iraq.

The National Governors Association wrote Bush on Friday opposing any plans to reduce Guard forces. The state leaders said the Guard is a cost-effective, capable

combat force in the war on terror and an essential state partner in responding to domestic disasters and emergencies.

For now, Rep. John McHugh, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee's military personnel panel, is withholding judgment. I promised we'd listen, said McHugh, R-N.Y.

The Senate has taken a more forceful approach.

Sens. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, sponsored legislation calling for the Pentagon to consult with Congress and governors on any proposed changes to the Guard force and structure.

As of Friday, 54 lawmakers had signed on, including Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

The sponsors expected the Senate to approve the resolution before the president released his budget on Monday. But Frist did not call it up for a vote that could have embarrassed the administration.

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Unattributed. 2006. **House Panel OKs a Resolution to Add Reagan to HAFB.** Deseret (UT) Morning News (February 4): B4.

A House committee Friday approved a resolution that would add the name of the late President Ronald Reagan to Hill Air Force Base.

I'm somewhat flattered that (bill sponsor LaVar Christensen, R-Draper,) would pick Hill Air Force Base, said Rep. Stuart

Adams, R-Layton, whose district includes part of the base. Hill Air Force Base has been an icon for northern Utah for many years.

The resolution couldn't actually change the name of the base, but it urges Congress to do so, since Hill is federal property.

Some members of the committee said they felt uneasy about the change because Reagan wasn't a Utahn.

If you were from California, it would be appropriate, Rep. Larry Wiley, D-West Valley, said. I have a hard time changing it to Reagan Hill Air Force Base when he didn't come from here.

Christensen said he would like to change the base's name to bring added prominence and permanence. Hill has been on a Pentagon list of potential base closings in recent years.

This is a proposed enhancement, not a proposed replacement, Christensen said.

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R. Patrick Corbett. 2006. Union to Host Job Fair for DFAS Applicants.
Observer-Dispatch Utica, NY February 3, 2006

Rome * The union representing 380 employees at the local Defense Finance and Accounting Service office will host job fairs the next two Saturdays for people who want to apply for jobs that will be added there this year.

Local 210 of the American Federation of Government Employees will host informational sessions from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. each Saturday in the meeting

room at the accounting service office at 325 Brooks Road.

Volunteers from DFAS will talk about what we do and the benefits and the advantages of working here, said Ed Abounader, president of Local 210. We'll show them how to get online and how to put in their resumes.

The federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission ordered the Defense Department last fall to add about 620 jobs by 2008 at the federal facility in the Griffiss Business and Technology Park.

They're going to hire approximately 280 (employees) this year, Abounader said. Most of the initial jobs will be entry-level accounting technicians, he said.

No job applications will be accepted at the job fairs, he said. Applications and resumes are submitted on the account service's Web site, www.dod.mil/dfas/careers.html.

These are great entry level jobs for young people who want to stay in the area, he said.

Under the federal order, the Rome office will be one of five Defense Finance and Accounting Service centers in the country after the reorganization is complete.

If You Go

Local 210 of the American Federation of Government Employees will host job fairs from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. the next two Saturdays in the meeting room at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service center in the Griffiss Business and Technology Park, 325 Brooks Road, Rome. Volunteers from the local center will explain their jobs and show potential applicant how

to submit their resumes online. No job applications will be accepted at the job fairs, he said. For information on the available jobs or to submit applications and resumes, visit www.dod.mil/dfas/careers.html.

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Harry Minium. 2006. State to stick with process determined by lawmakers. The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, VA) (February 2).

The state will not go beyond measures already approved by the General Assembly to preserve Oceana Naval Air Station, Sen. Kenneth W. Stolle, R. Virginia Beach, said.

Stolle sponsored the legislation that unanimously passed the Senate and said that there would be no changes, despite concerns recently raised by the Pentagon that the city and state had not done enough to deal with encroachment around the base.

□ I don't care what the IG says about it, □ Stolle said of the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General, which is reviewing Virginia Beach's efforts to deal with growth around Oceana.

□ We're not going to do more. □

Stolle was responding to a letter from Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon L. England to Sen. John W. Warner expressing □ concerns □ that Virginia Beach and the state are not doing enough to address the demands made by a federal base-closing commission.

England noted in his letter that the city was told Oceana would lose its jets unless the city committed to □ condemn and purchase all the incompatible use property □ located within high-risk crash zones. Beach officials have refused to oust residents.

Stolle and Del. Terrie L. Suit, R-Virginia Beach, have sponsored nearly identical bills dealing with development around Oceana and the Fentress Naval Auxiliary Landing Field in Chesapeake. The bills give the cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake limited ability to condemn property, but only if a property owner requests it.

The state and Virginia Beach also have agreed to spend \$15 million per year to control growth, with each to appropriate \$7.5 million.

Suit said she thinks England is misinformed.

□ Right now people are reacting to bits and pieces of information, □ Suit said.

Secretary England's letter is a very premature response to an incomplete set of data, she said. Not all of the information is out there, nor will it be out there until we're done putting the whole program together.

Suit said she is nonetheless worried about England's letter.

It concerns me that he's already prejudging something that he doesn't have all of the information about, she said.

Suit's bill, HB975, passed the House of Delegates 98-1 on Wednesday. Del. Johnny S. Joannou, D-Portsmouth, who objected to the condemnation provision, cast the only negative vote.

Stolle's bill, SB565, passed the Senate 38-0 last week.

A meeting scheduled for today between Warner's staff and representatives of the inspector general has been postponed. It likely will be rescheduled next week.

Staff writers Dale Eisman and Deirdre Fernandes contributed to this report.

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Base-Closing Panel Wants More Time, Money

Jan 27th - 5:36am

By LIZ SIDOTI Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) - The commission that recently helped decide which U.S. military bases to shutter wants another year of life _ and \$1.2 million in taxpayers' money _ to study a plan that may streamline the process of closing those facilities.

The nine-member commission is supposed to go out of business in April. But according to documents obtained by The Associated Press, it is proposing to spend an extra year investigating whether Congress should create a new public body that would oversee the closings.

Under current law, the Pentagon is in charge of shutting bases, a task it has performed in the four previous reorganizations of the military's domestic base network. The commission would examine whether a new public corporation and a foundation should take over the job.

Last fall, the commission called for shutting 22 major military bases and reconfiguring another 33, while closing, shrinking or expanding hundreds of smaller facilities across the country. President Bush and Congress signed off on the changes, which the Pentagon now has six years to implement.

Charles Battaglia, commission executive director, said the commission is suggesting that "a very small" number of staffers

remain _ no more than 15 compared with roughly 126 at its peak.

He said the proposal has received "mixed reviews" at the Pentagon and added that it doesn't imply that the Defense Department's current process for closing facilities is impaired.

"The question is can we improve it," Battaglia said.

Glenn Flood, a Defense Department spokesman, declined to comment beyond saying that adopting such a proposal "would be up to Congress."

Commissioners plan to meet with lawmakers over the next few weeks to gauge support.

Lawmakers may be wary of any fresh base-closing legislation.

Many of them considered the 2005 round of closures _ the first effort in a decade to save money by closing unneeded facilities _ excruciatingly painful because of the large number of bases facing changes.

Even some commissioners aren't convinced a corporation or foundation is the way to improve how the Pentagon gets rid of unneeded bases.

"Do I think it's worth looking at? Yes. Am I convinced it's the best idea? I don't know that yet," Commissioner Philip Coyle said. Some say having a separate body managing the real estate transactions may eliminate some of the bureaucratic red tape communities and private developers go through after a facility is targeted for closure.

The plan says establishing a corporation would allow the Pentagon to "fully dedicate its resources to national defense rather than to the management, sale and transfer" of targeted properties.

A corporation, the proposal says, also "will provide 'one-stop-shopping' for local redevelopment authorities, state government entities and private developers, and support

broad-based community development, economic growth and job creation." The proposal also calls for a foundation that would have grant-making authority to pay for environmental cleanups on military properties and enter private-public partnerships to create habitats.

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DAILY BRIEFING January 19, 2006
Base-closing recommendations influenced
by technology advances
By Daniel Pulliam
dpulliam@govexec.com

Advances in information technology influenced the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendations to close 22 major military facilities and realign another 33, said Anthony Principi, the chairman of the panel, on Thursday. The base-closing process is creating both opportunities and challenges for the IT community, Principi said in a speech at a conference hosted by the Information Technology Association of America, an Arlington, Va.-based trade group. "Vast leaps in information technology in the areas of intelligence, surveillance, command and control as well as precise kinetic and nonkinetic weapons systems are dramatically reshaping warfare," Principi said. "That in turn served as the basis for resizing our military infrastructure." Kinetic weapons, which are for the most part in the developmental stage, rely on high velocities to destroy the intended target. The Air Force, for example, is built around industrial-age military concepts, and that structure must be updated for information-age warfare, Principi said. "My challenge as chairman of the 2005 BRAC Commission was to ensure that I and the members of the commission understood the role IT played in the transformation strategy that served as the foundation of the

Defense Department's base closure and realignment proposals," Principi said. He acknowledged the BRAC process was agonizing for some, but said he believes it struck a good balance between "precipitous action and counterproductive procrastination." He said decisions were based on broad national concerns as opposed to "limited parochial issues."

Negative reaction to the Defense Department's proposals to relocate certain Air National Guard aircraft was the result of poor communication, according to Principi. The commission modified those proposals substantially.

"The Air Force complied with the statutory requirement to inform the head of the National Guard Bureau, but beyond that, [they] developed their proposal internally," Principi said. "The Army's BRAC process involved National Guard leaders at every stage and every level ... and Army recommendations were accepted without change or controversy."

A final report from the commission concluded that the Bush administration's decision to shrink the nation's military infrastructure was premature and that the base-closing process should have waited until the Quadrennial Defense Review -- due in February -- is complete.

This document is located at
<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0106/011906p1.htm>

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Elysa Batista. 2005. **"Reserve Base Gets Gift from the Feds."** The Miami (FL) Herald (December 29): 3.

Homestead Air Reserve Base Received a Much-Needed Christmas Present from the Government – \$600,000 For A Perimeter Fence.

Homestead Air Reserve Base received a holiday gift when U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen's office announced last week that the base was awarded \$600,000 through a federal defense appropriations bill for a perimeter fence.

"We are delighted and grateful that we received this money from our elected officials," said Lt. Col. Thomas Davis of the 482nd Fighter Wing stationed at the base. "She did quite well for our community."

The new fence will enclose a new U.S. Coast Guard facility on the property.

In May, Homestead Air Reserve Base escaped the Pentagon's hit list during the last round of military base closings.

The base had already come close to being shut down after Hurricane Andrew stormed through in 1992, destroying most of it.

Davis said the fence is important and goes a long way for the growth of the base, which also houses active U.S. Army units, U.S. Army Reserve units, U.S. Customs, Florida National Guard, Florida Air National Guard and the Coast Guard.

"It's quite a busy place," said Davis.

Debbie Zimmerman, Ros-Lehtinen's district chief of staff, said she was glad things were coming along for the base during Christmas time.

Other projects funded through the defense bill include Miami Children's Hospital Pediatric Brain Tumor Institute and Florida International University's Bio/Nano Center. Both will receive \$1.5 million.

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Brigid Schulte. 2005. "**Arlington Aims to Ease the Sting of BRAC Losses.**" The Washington Post (December 29, 2006

New Task Force to Help Businesses, Residents

Arlington County has created a task force to help elected leaders, businesses and residents prepare for the impact the recommendations of the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) will have on the county.

The BRAC recommendations last summer to downsize and consolidate military installations will spirit nearly 20,000 jobs away from the county and leave about 4 million square feet of office space empty. The changes will be the equivalent of closing four military bases.

"Arlington was the hardest-hit area in the country," said Terry Holzheimer, director of the Arlington Economic Development Commission. The military's biggest moves, however, won't be made for another five or six years. "That gives us time, if we're smart, to minimize the negative impacts."

With that in mind, the Arlington County board voted Dec. 14 to create a BRAC Transition Task Force that would include members of the Economic Development Commission and outside experts. The group will begin meeting next month and plans to offer recommendations to county leaders in June on how to make the best of the impending changes.

"It's an overwhelming task, but it's not like the sky is falling down," said Marty Almquist, a commission member who will lead the task force. "There is going to be a move, there is going to be a change. We don't want to be naive and think, 'Arlington

is a perfect location, [so] let's wait for new companies to come in.' We want to be as strategic, as scientific and as proactive as we can be."

The BRAC task force has identified four areas of strategic focus:

- * Redeveloping Crystal City.
- * Retaining some of the area's highly educated workforce.
- * Mitigating job losses and vacancies among small businesses and in the hospitality industry.
- * Re-tenanting leased office space.

Crystal City was built in the 1960s, and many of its buildings are 30 years old. Some are considered class B, or less than prime office space.

"The question is, do we want to look at the physical redevelopment of Crystal City, either new, more modern office buildings or residential buildings?" Holzheimer said. "Can we create the kind of modern streetscape that wasn't envisioned 40 years ago, with lively street use, interesting public spaces, street-level retail and sidewalk cafes?"

Until recently, Crystal City had an almost post-nuclear feel with underground shops, impenetrable high-rises and deserted-looking streets.

Holzheimer wonders whether changes would attract a different kind of tenant.

Cynthia Richmond, the Economic Development Commission's deputy director, hopes they will.

"Can we start looking at drifting away from Department of Defense-dependent tenants to the private sector?" said Richmond, who is spearheading work on the BRAC Task Force. "It's a real exciting way of looking at things."

To retain workforce, Richmond said, the task force wants to help people whose jobs are moving but who may not want to relocate. Arlington leaders mounted a "Save the Brains" campaign while fighting BRAC recommendations. As a result, some of the science and defense research agencies will stay in the county instead of moving to Bethesda as the Department of Defense proposed.

The task force will build on that theme.

"Some people who are supposed to be relocated are very, very educated scientists and specialists who have security clearances. That's the biggest shortage we have in the workforce," Holzheimer said. "Can we find another government agency or defense contractor or business to locate here and hire such high-value individuals?"

The BRAC task force is already hearing from small businesses and hospitality industry officials who are concerned that the vacancies and job losses may hurt their businesses. To attract new tenants, and more from the private sector, the task force is talking about developing a recruitment and marketing strategy to capitalize on Arlington's closeness to the District and the Pentagon, its competitive office lease rates and amenities such as the Metro, the commuter rail and its "Smart Growth" urban village concept of living near work.

"Arlington is a resilient community. We've weathered these shocks before,"

Holzheimer said. "If we do this strategically, we may come out in a better place than if it accidentally happens."

Arlington has absorbed the loss of Navy and Air Force agencies and their contractors and has seen the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office move to Alexandria and Gannett relocate from Rosslyn to Tysons Corner, Holzheimer said.

Still, the federal presence in Arlington and the potential damage from the loss of so much of it could cause great economic harm. Nearly half of the 40.5 million square feet of office space in Arlington is occupied by the federal government. Federal outsourcing to the private sector has been the primary source of growth in the county's economy in recent years. The federal government owns 17 percent of all land in the county, and about 45,000 federal military and civilian employees work in the county.

Robert G. Templin Jr., president of Northern Virginia Community College, chaired a BRAC working group for Northern Virginia created by Gov. Mark R. Warner (D). On Dec. 1, Templin's group submitted a report to Warner with recommendations on managing the massive changes planned for the region, given that many military jobs will be leaving Arlington and many arriving in Fairfax County and other outer-suburb areas with military bases.

"Arlington represents the largest single potential loss of military-related jobs of anywhere in the United States under this round of BRAC," Templin said. "That impact sometimes escaped the attention of others because of the net gain of jobs overall that Northern Virginia was going to receive. To the casual observer, it looked, at worst, like a wash."

Templin's working group recommended that state leaders and the congressional delegation work to secure federal funding for transportation improvements to deal with clogged roads in the outer suburbs and for planning money and a designation of Arlington as a preferred location for federal functions.

"We saw the strategic role that Arlington plays for the region," Templin said. "The loss of employment, if we don't handle it correctly, could be a loss that we'd be decades in the process of trying to fix. There's no reason why that should be the legacy of BRAC. . . . We need to take what is a very strategic location and leverage it to our advantage to find a new use that could leave the region better off altogether. But that's not going to happen overnight, on its own."

Richmond, of the BRAC task force, hopes that early action will mean a positive outcome for Arlington.

"We're hoping our message from this will be that Arlington really is being proactive," Richmond said. "It's not doomsday, though there will be some trouble. But it's still going to be a really cool place to be."

The Associated Press. 2005. "**Grand Forks' Fight to Keep Air Base Could Hit \$890K.**" Associated Press Newswires December 28, 2006

Grand Forks, N.D. (AP) – The cost of this city's fight to keep its Air Force base may go up.

The City Council is mulling a \$70,000 amendment to its base retention budget. If approved, it would bring to \$890,000 the amount it cost the city to lobby for the base.

Council President Hal Gershman said it's a lot of money, but not nearly as much as what other military communities have spent during the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment round.

The council set aside \$750,000 in 2003 for the retention effort. The money was for consultants and lobbyists who worked with the Air Force and the Pentagon.

City leaders have justified spending so much because of the impact the base has on the local economy. In fiscal year 2004, the Air Force said the base had an economic impact of \$379.7 million.

The Pentagon said it won't close the base but will transfer 2,290 military personnel and most of the refueling tankers to other bases by 2009. The base is slated to get unmanned aerial vehicles but the military has not said how many personnel will come with them.

Unattributed. 2005. □Panels Keep Public Informed about Bases. □ The Miami (FL) Herald (December 22): 9.

There□s lots of interesting stuff going on beyond the guard gate at Homestead Air Reserve Base.

There□s a mission to fight drug trafficking in Colombia, and a Coast Guard team that went to New Orleans on a search-and-rescue mission, and later provided security for FEMA workers.

You would know about these things if you were a member of the Military Affairs Committee of either Chamber South or the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce. These Mac's serve as liaisons between the business community and the

base, offering support and assistance in recognition of the importance of the base to the local economy, which is estimated by the Air Force to be \$190 million a year.

The MACs have become well-known in Washington for their lobbying efforts, says Mary Finlan, executive director of the Homestead/Florida City Chamber. They played an important role in getting the air base reopened after Hurricane Andrew, and in keeping it open during the government□s initiative earlier this year to close some bases around the country.

□Without a doubt, the Military Affairs Committee was the driving force in reopening the base after Hurricane Andrew,□ said Lt. Col. Thomas B. Davis, public affairs chief of the 482nd Fighter Wing.

The newest lobbying campaign is to expand the current base exchange □mini-mart□ into a full-service commissary. □This will reduce the grocery bill by 30 to 40 percent for base employees,□ Col. Dennis Daley, mission support group commander, said in his report at a recent Homestead/Florida City MAC luncheon in a packed room at the base□s All Ranks Club.

The luncheon audience was about half local business people, half military officers. It□s a place to exchange ideas and develop plans to work together.

The business community got updates on efforts to reduce base noise levels, plans for a new base conference center and a progress report on a \$20 million runway renovation.

Business representatives reported on the successful Veterans Day Parade, on a □buy a brick□ campaign to honor veterans and on plans for a war memorial. A half-dozen

awards and plaques were handed out by chamber members, accompanied by checks and discounts from area businesses.

Davis said there are 2,482 people working at the base 1,649 military, and 833 civilians. This is far fewer than the 6,000 before Hurricane Andrew, when it was an active duty base instead of a reserve base, meaning far fewer shoppers in area stores. But there's a big silver lining, he said.

While most personnel assigned to an active duty base live on the base, Davis said, there is no permanent family housing now that it's a reserve base.

So all those assigned to Homestead Air Reserve Base live in the local community. Davis said. "They all buy or rent homes, send their kids to local schools and attend local churches within the South Florida area.

That's a real advantage for the community over active duty base, he said, "where hospitals, housing and schools are all within the base and those monies stay in the active duty base. So although our overall budget may be less, our economic impact in the community is greater."

Finlan said the base has always provided an excellent source of workers for the community, as spouses take jobs off the base. The devastation of Hurricane Andrew was two-fold, she said. Not only did the base personnel all leave when the base was closed, taking away all that income from local businesses, but the spouses all quit their jobs to move away, leaving a huge hole in the local workforce.

If you want more information about the activities of the Military Affairs Committees, call Mary Finlan at the Homestead Florida City Chamber, 305-247-

2332, or Donna Masson at Chamber South, 305-661-1621.

Ed Gorin is president of Gorin Communications, a public relations and marketing firm. This column is about business organizations and their networking activities. Please send calendar notices in the format as it appears above to BizBuzz@bellsouth.net. Please send all other business news to biznotes@herald.com

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Unattributed. 2005. **Walter Reed Eyed for Offices, Norton Says.** The Washington Post (December 22): B3.

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) said her office was informed yesterday that the federal government is interested in reserving a part of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center campus for federal offices after its closure.

A spokesman for the General Services Administration said that there is not a specific plan for the campus but that the agency wanted to study the land for possible needs. The agency has until Jan. 16 to provide a more detailed plan to the Department of Defense. A federal base closing commission recommended this year that the hospital be closed and its activities moved to Bethesda. Congress approved the recommendation.

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The Associated Press. 2005. **North Carolina's Top News Stories.** Associated Press Newswires (December 22, 00:30).

Raleigh, N.C. (AP) The decision by Virginia officials to limit development around a Navy jet base probably won't influence what happens to a hotly disputed

practice field the Navy wants to build in eastern North Carolina, people on both sides of a legal fight said Wednesday.

The city council in Virginia Beach voted Tuesday to ban new development in accident-prone zones near the runways at Oceana Naval Air Station. The decision also includes restrictions on existing development close to the base and its existing outlying landing field, or OLF.

A federal base-closing commission had recommended the city condemn and buy 3,400 existing homes and businesses to give Oceana a safety and noise buffer. The commission has threatened to shutter or scale down the base unless locals limited development in the area.

That could decrease the need for a second practice field.

But even if local elected leaders continue to follow the recommendations of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission, the debate won't end, said Chris Canfield, executive director of Audubon North Carolina a plaintiff in a federal lawsuit against the Navy seeking to block the field.

The Navy wants to build the field for jets to practice night carrier landings in the middle of 30,000 acres in Washington and Beaufort counties.

I still see a battle, Canfield said. The battle really is about where any OLF should be. The OLF doesn't alleviate the encroachment and noise problems for Oceana.

Navy spokesman Ted Brown also said that the field and Oceana's future aren't directly linked.

The Navy has a need for an OLF, Brown said.

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Diana Elias. 2005. **US Military Returns to Kuwaitis the Base That Was Headquarters for Buildup to 2003 Iraq Invasion.** Associated Press Newswires December 21, 2005

Kuwait City (AP) □ The U.S. military handed back to the Kuwaitis on Wednesday most of Camp Doha, the camp that was its main base after the 1991 Gulf War and served as the headquarters for the buildup to the invasion of Iraq.

Camp Doha, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) west of Kuwait City, was the location for command and control of the massive buildup of forces that culminated in Operation Iraqi Freedom, that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Soldiers and equipment have been moved from two-thirds of Camp Doha to the newer and larger Camp Arifjan, south of the capital that has become the main logistics base for the American military here. The military will vacate the rest next year.

It is hard to give up 2 million square feet after you've been here for 15 years, said Lt. Col. Scott Rubitsky, the camp's commander.

We are happy to be able to reposition to support our troops forward, but we are also a little bit sad that we have to leave our home, he said.

The camp, a complex of warehouses for a private company, was leased by Kuwait's Ministry of Defense for American forces after the 1991 Gulf War that liberated this small oil-rich Gulf state from a seven-month Iraqi occupation.

Kuwait became a major ally of Washington after the U.S.-led coalition fought the Gulf war. Shortly after the war, the country signed a defense pact with the U.S. that calls for pre-positioning of weapons.

Some 10,000 U.S. troops are serving in Kuwait, but the figure fluctuates as troops rotate in and out of Iraq.

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Lolita C. Baldor. 2005. Navy Shipbuilding Payments for Katrina Losses Are Questioned. Associated Press Newswires December 21, 2005

Washington (AP) A Navy plan to pay Gulf Coast shipbuilders about \$1.7 billion for losses related to damages and construction delays from Hurricane Katrina may overstate the actual costs and could dampen efforts to collect insurance payments, according to a Congressional report.

The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service said Northrop Grumman may be able to collect insurance claims for future increased costs related to labor and overhead. If the government pays now, the report said, the company will have little incentive to negotiate with insurers for those payments.

The researchers said Northrop Grumman may be covered for losses related to disruption of work caused by the hurricane, and suggested the company could collect for increased labor costs on ship construction that is a year or more down the road.

But officials from the Navy and Northrop Grumman said Wednesday that there is no overlap between the company's insurance claims and the Navy's funding. And the Navy has personnel at the shipyards

overseeing the recovery and monitoring the costs, said Capt. Tom Van Leunen, a Navy spokesman.

The nation is at war, Van Leunen said. The Navy needs the new construction ships in the affected shipyards as soon as feasible to prosecute that war. Restoration of the Gulf Coast shipbuilding infrastructure is vital to the National Defense.

The funding is included in Congress \$29 billion hurricane relief bill. Lawmakers also expressed concerns about the funding, adding language to the bill that requires additional oversight by the Pentagon. It also requires that the Defense Department, 30 days before spending the money, must certify to Congress that the funds are for legitimate costs related to the hurricane and would not be paid by the insurer.

Northrop Grumman's facilities in New Orleans and Pascagoula, Miss., where 9 ships are under construction, were heavily damaged in the hurricane. Two other Navy ships were near completion at the time, and both were turned over to the Navy and moved out in recent weeks.

Navy Assistant Secretary John Young initially requested \$2.7 billion to restore the shipyards, replace lost material and get workers back on the job. The Pentagon later asked for a total of \$6.6 billion, including \$2 billion for shipbuilding. Congress cut the Defense Department funding back to about \$5.8 billion in the bill.

The congressional researchers took issue with the Navy's argument that the money is needed immediately, and suggested the government should wait for more accurate cost estimates. Delaying the request, the report said, could also allow insurance negotiations to proceed.

The report also said the Navy should have at least considered shutting down the shipyards for six months to a year for repairs. But that suggestion was shot down by both the Navy and the company.

Putting Gulf Coast businesses back to work, including the largest employer in the states of Mississippi and Louisiana, is an essential step in putting the region and its citizen's lives back together, said Northrop Grumman spokesman Dan McClain.

McClain said insurance claims will cover repairs and cleanup at Northrop Grumman-owned facilities, while the federal funds would be used to cover damages to the government-owned equipment as well as additional contract costs caused by the construction delays. Young estimated that at least \$132 million in damages was done to the ships.

The congressional report also took issue with the Pentagon's plans to repair military facilities that are slated for shutdown or realignment under the base closing plan approved earlier this year.

The Navy requested \$58 million to build new living quarters at Naval Station Pascagoula, which is being closed. And the Pentagon requested nearly \$400 million for family housing at bases where efforts are under way to privatize housing construction.



Jon W. Glass. 2005. **Beach Green lights Oceana Plan.** The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, VA) (December 21, 2005)

A unanimous City Council on Tuesday night approved a wide-ranging package intended to keep the jets flying at Oceana Naval Air Station.

The vote capped four months of work to satisfy the demands of the federal Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission, which required Virginia Beach to halt and roll back development around Oceana or risk losing the jets.

Acknowledging that the plan was not perfect, council members said it should preserve the Navy's mission at Oceana, allow the city to grow economically and protect the rights of home owners.

Getting to that point, they said, was painful and divisive. They expressed hope that the city can now begin to move forward.

Is it a perfect plan? No. But is it a better plan than we were confronting two months ago? Yes, Councilman Bob Dyer said. I look at this as a launching point for the future.

Navy Capt. Patrick J. Lorge, Oceanas commanding officer, told the council, We applaud and support your efforts. Lorge said the Navy is committed to strengthening and maintaining this relationship.

Lorge did not address the city's attempt to comply with the BRAC demands. It is not the Navy's place to endorse or approve of the plan, Lorge said after the meeting. He noted that the Defense Departments inspector general will review the city's plan.

Council members rejected the BRAC demand to condemn and buy all homes and most businesses in Accident Potential Zone 1 around Oceana. That would have affected about 3,400 homes and dozens of businesses.

A key question now is whether the plan will comply with the BRAC demands. The

Defense Departments inspector general will make that ruling by June.

It is unclear what the Defense Department would do if the inspector general were to say Virginia Beach is not in compliance.

Originally, the BRAC Commission said Oceanas jets would be moved to a former Navy base near Jacksonville, Fla., if Virginia Beach did not comply. Since then, Jacksonville has withdrawn its name.

The only contested part of the plan involved compensation for property owners affected by a ban on new homes and most new businesses in APZ-1.

A handful of homeowners and business owners in APZ-1 said the city's compensation plan overlooked them, unfairly placing the burden of preserving Oceana on their backs.

Several council members pledged to work on the plan to ensure that all property owners are compensated if they lose value in their property. The main sticking point is how to help homeowners who will lose the ability to redevelop a single-family home into a duplex in APZ-1 under the new housing ban.

We understand and we appreciate that there are some concerns that we have not been able to satisfy up to this point, Vice Mayor Louis R. Jones said. We're willing to continue to listen and are willing to give thought on how we can try to address the concerns that have been put before us.

The plan, which takes effect immediately, includes 18 rules and amendments, plus two land acquisition plans. It covers about 30,000 acres, from the Oceanfront to the

suburban fringes, encompassing about 100,000 residents.

Major elements are:

* A new overlay district. It restricts the development of new homes, apartments, town houses, condominiums and hotels in medium and high jet-noise zones.

The district covers prime sections of Virginia Beach, including the resort and the western half of the transition area, roughly between Indian River and North Landing roads, where developers envisioned building \$400,000 homes.

Homes can still be built there, but only if there is no other use of the property that is reasonable or deemed compatible by the Navy.

In the transition area, the maximum housing density would drop to one house per 5 acres, down from one house per acre in the medium-noise zone.

A revised resort area plan. This is not directly related to BRAC, but city officials rushed to adopt it after residents and business owners raised concerns that the overlay restrictions would hurt revitalization of the Oceanfront.

The plan allows new hotels, while acknowledging that the Navy views them as incompatible in noise zones.

To create a year-round resort, the plan encourages a mix of homes and shops. It calls for increasing the housing density in some sections. The goal is to cap the number of new homes at 3,000 to 5,000 units, compared with about 9,000 units that could be built under existing rules.

* A ban on new homes and most new businesses in APZ-1.

Owners of existing homes could tear down and rebuild, but they could not replace a single-family house with a duplex. Business owners could rebuild, but they could not add more employees or more seats to restaurants.

Only uses that the Navy deems compatible mostly industrial and manufacturing would be allowed.

* A plan to compensate some property owners.

In APZ-1, the city would buy land under three circumstances: vacant land zoned for homes that now cannot be developed under the new ban; developed commercial property that would have limited uses; and lots with single-family homes that could have been redeveloped with duplexes before the ban.

As a last resort to settle title claims or price disputes the city could condemn undeveloped land zoned for homes. Other property purchases would be from willing sellers.

The city also will create a program to buy undeveloped land in the transition area. About half of that area lies under the main flight path between Oceana and its training field in Chesapeake.

The BRAC Commission required the city and state to spend at least \$15 million a year on property in APZ-1. The city's plan, however, counts purchases inside and outside APZ-1 toward meeting the condition. The plan does not say how many years Virginia Beach would have to continue to spend that amount.

Gov. Mark Warner has pledged that the state will split the \$15-million-a-year cost with the city. Warners BRAC adviser, George Foresman, said Gov.-elect Tim Kaine is expected to support that agreement, which requires General Assembly approval.

Reach Marisa Taylor at (757) 222-5108 or marisa.taylor@pilotonline.com.

Reach Jon Glass at (757) 222-5119 or jon.glass@pilotonline.com.

WHAT IT WILL DO

Restrict development in medium-and high-noise zones. Restrict development in the area between Oceana Naval Air Station and Fentress Naval Auxiliary Landing Field in Chesapeake. Buy land from willing sellers in the area between the two Navy facilities. Ban new homes and most new businesses in Accident Potential Zone 1, the areas of highest risk. Buy single-family homes from willing sellers in the accident zone. This would apply only to homes on land zoned for duplexes. All existing uses in the zone are grandfathered. Buy 60 acres of undeveloped, residentially zoned land, voluntarily, if possible, by condemnation, if not. The city will seek state condemnation powers for this. No involuntary rezonings in noise zones. Increased density in some parts of the Oceanfront resort.

WHAT'S NEXT

This month or January

Letter from the Navy about Oceana's long-range prospects.

January through March

Debate in Richmond over state funding and condemnation power for Virginia Beach.

June

Letter from Defense Department inspector general on whether Virginia Beach, Chesapeake and the state complied with BRAC's demands.



Curt Woodward. 2005. **End of the Governor's Race Tops List of Big Stories.** Associated Press Newswires (December 21, 2006).

Olympia, Wash. (AP) Breathtaking. Crazy. Painful. Tortured.

Those were among the words with others certainly not fit to print that aptly described the saga of Washington's historic governor's election.

The contest's conclusion, which finally came this summer after a Chelan County judge rejected the Republican Party's legal challenge, tops The Associated Press list of Washington news stories for 2005.

AP's top Washington state editors ranked the year's leading stories after compiling a list of contenders from a year's worth of notable headlines.

Political tales filled several other top slots, with the recall of embattled Spokane Mayor Jim West ranking second and voter's acceptance of a gas-tax increase amid record pump prices placing third.

But the nation's closest governor's race outdistanced all others, a year after the still-undecided contest was named the top story of 2004.

In its aftermath, Democratic Gov. Christine Gregoire continued an ambitious agenda focused on government accountability ushering in what some have called the year of the task forces.

Gregoire also sought to improve her standing with voters, and she joined Democratic lawmakers in celebrating the defeat of Initiative 912, which would have scrapped the Legislature's mammoth transportation package by clipping its gas tax.

Barely defeated GOP candidate Dino Rossi also moved on, remaining as perhaps the state party's brightest star while managing to largely stay out of the limelight.

He declined to challenge Democrat Maria Cantwell for the U.S. Senate, didn't take a public position on the gas-tax measure and released a book that delivered virtually nothing about his feelings or thoughts during the election.

Meanwhile, in the state's second-largest city, Mayor West's unsightly departure from City Hall began when the Spokesman-Review newspaper published stories accusing him of using the trappings of his office to land dates with young men.

West, who called the stories a brutal outing, denied doing anything illegal and fought to retain his job, even as his health suffered and supporters drifted away. Voters also were not convinced, sending him packing by a wide margin in a December recall.

The rest of the top 10, in order:

Voters reject I-912, which sought to eliminate the 9.5-cent-per-gallon gas tax increase passed by the Democrat-led

Legislature to pay for a raft of road and bridge construction projects.

Tacoma native Joseph E. Duncan III is captured in an Idaho diner with a missing girl and charged with murder. Authorities allege Duncan, a convicted sex offender, killed three people in a Coeur d'Alene home to kidnap two young children for sex, later killing a young boy in Montana.

A mild winter and an early drought decimate business for Washington's ski areas.

In its ongoing race against European nemesis Airbus, The Boeing Co. rebounds with stacks of new orders for its 787 and 777 jets.

The price of a heavily delayed waste treatment plant at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation keeps ballooning, with a leaked Army Corps of Engineers report saying the cost could reach \$10 billion.

The much-feared round of military base closings leaves Washington state mostly untouched, with some jobs trimmed and administrative functions combined at the Army's Fort Lewis and at McChord Air Force Base.

In a surprising victory for environmentalists, Puget Sound's resident orcas are listed as an endangered species, giving them the highest level of federal protection.

Plans for an expanded Seattle monorail crumble in a fifth public vote, after the city's resident's recoil from a new multi-billion-dollar price tag.

Robert Salonga. 2005. **Influx of Defense Jobs Puts Onus on Localities.** The Baltimore (MD) Sun (December 21): 8G.

It was good news last month when Congress officially approved plans to send thousands of defense jobs to Maryland's two largest military installations, but before the economic boost is toted up, the adjacent communities must find a way to build and pay for infrastructure expansions.

Anne Arundel County's Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County are fast-tracking preparations for an estimated total job increase of 7,500, the growth resulting from base closures in surrounding states.

Under the Defense Department's base plan, the changes additions of about 5,300 military personnel at Fort Meade and 2,200 at Aberdeen must be initiated within two years and completed within six. The first deadline is no problem, but six years is a relative sprint considering what is needed to handle the additional thousands in families, businesses and contractors expected to follow the relocated workers.

The communities anticipated expansion when the latest round of the Base Realignment and Closure process began this year. Both bases were reasonably safe from major losses because Fort Meade is adjacent to the National Security Agency and Aberdeen Proving Ground is a straight drive on the interstate from Washington.

Obtaining funding is the foremost, but least certain, task in the early planning stages. The federal government has the biggest pot of money available for the expansions, so municipalities are aiming their best pitches there to ensure minimal impact on state and county coffers.

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□The demand on the federal dollar is pretty significant,□ said J. Thomas Sadowski, director of the Harford County Office of Economic Development. □That means we have to show how we□re doing things in the most quick and efficient manner.□

The state can reasonably expect a good return on whatever costs it ends up shouldering: Fort Meade and NSA, together the largest employer in Maryland, contribute \$4 billion annually to the state economy, and local officials estimate a \$1 billion boost in that figure when the expansion is complete.

APG is estimated to produce nearly \$2 billion annually.

At Fort Meade, Route 175, which runs along the post□s eastern border, is a target for expansion. This fall, the state□s congressional delegation secured \$12.5 million to widen the road that will become an even more important artery into the growing installation. The estimated \$100 million road project includes noise barriers around the base perimeter.

Also in the area, developers are constructing at least 37 new residential areas with 10 or more housing units. Odenton Town Center, a 1,600-acre site, is a mix of retail and residential developments under way that locals hope will help the area handle an growing number of services for the expected population influx.

On the work force front, community advocates are brainstorming incentives, from schools to jobs, to encourage reluctant workers to move from states such as Virginia and New Jersey. There is talk of establishing a homeland security curriculum at local middle and high schools along with

programs aimed at accommodating spousal employment needs.

Robert Salonga writes for Capital News Service.

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Unattributed. 2005. House Passes Bill to Return Naval Station Ingleside to Local Community. US Fed News (December 19).

Washington, Dec. 19 Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz, D-Texas (27th CD), issued the following press release:

In an extraordinary victory in a spending bill, Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz announced today that the Defense Appropriations Bill, the final, annual spending bill that funds part of the U.S. military spending, contains language that requires the Department of Defense to return Naval Station Ingleside (NSI) and Naval Station Pascagoula (MS) to their respective communities at no cost. Without that language, the Port of Corpus Christi, which is slated to receive NSI, would have had to pay millions of dollars for the property, possibly hundreds of millions of dollars.

This is the best news we have gotten since the BRAC commission closed NSI, said Ortiz who spent a great deal of time, energy and political capital to get this language in the final version of the spending bill. Requiring the local taxpayers to reimburse the government for the base property was adding insult to injury. I began in September, right after the BRAC decision, with legislative language that we could incorporate in a bill passing Congress. This is an early Christmas present for South Texas taxpayers.□

Ortiz introduced legislation
http://www.house.gov/ortiz/releases/pr_092

505.html in September to relieve the local community of the responsibility, laid out in the deed between the Navy and the Port of Corpus Christi, of paying the cost of the improvements to the NSI property to the department of defense. The passage of the language was always in great doubt, so the ability of Ortiz and Senator Hutchison (who handled the matter on the Senate side), was a rare and enormous legislative feat.

The Department of Defense Appropriations bill was passed by the House early this morning. The bill now awaits final approval by the Senate after which it will be sent to the President for his signature.

Cathy Travis, 202/225-7742.

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Peter Johnson. 2005. **Public Discussion of MAFB Corridor on Tap.** Great Falls (MT) Tribune (December 16): 8S.

City Manager John Lawton plans to call for a broad public discussion in the next several weeks about how development in southeastern Great Falls could affect efforts to land a flying mission for Malmstrom Air Force Base.

Lawton said Wednesday he doesn't have a date in mind yet, but the meeting will include all the major players the city, county, property owners and base supporters as well as the public.

Cascade County Commissioner Joe Briggs said he would welcome such a meeting, and suggested it take place early next year after Mayor-elect Dona Stebbins takes office.

The county earlier considered zoning to restrict development of property that falls under the Accident Potential Zone from KC-135 tankers, the base's last flying mission.

The county dropped the idea when the city wasn't interested, Briggs said.

We tried to get a community discussion going months ago, he added. I'm glad now it's on the city's list of things to do. I'm looking forward to the meeting.

Several Malmstrom supporters said recently that too much growth near the base could hurt chances of getting the base runway, closed in 1996, reopened for a new flying mission.

Lawton, Mayor Randy Gray and City Planning Director Ben Rangel met this week with Col. Everett Thomas, Malmstrom commander, to clarify how the base feels about development that might encroach on the facility.

Thomas told the city officials the Air Force cannot comment on potential city growth or Air Force missions, Lawton said.

The base commander said there still is a crash zone in place at the end of the runway for Malmstrom helicopters. The base has protective easements from landowners in that zone.

But the full Accident Potential Zone for Malmstrom's previous flying mission is no longer in effect because the runway is closed, Thomas said.

□ Our discussions with Col. Thomas didn't □ really resolve anything, □ Lawton said. □ It just showed us that we as a community have to address the issue.

□ Do we want to keep all our options open for the potential runway opening and flying missions at the base, or do we want to allow developments to go through? □

Potential middle ground might involve the city purchasing development rights or easements on property within potential accident potential zones, he said.

Wal-Mart is planning a large store at the corner of 10th Avenue South and 57th Street. It would be outside the Accident Potential Zone.

The developers also asked to annex property just to the east, but have not said why. The extreme east corner of that property would be in the impact zone.

Briggs said that property could be developed in a way that would avoid encroachment. Rules allow the parking lot to be in the impact zone, but not a large commercial building, he pointed out.

Lawton said the community discussion about how to avoid encroachment should be separate from decisions on Wal-Mart and possible other developments.

Rangel said the planning office is awaiting information from the Wal-Mart developers. He hopes to set a city Planning Board hearing on annexation, zoning and subdivision for late January.

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Mark Fontecchio. 2005. **Future of the Air Base.** The Patriot Ledger (Quincy, MA) (December 9): 9.

U.S. Is Eager for Navy to Turn over Base Land

Transfer of Remaining 835 Acres Could Take Place Early Next Year

A Navy official said the federal government is eager to transfer the remaining land it owns at the former South Weymouth Naval

Air Station, and a Defense Department official said he hopes it will happen as soon as early next year.

I know the (local redevelopment agency) wants to get on with it, David Drozd, Northeast director of the Navy's Base Realignment and Closure program management office, said yesterday. Folks in the community want to get on with it. Everyone wants to get on with it.

Officials for the agency overseeing development of the base, the South Shore Tri-Town Development Corp., expect six to 10 negotiating sessions to determine when the Navy will sell the remaining 835 acres and what the land will cost.

The first session is expected to take place during the week before Christmas.

The rest of the 1,405-acre base, which lies in Abington, Rockland and Weymouth, already has been transferred.

□ We □re trying to move as fast as we can said John Ward, chairman of the Tri-Town board of directors. □ All parties have it in mind that they want to get it resolved as soon as possible. Hopefully that will take place in early 2006. □

Tri-Town originally hoped to get the rest of the base land for free, but an August letter from the Navy indicated that the agency would have to buy it because the development plan has changed.

This summer, the three towns approved a redevelopment plan calling for construction of 2,855 houses and condos and 2 million square feet of commercial space by 2017.

Developer LNR Property Corp. is trying to get some of the construction done sooner,

under a waiver the state issued to Tri-Town in 2002. Under LNR's proposal, the first portion would include 500 houses and condos and 150,000 square feet of commercial space, and construction could begin as early as next summer.

A citizen's advisory committee is reviewing the first portion and will make recommendations to state environmental officials.

In the meantime, some town officials are concerned because the Navy has yet to transfer more land.

They say they think they were rushed to vote on the plan in the summer with the cloud of a possible Navy auction hanging over their heads. Now they wonder why, with the plan approved, the land is not being transferred.

But Colin McPherson, a former Weymouth town councilor who now sits on the Tri-Town board, said getting the best from the negotiations is most important.

"I am not overly concerned about it," he said. "I would like them to move faster, but I'm not sure it really changes that much. I want us to negotiate for the best price because, ultimately, if (LNR) has to pay a lot for the land, it probably will squeeze what they have available for the project."

Tri-Town Executive Director Terry Fancher said the negotiating strategy is also likely to include the possibility of getting the entire 835 acres from the Navy in one fell swoop, rather than in pieces as originally expected.

"I think the strategy is on getting all the property sooner rather than later, and not focus so much on the phases," Fancher said.

Some town councilors in Weymouth remain nervous. Councilor Kenneth DiFazio said it is crucial for the towns to stay on top of the project, as its impact on the region will last for decades.

DiFazio has proposed forming a watchdog group to make regular progress reports to the town council.

"I think we need a point person on the council and give him the free rein to operate that committee with the objective to obtain as much information and report it to the town council so we are continually being updated," he said.

Mark Fontecchio may be reached at mfontecchio@ledger.com.

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Peter Johnson. 2005. **Malmstrom Boosters Look Askance at Proposed Development near Base.** Great Falls (MT) Tribune (December 4): 2B.

Supporters of Malmstrom Air Force Base are concerned that retail and residential development in southeast Great Falls could hurt the chances of Malmstrom Air Force Base regaining a flying mission.

Wal-Mart is planning a large new store at the corner of 10th Avenue South and 57th Street. There is also talk of other retailers possibly landing nearby, along with more residential development.

"I would be concerned if such development infringed on the Accident Potential Zone (APZ) for a new Malmstrom flying mission," said Cynthia Schultz, the Great Falls airport director, speaking as backer of local military development.

□The lack of commercial encroachment around Malmstrom is a big selling point for a new flying mission,□ said Schultz. □So many competing bases are heavily encroached upon.□

□I think it□s necessary to the community to protect that Malmstrom flight corridor if it□s at all possible,□ agreed attorney Warren Wenz, chairman of the Committee of 80 group that lobbies for military missions.

□We might not have a flying mission at Malmstrom now, but things could easily change and we could get the runway reopened,□ he said. □I wouldn□t want development so close to the base that it would be within the zone affected by aircraft noise or possible crashes.□

Malmstrom boosters have worked to get a flying mission as a back-up to the base□s prime mission of operating land-based missiles, said Cascade County Commissioner Joe Briggs. But current Pentagon plans call for retaining the Minuteman III missiles only through 2020.

□We need to get other missions for Malmstrom, and a flying wing could be the best use given the area□s unfettered training range and the lack of encroachment for landings and take-offs,□ Briggs said.

Surprisingly, it□s Briggs, a strong property-rights supporter, who is proposing a community discussion on how to create some kind of development-free corridor along the runway□s take-off and landing areas.

He has suggested everything from zoning restrictions, a land swap or even buying an easement.

□It□s very difficult for me to use zoning to dictate how somebody uses his own property,□ Briggs said. □But given the magnitude of how important Malmstrom is to the local economy, I think we have an obligation to find a way to make it work both ways.□

Earlier this year, Briggs asked county planners to superimpose the outline of the accident potential zone from Malmstrom□s last flying mission, KC-135 tankers, on a map of the Great Falls area.

Briggs said he asked for the map months before the Wal-Mart store was proposed near Malmstrom. He said he did so because any time a residential or commercial project was proposed in the vicinity, somebody would raise the specter of it impinging on Malmstrom□s growth.

In fact, developer Mike Pursley□s proposed upscale residential development and golf course along U.S. Highway 87/89 a few miles southeast of town was delayed for several years because of fears it would interfere with Malmstrom becoming a port for the proposed VentureStar space ship.

Ironically, Briggs said the map he sought shows Pursley□s project was well outside the accident potential zone, which actually comes fairly close to southeastern Great Falls.

The site for the proposed Wal-Mart also sits outside the crash zone, Briggs said, but part of the parcel just to the east would be in the impact zone.

Bill Walters, a city planner, said representatives of the property owners have asked that the second parcel be annexed into the city along with the property on which the Wal-Mart would be built. Walters said they

did not indicate what the plans are for the second parcel.

The second parcel is owned by Kyso Corp., with Great Falls contractor Dan Huestis as president.

Huestis declined last week to comment on plans for the area and said nobody had talked to him about a potential easement or building restrictions.

□ I am hopeful that the retail people will be allowed to do business in Great Falls, □ he said.

Briggs said county commissioners wrote Great Falls city commissioners in March asking the city to go along with the county in creating zoning that would protect the crash zone from certain developments, including high-density business and residential projects.

In a response, City Manager John Lawton said the city has no such protective zoning because □ for all practical purposes, the Accident Potential Zone no longer exists with the inactivation of Malmstrom's runway in 1996. □

But Lawton said the city would welcome the opportunity to work with the county, affected property owners, base personnel and others to protect Malmstrom from encroachment.

□ Zoning may be an option, □ he wrote. □ However, there may be other options that accomplish the same goal without placing the entire burden upon the affected property owners. □

Briggs said the county abandoned the zoning idea without the city's support.

He said he started to explore the possibility of raising public money to acquire an easement along the corridor. Briggs said that idea came to a halt because Air Force officials could not sign a letter saying there was a public need and or that they supported the idea.

Briggs also said he informally broached the idea of a land swap during a meeting involving Wal-Mart officials, but that Huestis turned it down.

Another idea could be working with developers to configure their project in a way that didn't □ violate the crash zone, Briggs said. As an example, he said, a parking lot would be allowed in the zone, but a large business would not.

Briggs stressed that it □ would be less disruptive and far cheaper □ for community leaders to reach a compromise now, before construction starts. He said some military communities have spent millions of dollars to remove developments near military bases.

□ I'm not trying to stop commercial development, but to find a balance so that it doesn't □ impede Malmstrom's growth and long-term future, □ Briggs said.

□ We don't have any disagreement with the county on this, □ Lawton said last week.

□ We're willing to sit down and open a discussion. Possible base encroachment is a legitimate issue, but property owners have rights, too. Protective easements might be possible, but property owners might need to be compensated. □

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Lisa Zagaroli. 2006. "N.C. Unsure of Its Navy Suitor." The News & Observer (Charlotte, NC) (January 2): A1.

Navy sonar technician Dave Levasseur needs the right kind of seascape to practice finding submarines. Pilot John Leenhouts says a clearer, open air space is crucial to being war-ready.

When the U.S. Navy went searching for solutions that would help both men, each time it turned to North Carolina.

The state is positioned to play a growing role in the Navy's long-term strategic future. The service branch is looking to North Carolina as the potential home for a sonar training range and a jet landing field – projects that represent an investment of nearly \$200 million during the next 10 years.

But the Navy's designs for North Carolina are meeting resistance, particularly from critics who fear environmental and economic damage with little payback in terms of jobs.

One of the state's most influential lawmakers, Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, announced late last month that he would oppose the sonar training range.

Other lawmakers, such as U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield Jr. of Wilson, have questioned the location of the proposed landing field, which is within five miles of a large bird sanctuary, the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Huge flocks of birds fly over the proposed runway site to forage for food in nearby farm fields, creating a potential hazard for the jets.

But the state has generally been welcoming to the military. North Carolina is home to six military bases, including the Army's huge Fort Bragg base in Fayetteville. Marine

installations include Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock and Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville.

The number of Navy-Marine personnel in North Carolina has grown 18 percent, to 61,011, in the past five years, compared with 2.1 percent growth nationally, federal budget documents show. And total Navy/Marine expenditures in the state went up 50.9 percent from 2000, to \$3.3 billion in 2004, compared with a 23.8 percent increase across the country, according to the budgets.

But most of that investment has been from the Marines; North Carolina has had little pure Navy presence.

“The Navy is looking more and more to where they have a future,” said U.S. Rep. Walter Jones, a Farmville Republican who serves on the House Armed Services Committee. He noted that the state was largely spared in the most recent round of federal base closings.

Navy Changes Tactics

When Senior Chief Petty Officer Dave Levasseur joined the Navy 21 years ago, the job of sonar technician was in high demand. He spent his time at sea aboard surface ships listening for Soviet submarines with passive sonar.

“We practiced all the time and we were really good at ASW,” said Levasseur of the U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., referring to anti-submarine warfare. But when the Cold War ended, he said, “we didn't have anything to chase around.”

In recent years, the Navy has shifted its attention from the open ocean to dangers close to shore.

Submarines operated by North Korea, China and Iran make the below-sea threats very real, said John Pike, director of Globalsecurity.org, a nonprofit organization that focuses on security.

“If China was trying to blockade Taiwan, or if Iran was trying to sink tankers coming from Kuwait, we’d need to do something about it,” Pike said.

Navy officials have said they settled on North Carolina as the preferred site for an undersea warfare training range for several reasons, including the climate, the water depth and its location between air stations in Norfolk and Mayport, Fla. In addition, the nearby ocean activity most closely mimics the seas where Navy vessels may be called to duty.

“Without an instrumented range on the East Coast, the ship can think they got the submarine, the submarine can think they got the ship, and in reality it could be one or the other,” said Jene Nissen, a retired Navy commander and a civilian sonar and acoustics policy manager.

The sonar range is questioned by environmentalists, who cite growing evidence that the mid-frequency pulses or “pings” it emits have harmed whales and other marine life. It also is viewed with alarm by fishermen and business owners who make their living off the water.

“This facility will have a long-lasting negative impact on our state fisheries and coastal tourism, with no economic or environmental benefit to the citizens of North Carolina,” Basnight said in a letter to the state congressional delegation.

Critics note that there would be limited economic benefit in terms of jobs.

The sonar range would bring few military personnel to the state; the building that would collect sonar transmissions would usually be unmanned.

North Carolina’s senators and several Congress members whose districts are close to shore say they haven’t decided whether to welcome the facility.

Jones and Rep. Mike McIntyre, a Democrat from Lumberton, called for and won an extension of the period allowed for public comment.

The Navy first set Dec. 28 as the cutoff for public comment, but late last month extended it to Jan. 30. While the North Carolina site is the Navy’s first choice, it also says that sites near Jacksonville, Fla., and Wallops Island, Va., meet all its criteria.

Runway Also Stalled

Finding a suitable location over environmental objections is also stalling the Navy’s other proposed project for North Carolina. The undeveloped land and clear skies of Washington and Beaufort counties are a sanctuary for tundra swans and snow geese.

That’s also what took the Navy there looking to buy 30,000 acres and build an \$186 million runway where its aircraft carrier jet pilots can practice takeoffs and landings.

Opposition from neighbors and environmentalists has resulted in lawsuits. They say the Navy’s environmental study was flawed, and contend that birds from the neighboring wildlife refuge would collide with jets, causing crashes.

The Navy says it needs the new landing field to move training from Oceana Naval Air

Station in Virginia Beach, which has become inefficient and dangerous because of local development.

“It’s right up to the fence line,” said retired Navy Cmdr. Hank Chase, whose job included reviewing civilian encroachment on bases, relocation of facilities and base closings.

The situation at Oceana is so critical that it grabbed the attention of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, which threatened to close the base if it doesn’t meet a series of demands to alleviate encroachment in the coming months.

Airspace congestion and noise abatement restrictions were not only a risk to the community, but they also threatened the quality of training for pilots, according to John Craig, operations officer at Oceana’s Strike Fighter Weapons School Atlantic before retiring, told the base closure commission.

John Leenhouts, a retired Navy captain in Florida who also testified before the base closure commission, said in an interview that he suspects that the landing field planned for North Carolina is really the first step toward creating a replacement for Oceana.

Cecil Field in Florida began as an outlying landing field before becoming an air base, Leenhouts said. “They’ll never admit it,” he says of the Navy.

“But it’s what I’ve concluded after candid conversations with military leaders.”

According to documents provided to the base closure commission, the Pentagon ran budget analyses of several options involving an Oceana closure, such as moving all of its functions to Moody Air Force Base in

Georgia and to the defunct Cecil in Florida. It also considered finding a landing field that could be expanded to a new master jet base in the future, and relocating to a new, unoccupied site.

But a specific scenario naming North Carolina as the site for a new base wasn’t on the table.

Impact Study Online

The Navy’s draft environmental impact statement for the proposed sonar training range can be read online at:

http://projects.earthtech.com/USWTR/USWTR_index.htm

The Navy will accept written comments on that study until Jan. 30. Comments can be faxed to: 757-322-4894. Or they can be sent to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Atlantic

Attn: Keith Jenkins

Code: EV21KJ

6506 Hampton Blvd.

Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

SOURCE: U.S. NAVY

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End Pt I

Staff. 2005. “Rethinking an Economy.”
Portland (ME) Press Herald (January
1): C4.

The Pending Closure of the Brunswick Naval Air Station Presents a Generational Challenge to the Midcoast.

August 24, 2005, was a black day for Maine's midcoast. It was the day that the state's second largest employer, the Brunswick Naval Air Station, fell victim to the impenetrable logic of the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Despite pumping more than \$150 million in new construction and other investments into the base since 2001, Defense Department planners have now set Brunswick on a schedule to close in six years, with the first units leaving in 2009.

For the next few years, at least, the P-3 Orion submarine hunters and C-130 cargo planes will continue to crank off the base's long, paired runways, and the installation will remain a signal presence of the community. But a region whose prospects seemed boundless just 12 months ago now confronts the kind of challenge to its economy and its identity that comes once in a generation.

"There's no question that the closure of the Naval Air Station will be a defining event for Brunswick and the region," said Martin Wilk, a Brunswick attorney who chairs the Local Redevelopment Authority, the group charged with developing a blueprint for the base's future. "When you have several thousand jobs associated with a facility that will either move to another area or be eliminated, it will have an effect."

Officials caught in the vise of history naturally like to talk about the upside. It is clear that once reconfigured or redeveloped, the base's 3,200 acres of runways, hangars and other facilities will drive significant

activity in the region's already diverse economy.

But some are already suggesting Brunswick will come out of a relatively short transition period into an era of prosperity. With three to four years' planning time before the closure starts having an impact, and six years before final closure, Brunswick economic development director Mat Eddy and others believe they can dovetail the arrival of new tenants with the departure of Naval Air units.

"Will it be seamless?" asked Eddy. "Can you smooth it out and try to efficiently plug into different markets and set up a timing sequence? We think we can."

It would be nice if it were that easy.

The known challenges are daunting, and unpleasant surprises surely lay ahead. The base presents a nearly unlimited opportunity, but one that could be squandered if the major players fail to keep a steely-eyed focus on the future. Leaders should guard against setting unrealistic expectations, or risk losing the community's trust and support.

The airfield ought to be the centerpiece of any development strategy. If the demand for another commercial airport doesn't currently exist, wait a few years and it will. A continued military presence of some kind * such as the creation of a National Guard enclave * would provide welcome continuity.

Much will depend on the talent, determination * and money * that can be brought to bear on planning and redevelopment activities. It's essential that Maine's congressional delegation and the

Gov. Baldacci present a united front. WHAT WILL BE LOST

The loss of the air station will affect the region on multiple levels * from local tax revenues to car sales to the loss of community volunteers. The BRAC decision will bring a painful disruption of employment levels, home ownership and consumer spending during the years just prior to and following the 2011 closure.

Here are some numbers.

By the time the last of the Navy's operations pulls out in 2011, Brunswick will have lost roughly 3,700 well-paying jobs with benefits, and the highly trained, highly skilled, highly motivated service men and women who filled them.

An estimate produced by the State Planning Office last summer suggested the closure will eliminate work for 600 civilians. The loss of the base may also impact as many as 2,000 support jobs in the community, people who sell cars, appliances, jeans, sneakers and the like.

Even more sobering is the assessment of a consultant hired by the town when the fear was that the air station would be downsized, not scrapped.

The report, by RKG Associates, said that based on the recent demand in Brunswick, it could take 15 to 20 years to fill the existing industrial/commercial space on base.

On top of that, a base closure would flood the housing market with 1,500 to 2,000 housing units, enough to swamp demand and drive real estate prices down for five to 10 years * assuming all other construction in the region ceased. That estimate also

ignored the added weight of 750 military housing units now likely to hit the market.

While the Naval Air Station is Maine's second-largest employer, the future of the largest * Bath Iron Works * is also uncertain. Should Bath Iron Works slash its workforce in the lull between production of the Aegis destroyer and the new DD(X) destroyer, the housing market could take 15 to 20 years to recover.

"The gorilla in the closet is BIW," Eddy said. "We don't know what size it will be. Those are permanent jobs and they've been steadily laying off folks."

The impact of thousands of military personnel and their families will be tougher to quantify, but no less devastating, leaders say. For example, roughly 1,200 military spouses now staff hospitals, doctor's offices and other service providers.

State officials fear the closure will drain 100 students from the Lisbon Falls school district. They're now trying to calculate how the erosion of students, and the taxes their families generated, will affect school systems around the region.

Having the base also meant a steady influx of African-Americans, Asians and Latinos to one of the whitest states in the nation. The result was a community exposed to a mix of backgrounds, upbringings, experiences, languages and perspectives unlike much of the rest of Maine.

Even Eddy's optimism wanes on this point. "We think that in terms of economic impact, the closing might be a blip," Eddy said. "Losing the families and everything they brought is no blip. We have a lot of doctors who are quite nervous right now." WHAT NAVY IS LEAVING BEHIND

One reason for the local's confidence in a prosperous future is the facility itself. In the last five years, the Navy invested heavily in upgrading many of the facilities at Brunswick. The base has two 8,000-foot runways with clearly defined airspace. The spanking-new Hangar 6 has six bays, each capable of swallowing a Boeing 737. Crews are finishing the installation of a \$5 million communications package on the new \$8.2 million airfield tower.

A 500-bed hotel for visiting air crews just opened. Many other base facilities are either brand new or newly renovated and could be readily leased. All told, there are over one million square feet of "industrial" buildings.

The Navy has also demolished 45 substandard buildings and is well down the path to cleaning up several highly polluted legacies of past military activity.

Nor does the base exist in a vacuum: the midcoast has a fairly well diversified economy whose major employers include two hospitals, Bowdoin College, clothier L.L. Bean, credit card giant MBNA, the Bath-Brunswick Times Record and the Bath Iron Works shipyard.

Fortunately, optimism hasn't led to procrastination. Local and state leaders have not wasted time in confronting their future. The Brunswick Local Redevelopment Agency, formed to create a master plan for the base in the next two years, will soon begin headhunting for an executive director. This is a critical hire, and the agency should insist on a candidate with a proven track record for managing the complex technical, bureaucratic and political process that will follow. GOING FORWARD

A Federal Aviation Administration feasibility study this spring will examine potential reuses of the airfield and its infrastructure.

Baldacci was smart to create a state advisory panel stocked with business, union, legislative, education leaders and a tribal representative, to monitor the regional impact of the closure. It's also vital that a new redevelopment authority, which will take over once the LRA planning process is complete, has qualified staff and the ability to borrow money and own property. Baldacci's plan to designate the midcoast a Pine Tree Zone offering new and expanding employer's tax incentives can only help.

There has been early interest in the property. Maine's National Guard commander, Major Gen. John W. Libby, is evaluating whether the air station would be a good place to host a military enclave for the state's Army and Air guard units. Retaining a strong military presence in the area would be a big benefit not only to the economy but the community of military retirees in the area.

Two Maine Indian tribes have said they would evaluate bidding on parts of the base, promising not to advance controversial gambling or liquid natural gas proposals.

The results of the FAA study will be key. If it determines an airport would be a multimillion-dollar loser, maybe officials will have to look at other strategies. But even if current demand won't support a stand-alone airport, income from an aviation tenant, like the Maine Air National Guard, or an aircraft manufacturing and finishing facility, could provide a vital subsidy for airport operations. It could also give redevelopment officials time to market the site to larger commercial clients.

Richardson, for example, envisions L.L. Bean building an integrated rail-aviation cargo hub. The base's proximity to water could make it an attractive home for a seafood processor wanting to ship lobster and marine delicacies to national or world markets.

State Has a Vision

State officials say the campus could support their ongoing push to establish a nexus of composite manufacturers and suppliers who could build anything from bass boats to unmanned aerial vehicles. Some locals have expressed a desire to see part of the base sprout a botanical garden; others note the presence of unbroken sweep of forest and protected meadow.

The base is big enough to host all of these uses. But it's far too early to get swept up in grand visions.

The bottom line is that the midcoast needs to steel itself for what will be a painful period of job cuts, a disruption of the real estate market, an erosion of the tax base and the disappearance of many friends and neighbors.

Redevelopment will be a long, uphill push. It's good that state and local officials show every indication that they plan to think strategically about a future that won't arrive for decades.

Wishing on a big corporate star might seem attractive, but securing tenants who complement and diversify established economic sectors would leave the midcoast better able to weather unexpected downturns in the long run.

This will take some patience and trust on the part of the larger regional community. Mainers should realize that given the time involved, there will be setbacks. Mainers, too, have a disconcerting habit of opposing development, even when the benefits are manifest.

The uncertainty, the high stakes and the multiple interests all put a premium on thoughtful planning, which to their credit, Brunswick and state officials have already begun to tackle.

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Mark Peters and Trevor Maxwell. 2006. **"Five Mainers Who Made an Impact in 2005."** Portland (ME) Press Herald (January 1, 2006)

From Social Causes to Government Reform, These Five Shared a Trait of Remarkable Dedication.

They worked to keep Maine's military bases open, campaigned for a new gay-rights law and presented a bold vision for the Moosehead Lake region.

These are the people behind the major stories of 2005. It is hard to determine which individual had the greatest effect on Maine over the past year, but it is easy to find those who made an impact.

Jesse Connolly fought to keep a gay-rights law from being repealed, finishing a fight his father started three decades earlier.

Luke Muzzy became a leading voice for the Plum Creek Timber Co., promoting its controversial development plan in the Moosehead Lake region.

Thirty years after becoming a household name in Maine for leading a repeal of the

uniform property tax, Mary Adams returned to “quarterback” a new referendum campaign.

After Hurricane Katrina, Meg Perry headed south to help. But the young activist never returned to Maine, dying in a bus accident there.

Carl Flora’s year changed drastically when the Pentagon recommended shutting the Defense Finance and Accounting Services center in Limestone. What followed was a fight to keep hundreds of jobs at the former Loring Air Force Base.

Here are their stories:

Helping People, Moving Mountains

While others talked about helping hurricane victims, Meg Perry hopped in a car and went straight to the Gulf Coast.

When the scope of the need became clear, she returned home to Maine, convinced as many people as she could to join her, and drove back south in her beloved Frida Bus, a 35-foot school bus converted to run on biodiesel and used vegetable oil.

For nearly three months the Brunswick native ripped out ruined drywall, planted new gardens, brought food to flooded neighborhoods and counseled children.

On Dec. 10, she was traveling to an anti-eviction protest in one of New Orleans’ poorest neighborhoods when another relief worker lost control of the Frida Bus. Perry was the only one killed in the accident.

When news spread about Perry’s death, hundreds of people mourned the loss of a warm, smart and inspirational community leader.

Not many have the energy or sense of community that Perry had, friends said. And not many have as great an impact on the world around them. At age 26, Perry had traveled the state and beyond to talk about sustainable living, social justice and respect for the environment and one another. She loved visiting classrooms, where she challenged students to become leaders and innovators.

Perry was one of the driving forces behind the People’s Free Space, a Portland-based organization concerned with social, ecological and political change.

“She just embodied the generation of civic duty,” said Rick Wilson, who had Perry in his history class at Brunswick Junior High School, and is now service learning coordinator at the high school. “Her zeal and passion never stopped. This isn’t like a phase she grew out of.”

Perry first traveled to the Gulf Coast region in September with seven other Portland area residents, determined to make a difference to hurricane survivors. A reporter and photographer from the Portland Press Herald documented the work, as the volunteers delivered necessities like diapers, rice, beans and juice.

“Get enough people,” Perry told the newspaper, “and you can move a mountain.”

A Son Builds on His Father’s Foundation

Jesse Connolly has finished what his late father started.

In the late 1970s, former Rep. Laurence Connolly, D-Portland, co-sponsored the first bill to protect gays and lesbians under

the Maine Human Rights Act. It didn't pass, but his son led a campaign in 2005 that resulted in voters rejecting the repeal of the law to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment and other areas.

As campaign manager for Maine Won't Discriminate, the 27-year-old Portland resident was working to fulfill a legacy. He also was trying to capture a victory on an issue voters opposed in 1998 and 2000 in statewide referendums.

"I just felt this enormous amount of pressure each morning," Connolly said.

That feeling disappeared on Nov. 8 when his group won at the polls.

The pressure Connolly felt in part came from following his father. The activist and lawmaker died in 1987. But those early years together sparked in the younger Connolly a passion for gay rights, the Democratic Party and social justice.

As a student at Bates College, Connolly wrote his thesis about Maine and its fight over sexual-orientation legislation. He went on to work campaigns for the state Democratic Party and manage the presidential campaign of U.S. Sen. John Kerry in Maine.

Running the campaign for Maine Won't Discriminate presented a new challenge. Connolly knew if the law was repealed, it would be a long time before the public would be ready to reconsider it.

The mix of Republicans and Democrats, gays and heterosexuals, and young and old that made up Maine Won't Discriminate worked well together under Connolly's

management, said Ted O'Meara, an adviser for the campaign.

Connolly's next job is serving as campaign manager for Democratic Gov. John Baldacci, who is running for a second term.

His Vision: To Boost a Rural Economy

Luke Muzzy doesn't leave his new job at the office. It follows him around his hometown of Greenville.

Most places Muzzy goes in this small town on the southern shore of Moosehead Lake, people want to talk about the proposal his employer, Plum Creek Timber Co., has made for the region.

Last spring, the Seattle-based company filed plans with the state to build a resort and hundreds of homes, while preserving timberland and providing easements for walking and snowmobiling trails.

Around the same time, Muzzy, 45, sold his real estate business and took a job as a senior land asset manager with Plum Creek, putting himself in the middle of the debate over the future of the Moosehead region.

"It is hard for me to go out in public and not discuss it. That is fine. It is a watershed moment for the area," said Muzzy, a fourth-generation Greenville resident.

What drew Muzzy to Plum Creek was a combination of family history and a belief that the region needs economic development to survive.

As a selectman in Greenville in the 1980s, he dreamed about making the town a center for tourism. Greenville has seen its population slip in recent years, and Muzzy

fears the decline could cause the high school and regional hospital to close.

That is where Plum Creek comes in. The company has the land and money to boost the tourism economy and bring a long-range plan to the Moosehead region, he said.

Muzzy comes from family that has seen Greenville as a destination for generations. His family has rented cabins in area since the early 1900s and his grandmother opened the town's first hotel.

Muzzy and Plum Creek have met opposition in their vision for the future of the Moosehead region. Local residents have called for a smaller project that uses less back-country land. Statewide environmental groups have protested parts of the plan. And the FBI is investigating vandalism to the homes of people connected to the project, including Muzzy's.

Local residents and environmentalists condemned the attacks. They continue to speak out about the Plum Creek proposal and want to see a revised plan that Muzzy and other planners are working on.

What it says will give locals a sense of whether Muzzy and others with Plum Creek are listening to the concerns of residents in the Moosehead region, said Suzanne AuClair, a member of the Moosehead Region Future's Committee.

She Gave up a Year to Fight for Reform

Mary Adams has been here before.

Almost 30 years ago, she led a drive to repeal the state's uniform property tax. Now this grandmother from Garland is back to take on state spending.

Adams, 67, was the driving force behind gathering signatures to get a legal limit on state and local spending on a state ballot. She turned in 54,000 signatures last October and is waiting for the Secretary of State's Office to verify them.

"She really gave up a year of her life," said Bill Becker, executive director of the Maine Heritage Policy Center, which wrote the language for the proposed ballot question.

The usually difficult task of collecting signatures was even harder for Adams the second time around.

Her sister died last February in the midst of the drive. A month later her husband went into cardiac arrest at his law office. But the self-described "quarterback" of the effort continued the collection, using an extensive grass roots network to gather the signatures.

These volunteers got her 45,000 signatures, but by late summer Adams decided she needed paid help. She started raising money to hire professional signature-gatherers to make a final push around the state.

Adams's second petition drive comes at time in her life when most people are focused on just relaxing. But it's the future that is driving her. She fears none of her grandchildren will be able to settle in Maine.

The proposal known as the "Taxpayers Bill of Rights" would tie annual spending increases for state and local governments to increases in population and inflation. A two-thirds majority of the Legislature and a majority of voters would have to approve new forms of taxation.

The signatures Adams gathered in the mid-1970s led to a statewide vote that repealed the uniform property tax. The victory made

her a household name and brought national attention, including a feature on “60 Minutes.”

Adams continued to remain active in politics. She ran for governor in 1994. More recently she has been the chairwoman of informal group of activists that meets monthly in Augusta.

“My expression is, ‘If not now when, and if not us who,’ “ Adams said.

Some saw disaster, he saw opportunity

The call came while Carl Flora was giving a local men’s club a tour of former the Loring Air Force Base, pointing out the redevelopment successes achieved after the military pulled out in 1994.

A congressional aide left a voice mail. It said the Pentagon recommended closing the Defense Finance and Accounting Services center located at the former base in Limestone. It would mean the loss of 350 jobs, a cornerstone in the base’s rebound from closure.

Flora was stunned when he listened to the message last May.

But the Presque Isle native saw the grim recommendation as a chance to make a case for DFAS (pronounced DEE-fass). Other leaders in the region as well as Baldacci and Maine’s congressional delegation saw the same opportunity.

The challenge became putting together a case on short notice. Communities in southern Maine had expected to be in front of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Aroostook County did not.

“It was fair to say there was pressure to pull that argument together and make the case,” said Flora, chief executive officer of the Loring Development Authority.

Those involved with the county believed the Limestone DFAS was one of the best in the country. The plan for closure was only a recommendation. The next decision rested with the base closure commission.

What followed was a flurry of activity. Flora and Walt Elish, executive director of the Aroostook Partnership for Progress, led the local effort.

They started the Grow DFAS Committee with the goal of adding jobs to the center instead of seeing them move elsewhere.

“Aroostook County always pulls together, and pulls together well,” said Steven Buck, Caribou’s city manager.

Flora, 50, found himself hosting members of the powerful base closure committee and testifying in front of them in Boston.

In late August, Flora gathered with those he worked with to make the case and watched the commission’s proceedings on television. The commission voted to keep the Limestone office open and nearly double its staff to 600.

“It was one of the greatest moments I have ever been through,” Flora said.

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End Pt II



Deon Roberts. 2005. **“N.O. Barely Escapes BRAC Axe.”** New Orleans City Business (December 30): 1.

It was a major surprise when officials convinced federally appointed commissioners this summer to take the Naval Support Activity base in Algiers and Bywater off a list of U.S. military bases targeted for closure.

The odds were stacked against NSA, which has no specific military function or military value, according to consultants from The Spectrum Group in Alexandria, Va. But New Orleans and state officials won over a nine-member federal commission with a promise to convert the base into a nearly \$200 million Federal City without any federal financial assistance. The Federal City plan calls for eliminating NSA office space in Bywater and consolidating military operations in Algiers. New state-of-the-art facilities are planned for Algiers, with space leased to government tenants at bargain rates.

To dodge that bullet is a considerable achievement.

When you look numerically at the percentage of bases that stayed on the list, it was up there in the 80 percentile, said Christopher Hellman, military policy analyst with the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in Washington, D.C.

Hellman said NSA, which employs roughly 4,600 and is the national headquarters for the Marine Corps and Navy reserves, was one of the larger bases to escape the

chopping block in the Base Realignment and Closure process.

The 2005 BRAC, an evaluatory process that takes place every 10 years, was designed to shutter U.S. bases without strong military value and save the federal government nearly \$50 billion over 20 years.

The BRAC Commission, which can revise bases on DOD’s initial list, decided to keep NSA open. Congress and the president agreed with the BRAC Commission’s recommendations, which are now law.

‘Short-term loss’

David Mize, head of Mayor C. Ray Nagin’s Military Advisory Committee, led the effort to save NSA. NSA did lose some operations, including the Naval Reserve Force headquarters and some recruiting and administrative components, totaling an estimated 900 jobs. The loss is offset somewhat by roughly 300 jobs gained by the relocation of the Marine Corps Reserve Support Command from Kansas City, Mo. There’s definitely a short-term loss to us, Mize said.

“The BRAC Commission initially gave New Orleans two years to finance and begin construction on Federal City,” Mize said. “The city might actually have three years, depending on the fine print of the final BRAC report,” Mize said.

In the pitch to the BRAC Commission, state and private investment were to share Federal City’s development costs, which Mize pegged at less than \$150 million.

Mize said it is too early to tell how much state money will be needed. The goal is to

attract as much private investment as possible, he said.

Mize said a financial boost from the federal government will not be needed.

"I'm fully convinced that we can do this project without federal money if we need to," he said.

Federal City Spared

Even though the state is dealing with an expensive mess left behind by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Mize does not seem worried about the feasibility of Federal City.

"It's probably gotten more optimistic rather than less so," he said.

Katrina shouldn't affect Federal City timeline, Mize said. The first year will involve planning and developing policy and no construction, he said.

"Even if there was no Katrina, we'd have to be doing the same thing to get everything lined up," Mize said.

Federal backing on state loans also gives Federal City a post-Katrina advantage. Since it's cheaper to borrow money from the federal government, this would make the cost of building cheaper.

"These loans still require federal approval and will likely come up for a vote in Congress near the end of 2006 once architectural plans are complete," he said.

Terms of an enhanced lease program also need to be worked out with the Department of the Navy. Under that program, the government would allow a private developer to use the NSA site free of charge. "The developer would build Federal City and, at

the end of 25 to 50 years, the entire project becomes the property of the federal government," Mize said.

"The goal is to choose a master developer in 2006 but policies and agreements between the Department of the Navy, the state and the city and others need to be worked out first," Mize said. Bids could be put out by midyear, he said. Construction is expected to run from 2007 until the first half of 2008, with occupancy planned for late 2008, he said.

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Russ Kent. 2005. "179th's Future Remains up in Air." News Journal (Mansfield, OH) December 30, 2005

The year ends as uncertainly as it began for the 179th Airlift Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard, but optimism about the future remains high.

The 179th in its current form is likely on its way out because its eight C-130 Hercules transport aircraft are destined for other bases. But a new mission is being developed for the local unit at Mansfield Lahm Airport, a mission that could one day result in an even larger military presence in Mansfield.

"We're still optimistic and we're working all avenues to appropriate a new mission," Maj. Phil Brown of the 179th said Thursday. "The leadership is working hard and looking to the future."

It's been a topsy-turvy year for the more than 1,000 men and woman at the air base and the community.

In late August it appeared the 179th had no future. During a confusing evening in Washington, D.C., members of the Base Realignment and Closure Committee

appeared to vote to shut down the 179th and send its C-130s to air bases in Arkansas and Alabama.

That decision came despite an effort by local, state and national officials who for months pleaded the case of the 179th in Columbus, in Buffalo, N.Y., in Washington, D.C., and anywhere else they could find a sympathetic ear.

Just a few days after BRAC commissioners appeared to put a death grip around the 179th's throat, there was renewed hope. Local officials learned the commission hadn't actually voted to close the 179th. Instead, they decided to turn the Mansfield base into an "enclave" unit which, according to BRAC officials, will keep the base open even though it is losing its flying operations.

The Lahm air base will not be shut down, although its C-130s are still headed south. The base will remain operational. But no other details were announced in August, and none have been made public since.

The air base is being turned into an Armed Forces Reserve Center, one of three in the state, which can accommodate more than one branch of the military.

The 706th Transportation Company of the U.S. Army Reserve will move from its Hedges Street facility to Lahm. It will take with it about 60 full-time employees and 170 members. A smaller reserve unit from the Parrott Army Reserve Center in Kenton, which has about 10 full-time employees, also will come to Mansfield.

It's also possible the 1486th Transportation Company of the Ohio Army National Guard, headquartered in Ashland and Mansfield, could be relocated to the new AFRC.

An Air Force presence also will continue. But when those new units * or any other units * will show up in Mansfield is uncertain. Under BRAC rules, the changes must be completed no later than 2011.

In the meantime, National Guard officials and others are lobbying for a new mission. There is growing confidence that mission will include some type of flying unit. There is also confidence a new mission could translate into more employees and activity at the air base, which would be a boon to the local economy.

It is estimated that the 179th and its 1,050 members pump more than \$70 million annually into the Mansfield and north central Ohio economy.

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The Associated Press. 2005. "**Arlington County Creates Panel to Deal with Military Shift.**" Associated Press Newswires (December 30, 14:27).

Arlington, Va. (AP) * A task force is scheduled to convene in January to help Arlington County prepare for one of the nation's biggest military shifts.

The federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended downsizing and consolidating military installations that will eliminate nearly 20,000 jobs and leave about 4 million square feet of office space empty in Arlington County.

Nearly half of the office space in Arlington is occupied by the federal government. The federal government owns 17 percent of all land in the county, and about 45,000 federal military and civilian employees work in the county.

Earlier this month, the Arlington County Board of Supervisors voted to create the BRAC Transition Task Force, which will include members of the Economic Development Commission and outside experts. The group plans to offer recommendations to county leaders in June.

"It's an overwhelming task, but it's not like the sky is falling down," Marty Almquist, a commission member who will lead the task force, told The Washington Post. "There is going to be a move, there is going to be a change. We don't want to be naive and think, 'Arlington is a perfect location, (so) let's wait for new companies to come in.' We want to be as strategic, as scientific and as proactive as we can be."

The Arlington County task force has identified four areas of strategic focus:

- * Redeveloping Crystal City. Built in the 1960s, many of its buildings are 30 years old and considered less than prime office space.
- * Retaining some of the area's highly educated work force.
- * Mitigating job losses and vacancies among small businesses and in the hospitality industry.
- * Bringing new tenants into leased office space.

Arlington leaders mounted a "Save the Brains" campaign when the BRAC announcements were made. As a result, some of the science and defense research agencies will stay in the county instead of moving to Bethesda, Md., as the Department

of Defense proposed.

The task force will build on that theme.

"Some people who are supposed to be relocated are very, very educated scientists and specialists who have security clearances. That's the biggest shortage we have in the work force," said Terry Holzheimer, director of the Arlington Economic Development Commission.

The military's biggest moves won't be made for another five or six years.

Still, the task force is already hearing from small businesses and hospitality industry officials who are concerned that the vacancies and job losses may hurt their businesses. In response, the task force is talking about developing a recruitment and marketing strategy to capitalize on Arlington's proximity to the District and the Pentagon, and other positives.

"Arlington is a resilient community. We've weathered these shocks before," Holzheimer said. "If we do this strategically, we may come out in a better place than if it accidentally happens."

Robert G. Templin Jr., president of Northern Virginia Community College, chaired a BRAC working group for northern Virginia.

"Arlington represents the largest single potential loss of military-related jobs of anywhere in the United States under this round of BRAC," Templin said.

Templin's group recommended that state leaders and the congressional delegation work to secure federal funding for transportation improvements to deal with clogged roads in the outer suburbs and for

planning money and a designation of Arlington as a preferred location for federal functions.

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Mladen Rudman. 2005. **“BRAC Lifts Eglin.”** Northwest Florida Daily News (Fort Walton Beach, FL) (December 30).

Growth Poses Challenges for 2006

A loud warplane every three to four minutes during the day. A substantially boosted Army presence locally * more than 2,000 soldiers. About \$474 million more annually in payroll, along with some \$473 million in construction and related spending. Those are just some of the consequences for Eglin Air Force Base and surrounding municipalities after the Base Realignment and Closure process came to a dramatic close in 2005. Eglin, a large base with room for joint military operations, is expected to grow by approximately 7,700 troops, including Green Berets from Fort Bragg, N.C., and civilians. The time frame is no longer than five years, the amount of time the Pentagon has to implement BRAC. Handling the massive influx, in addition to the normal growth happening in Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton counties, promises to be difficult. So, Eglin officials and community leaders have promised to keep each other updated on BRAC-related developments.

“Our intent is to provide the community with information as we learn it,” Bob Arnold, Eglin Mission Enhancement Committee chairman, said recently. “We certainly have enough time to plan.” The challenge of providing infrastructure such as sewage treatment, widened roadways and schools to accommodate thousands of new troops and their families * an estimated total of between 15,000 and 20,000 people * can’t be underestimated. The base’s housing

privatization initiative is being revamped because of BRAC. Before building on Air Force land, environmental impact studies also have to be completed for the location of the Army 7th Special Forces Group headquarters and the Joint Strike Fighter (F-35) Initial Joint Training site. Beyond the base’s perimeter, cities are wondering how BRAC will affect them. Betting men expect Crestview to shoulder much of the BRAC expansion in terms of housing, a prospect cautiously welcomed by at least some of the municipality’s leadership. Don Gaetz, Okaloosa County superintendent of schools, may have said it best in November while characterizing BRAC’s local impact. “It’s a blessing because our community and economy have benefited substantially from the military presence here,” he said. “Now, not all blessings come easily.”

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The Associated Press. 2005. **“U.S. Base in Germany Closes After 60 Years.”** Associated Press Newswires (December 30, 11:29).

Frankfurt, Germany (AP) * The U.S. Air Force on Friday handed over the keys to Rhein-Main Air Base to the operator of Frankfurt International Airport, the last step in closing the base that hosted American forces for 60 years.

The 120 buildings on the base are to be bulldozed to make way for a third terminal for Frankfurt’s sprawling civilian airport * continental Europe’s busiest. It officially becomes German property on Saturday.

The ceremony, at which Brig. Gen. Mike Snodgrass gave the keys of the base’s buildings and main gate to Manfred Schoelch of airport operator Fraport AG, followed Rhein-Main’s formal closing in October.

“It’s bittersweet * after 60 years of partnership, to see it come to an end,” said Capt. Jonathan Friedman, a U.S. Air Force spokesman.

The airport plans to use the additional space as it prepares to house a new maintenance and supply facility for the new Airbus super-jumbo A380, the world’s largest passenger jet. Construction began earlier this year for a hangar.

Rhein-Main was once a hub of activity for American forces facing Soviet bloc forces and tensions in the Middle East. It saw a steady stream of planes fly supplies to West Berliners in the late 1940s during the Soviet blockade of the city.

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Tammy Anderson. 2005. **“Bomb Wing Flies in from South Dakota.”** Pacific Daily News (Hagatna, GU) December 29, 2005

More than 200 members of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota began transferring to Guam yesterday, during a time when military presence is expected to increase.

The move to Andersen Air Force Base is part of the 120-day Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotation, according to a press release from Air Force officials.

The airmen of the 34th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron are replacing their sister squadron, the 36th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron from Ellsworth. The 36th Squadron has been on Guam since August, and also is from the South Dakota air base.

The U.S. military is being shifted worldwide after a base realignment plan was approved earlier this year.

Guam has a permanent bomber presence with a regular rotation of fighter planes since last year, according to Pacific Daily News files.

The aircraft of the 37th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, B-1B Lancer bombers, arrived at Andersen Air Force Base earlier this year.

The 34th and 36th Expeditionary Bomb Squadrons will exchange control of six B-1B aircraft on Guam, the release states.

“Continued B-1 bomber presence offers the (U.S. Pacific Command) commander short-notice global strike and strategic engagement capabilities that otherwise would not exist in this region,” the release states.

At a Glance

* The 28th Bomb Wing was announced as the lead unit for the new Expeditionary Air Force concept in 1999. The group was based out of Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

* It was first organized in 1947 under a plan designed to streamline forces after World War II.

* In 1986, the group phased out the aging B-52 fleet for the B-1B Lancer.

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Annie Gowan. 2006. **“Board’s ‘06 Agenda: Tackle Housing, Job Losses.”** The Washington Post January 3, 2006

Zimmerman, New Arlington Chairman, Outlines Challenges for 'Urban Village'

The Arlington County Board detailed new initiatives aimed at combating the loss of affordable housing and military jobs at its first meeting of the year yesterday.

The board also elected Chris Zimmerman (D) as chairman. Zimmerman, 46, was first elected to the board in 1996 and has served as chairman twice previously. He is known for his feisty personality and keen interest in architecture, urban planning and transportation, having long served on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority board.

Zimmerman is also one of the county's strongest advocates for affordable housing and was a key player in a deal struck last fall with developers that will set aside portions of new development for homes for low-income residents.

"Clearly, the state of our county is very good. . . . Yet we face significant challenges, some new, some born of our own success," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman reiterated his vision of Arlington as an "urban village" * his term for a community that is struggling to retain its neighborhood feel while facing increasing pressure on roads and services because of an influx of new residents and large-scale development. In that vein, Arlington officials this year will be facing key issues, such as a new plan for the burgeoning Clarendon neighborhood as well as an update of the county's transportation policy.

Specifically, officials will continue to deal with the fallout from the decision last year by the federal Base Realignment and

Closure Commission to move nearly 20,000 military jobs from Arlington, which outgoing board Chairman Jay Fiset (D) yesterday called a hit "in the gut." Arlington officials managed to save some key science and defense research jobs, but the change ultimately means that 4 million square feet of office space will be vacated, the equivalent of four military bases.

Zimmerman said yesterday that a BRAC transition assistance center would be created to help businesses and employees in the Crystal City area that will suffer most.

In a county in which about 2,000 affordable apartments were swallowed up by luxury development last year, affordable housing remains a top priority, officials said. Zimmerman said that this year the board will explore options such as encouraging residents to form their own housing co-ops and modifying zoning codes so that English basements and garage apartments could serve low-income residents.

Board members also proposed new aid programs for senior citizens and the poor.

Zimmerman proposed assessing Arlington's "aging readiness" by examining how the county serves senior citizens with housing, services and transportation.

The number of Arlington residents nearing retirement age has increased more than 34 percent in the last decade, according to U.S. Census data.

Board member Barbara A. Favola (D) said she also will press for Arlington to expand the eligibility requirements for day-care subsidies from 185 percent of the federal poverty level to 250 percent, which is \$48,375 for a family of four. This would bring the county in line with programs in

neighboring Alexandria and Fairfax County, she said.

“We’re in a high-cost area, and we need to move it up,” Favola said. The change will require state permission and some federal funding, she said.

In other business, the board elected member Paul Ferguson (D) its vice chairman.

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Denny Boyles. 2006. **“Old Jets May Ground Guard Unit.”** The Fresno (CA) Bee (December 31, 2005).

Air Force Plan to Retire Aging F-16C Aircraft Threatens Future of Fresno’s 144th Fighter Wing.

Though it survived the budget ax during the latest round of military base closures, the Fresno-based 144th Fighter Wing future is threatened by the Air Force’s plans to retire its aging aircraft.

“As of right now, all of our planes are set to leave service in six years, and we have no information on whether those planes will be replaced,” said Lt. Heather Pratt, public affairs officer for the 144th. “It’s a big deal. If there are no follow-up planes assigned, we will be out of business.”

The 144th is one of nine Air National Guard units nationwide assigned to continental air defense, and the only one still flying F-16C fighters. It employs 900, and the base contributes \$64 million a year to the local economy in payroll.

Everyone involved, from the pilots of the 144th to Guard officials in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., agrees that the unit needs to transition to the F-15C aircraft used by every other air defense unit.

Lt. Toni Gray, public affairs officer for the California Air National Guard, said that while the F-16C is a capable aircraft, it’s not as capable as the F-15C.

“The F-15 has two engines, improved avionics and is overall a better aircraft for the mission. Plus, it has the real advantage of a much longer service life,” Gray said.

The Air Force expects F-15Cs to fly until 2025, at least. Pilots at the 144th learned recently that the F-16C, Block 32 aircraft assigned to Fresno in November’s Base Realignment and Closure Commission report are expected to leave service in 2012.

Pilots say it was quite a blow to learn that the planes, which haven’t arrived yet, won’t be around long.

“Initially, our reaction to the Pentagon BRAC report was that it was awesome. Then, two things happened. First, the BRAC commission dropped the number of aircraft and personnel we would be getting. Then, and this was the killer, the Air Force announced that the new planes we would be receiving were scheduled for retirement in 2012, and no plan was in place to replace those planes,” said Maj. Dave Johnstone, intelligence officer for the 144th.

The BRAC commission changes were typical for the base closure process, in which the Defense Department and the independent commission frequently disagree over the military value of bases.

Also typical of the process are last-minute promotion efforts, such as one in Montana that Fresno officials cite as part of their problem.

A Montana Air National Guard base in Great Falls was slated for closure when the BRAC process began. When the commission released its final report six months later, Great Falls not only stayed active, but also saw the replacement of 15 F-16C fighters with F-15Cs.

Montana-based aircraft have been flying air defense missions in California since Sept. 11, and the F-15Cs make it likely the missions will continue.

Officials in Great Falls, which was ranked much lower by the Defense Department than Fresno in military value, say a concerted effort by elected officials saved their base.

“We ran an exceptional campaign to keep the closures from affecting Montana,” said James Pendleton, director of communications for Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont.

Pendleton said both of Montana’s U.S. senators, the state’s only congressman and local officials all worked together on one goal, keeping the 120th Fighter Wing in Great Falls.

“Those elected officials addressed the BRAC commission directly, and really showed that strong support for the military existed in Montana,” Pendleton said.

A similar but smaller-scale effort was run in Fresno in the months leading up to the first BRAC report. But when Fresno was not on the planned closure list, that effort slowed, and Fresno had no voice in the final decision-making process.

Larry Westerlund, a Fresno City Council member who helped organize efforts to promote Fresno prior to the BRAC process, said he is heading to Washington, D.C., in

February to begin lobbying for replacement aircraft.

“We need to begin taking steps to ensure we have the follow-on aircraft we need. And we need to take those steps now, not four years from now,” Westerlund said.

Westerlund said he plans to enlist area congressmen as well as state officials to help in the effort.

“I really think it’s a mistake for those planes to go to Montana. They will be spending over \$1 million a year ferrying aircraft and personnel to California, when it could be done much cheaper from Fresno. Why should Californians not be guarding California? Those planes coming here makes better financial sense, and is the right thing to do,” Westerlund said.

Air Guard representatives in both Washington, D.C., and Sacramento said they could not comment on the BRAC process, but Gray said there is no need to panic.

“The pursuit of getting F-15C aircraft for the 144th has been in our legislative agenda for the last three years, and will remain a priority until it happens. Six years is a long time, especially in an Air Force that is constantly undergoing transformation,” Gray said.

The reporter can be reached at dboyles@fresnobee.com or (559) 441-6659.

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“Many Base Closings Have a Silver Lining.”

KiplingerForecasts
December 30, 2006.
Richard Sammon. 2006.
But it may take years to see.

Most communities dread military base closings in their areas and fight to prevent them. But in fact, many end up doing quite well over time. Of 22 major bases to be shuttered and 33 more slated to be realigned under the latest round of base closings, most sites will be transformed into successful private or public enterprises.

Developers are already eagerly eyeing several installations:

The Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant will become an office park with high-tech clients. It is located in Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Fort Monmouth, located halfway between Atlantic City, N.J., and New York City, is prized real estate that won't stay undeveloped for very long.

A Navy facility near Brunswick, Maine, may spring to new life as a community airport serving a busy area near Bowdoin College.

And the Willow Grove Naval Air Station close to Philadelphia will likely become a luxury townhouse and shopping mall development.

But some areas with bases set to close won't recover easily.

The loss of Onizuka Air Force Station in Sunnyvale, Calif., for instance, has local officials worried. The area was hit hard by the dot-com crash and still has a high commercial vacancy rate.

And the Newport Chemical Depot in west central Indiana may have environmental contamination for several years. That will delay closing the depot and may make some

developers skittish about building on the site.

Communities affected by base closings usually have several years to develop their recovery plans, because a closing typically takes three to four years.

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“US DoD Tries to Expect the Unexpected.”

Journal of Electronic Defense 28/12
December 14, 2005

Ted McKenna.
US Quadrennial Defense Review 2005
Formulates Strategy for Coping with
Uncertain Future

If only US Defense of Department (DoD) officials could see the future, planning the size and composition of the military would be a lot easier.

They can't, of course, but the Congressionally mandated Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) 2005, due to be completed in February of next year, requires them to try to guess.

A process that first began in 1993 as a review by then-Defense secretary Les Aspin, the first QDR mandated by Congress occurred in 1997, followed by another in 2001. Each QDR is a kind of exercise for the DoD in determining the most pressing threats the US may face in the next 20 years or so and how the military can best prepare to meet those threats. Each QDR that comes along seems to be billed as the “most important ever,” and this latest QDR may indeed be the most important one to come along so far, given the US needs to not only revamp its military in light of the disintegration of the Soviet Union * its former, relatively predictable nemesis * but the obvious new threats presented by

terrorism in the US and overseas and the insurgent warfare US forces face in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A first step in drawing up the 2005 QDR has been to characterize at least the types of threats the US faces. Charts being used by DoD officials at various defense conferences in recent months depict threats as falling into four basic categories: conventional, for which most agree that US has a lot of "overmatch" compared with other countries; irregular, represented by adversaries such as Al Qaeda and the insurgent fighters in Iraq, who tend to use remote-control bombs and other indirect means of attack; catastrophic, including natural disasters such as the tsunami in southeast Asia and Hurricane Katrina; and disruptive, which entails some event or weapon planners can't imagine right now (see also "Guessing Game: Quadrennial Defense Review 2005," JED, August 2005, p. 28).

At least one thing most military analysts and lawmakers agree on is that the US today is far better prepared to fight "conventional" wars as opposed to "irregular" wars in places like Iraq that call for not just fast aircraft, precise weaponry, and effective command and control, but also sophisticated social skills such as language proficiency and new types of technology such as devices for detecting and defeating improvised bombs (see "US Examining Urban Puzzle," JED, October 2005, p. 18). Discussing the 2005 QDR at a Heritage Foundation-sponsored event this summer, Dr. Joseph Collins, a professor at the National War College and a former deputy assistant secretary for defense for stability operations, noted that in the post-Cold War era, wars involving the US have generally included some type of humanitarian crisis that commanders must address, and doing so involves the coordination of many agencies

and groups, including non-governmental organizations. Collins noted the now retired US Army Gen. Tommy Franks has described post-stability operations as requiring a lot of boots and wingtips on the ground, without which all the work devolves on the military.

Such realities of irregular warfare are expected to play a large part in development of the latest QDR, and indeed the US Army and US Marine Corps are already reforming their training programs to give soldiers and marines these new kinds of expertise (see "Renaissance Soldiers," JED, September 2005, p. 30; and "Small Wars the Norm for USMC," JED, October 2005, p. 24). But while irregular warfare and natural disasters are the focus of today's news reports, QDR participants say they don't want the US to fail to prepare for other types of eventualities. For example, could war break out with Iran, China, or North Korea? Could there be political upheaval in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, or some other country? Many defense experts note that four years ago, a war to overthrow the Afghanistan government might have seemed unbelievable, yet it happened. Many other scenarios can't be regarded as necessarily farfetched, either, and are, therefore, worthy of some advance planning (see sidebar below on "Disaster Planning"), including improvements in so-called conventional capabilities such as missile defense, naval firepower, new types of fighter aircraft, and more. While the US may be focused on the fighting in Iraq today, operations five, 10, or 20 years from now could be very different.

Besides providing forces with superior "soft" skills, the kind that aid troops deployed in peacekeeping situations such as Liberia or Haiti, another widely recognized need for the military that is likely to be a focus of the latest QDR is the coordination

of not just the various military services, with the aim of improving joint warfare capabilities, but coordination of the military with other government organizations, like the State Department, as well as with non-governmental organizations such as the Red Cross. Major General Keith W. Dayton, director of strategy, plans, and policy for the US Army's office of the deputy chief of staff, said at a national-security conference in Washington, DC, in September that this type of coordination * the importance of which was underscored during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina along the US Gulf Coast, and is part of nearly all kinds of military operations today, including in Iraq * is a central guiding principle for development of the new QDR, though he did not discuss how improved coordination might be achieved.

Of course, everything costs money. The Defense Department may spend half a trillion dollars every year, including the \$80 million or so annual "supplemental" funds authorized by Congress in recent years for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but that isn't enough to buy everything that each individual service wants. The US Navy wants several new types of ships, and as many as possible (see "Course Correction on US Navy's DD(X) Program," JED, July 2005, p. 15); the US Air Force wants hundreds of new F/A-22S (see "USAF Pleads the Case for F/A-22S," JED, November 2005, p. 30); and the US Army wants a new Future Combat System (see "Amid Budget Crunch, US Army Promotes FCS," JED, November 2005, p. 17). An emphasis on training and developing better rounded troops also costs more money and may affect how the QDR approaches the various big-ticket defense programs, whether naval, aircraft, or ground-based.

Given that there isn't enough money to prepare for everything, debates by analysts over what the QDR should emphasize have arisen, including the weighing of conventional versus irregular threats, for example. Given that most decision makers in the DoD and Congress agree that the US has plenty of conventional war-making capabilities, from advanced aircraft and ships to powerful missiles and sophisticated navigation and communications technologies, saying the US needs to better prepare for "irregular" or "disruptive" warfare is easy. But deciding how exactly to better prepare for irregular warfare is difficult, if it means spending less on, say, heavy armor and more on language training. As Dr. Daniel Goure, an analyst at the Lexington Institute, said at recent hearing before the US House Armed Services Committee on the goals and principles of the QDR: "The four-quadrant picture created by the Pentagon is essentially hollow. What's important are the forces used to deal with the issues."

As seen with the fighting in Iraq, a move toward lighter, faster vehicles proved not entirely prescient, as it turned out that more heavily armed vehicles were needed to protect soldiers against improvised explosive devices (IEDs) (see "Shutting the Bomb Factory," JED, September 2005, p. 14). In the case of the disruptive category, preparing for something totally unknown doesn't even seem possible. Michele Flournoy of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said at the same hearing that the success of the review depends on the developers establishing a balance among the needs for homeland security and fighting conventional and irregular warfare, which includes deciding what capabilities are needed for each, and how much. Because of budget limitations, risks must be taken -the military must decide

to spend a little less in one area so it can spend more in another, Flournoy said.

One admiral who has been involved in ongoing discussions about the QDR said that all the services are looking at their capabilities as a whole and trying to determine where overlap may occur, where redundancies in capabilities can be reduced. Naturally, the instinct to protect programs owned by particular services doesn't go away, "but I can tell you that there 's nothing that hasn't been put on the table," the admiral said. So the QDR could well help the military address some of the ongoing questions about certain expensive programs it has going. In the past year, cuts have been made in space programs like the Space-Based Infrared Radar System-High (see "US Congress Questions Skyrocketing Space Costs," JED, September 2005, p. 29). Faced with the cost maintaining forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army had to give up its Comanche program, which was more of a Cold War era helicopter anyway (see "US Army Scalps Comanche," JED, April 2004, p. 28).

Given the rising costs and longer development times associated with individual programs * for instance, whereas the F-16 took about five years from conception to production, the F/A-22 has taken about 14 years * cuts are already being made.

Did the previous QDR adequately address the threats the US face, including those made evident to all by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, which occurred while the previous QDR was being developed and which planners had to scramble to take into account? Dov Zakheim, the former chief financial officer of the Pentagon, regards it as a "revolutionary" document that explicitly focused on homeland defense and the continued need to prepare for facing two

threats simultaneously, although only one could be an "all-out" war. A focus on new types of technologies, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), emerged from the 2001 QDR1 Zakheim said recently during testimony at a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee, plus the document underscored the importance of joint warfare, as well as inspiring a number of overseas base closings and the realignment of overseas bases. But acquisition reform didn't occur as the developers of the previous QDR had hoped, Zaheim said, nor did the QDR point to the importance of "up-armored" vehicles in Iraq, among other things.

What ultimately will be the result of the latest QDR1 and indeed what effect it will have on the DoD actions * does it really change practices or is it basically an academic exercise, as a congressman asked during the recent hearing on QDR * remains to be seen. Some hiccups have occurred in the process of developing the latest QDR. For instance, the new deputy defense secretary, Gordon England, has reportedly sought to shake up what he regarded as a lackluster effort to develop the QDR, pushing for more of a focus on cutting expensive weapons programs and requiring a more concentrated analysis of strategy. If cuts to major programs like the F/A-22 are indeed codified in the new QDR, for example, or a bolder attitude toward the possible deployment of weapons in space is expressed, then many people in the defense community will take the new QDR very seriously indeed.

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War Demands Spur Growth, Other Changes at Fort Lewis.

Associated Press Newswires
January 1, 2006.

Fort Lewis, Wash. (AP) * Fort Lewis grew by nearly 5,500 soldiers in 2005, and it will continue to grow in the coming years, with an additional 3,300 soldiers expected by the end of 2007.

The active-duty population at Fort Lewis is projected to top 30,000 in the next several years.

The Army post is facing other changes, as it works toward aligning with nearby McChord Air Force Base, a merger ordered by the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

The changes are being driven by the demands of the Iraq war and the Army's initiative to transform itself into a more efficient, responsive fighting force.

Several Fort Lewis units are scheduled to return home in the first part of 2006 after deployments overseas, including about 250 soldiers with the 170th Military Police Company and 504th Military Police Battalion, and some 450 soldiers of the 864th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) from Afghanistan.

Other units will be heading out. More than 3,500 soldiers in the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division are gearing up for their second rotation in Iraq.

They became the first Stryker Brigade Combat Team sent into combat when they deployed in late 2003. They will ship out again in the middle of the year.

The brigade is named after the eight-wheeled armored vehicles that fill a gap between light infantry and heavy forces. The vehicles are back at Fort Lewis being overhauled and upgraded for the upcoming deployment.

More than 500 soldiers are scheduled to arrive at Fort Lewis this year to become part of the new battalion of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

Dubbed the Nightstalkers, the regiment will covertly ferry special-operations soldiers into combat zones. It will work closely with two special-forces units stationed at Fort Lewis: the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment and the 1st Special Forces Group.

Starting in February, the 7th Airlift Squadron from McChord will deploy to oversee C-17 flights in and out of Afghanistan, Iraq and other areas.

Meanwhile, the Office of Secretary of Defense is reviewing an 800-plus-page report with recommendations on how the Fort Lewis-McChord merger should proceed.

All we're doing is waiting for guidance on how they want us to implement it, said Lt. Erika Yepsen, a McChord spokeswoman.

The joint basing must be completed in six years.

Fort Lewis will see big changes for its three Stryker brigades. In addition to the deployment of the 3rd Brigade, many of the soldiers with the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division will move to Germany. Those soldiers will form the core of a new Stryker brigade, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

Three Stryker brigades will remain at Fort Lewis, all under the command of the 2nd Infantry Division. The new unit to succeed the 1st Brigade will activate at Fort Lewis sometime in late 2006 or 2007. It will be

called the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

The brigade now known as the 2nd Cavalry Regiment will soon be called the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. It is converting into a Stryker brigade and will be ready for deployment in 2007 or 2008, if needed, depending on the status of the war in Iraq.



Topping the Year's News

St. Louis (MO) Post-Dispatch
January 1, 2006

1 MEDICAID CUTS: The young and new governor said Missouri's budget couldn't sustain the rapid growth in Medicaid costs * at \$5 billion per year. Adversaries called his list of proposed cuts a cruel blow to the state's needy. Aided by Republican majorities in both houses of the Legislature, Gov. Matt Blunt prevailed in tightening eligibility, ending or reducing some benefits and adding or increasing deductibles.

2 GOODBYE TO OLD BUSCH: All year long, workers raised the new stadium higher as fans packed the old one next door. Fans said farewell to old Busch Stadium with tears and graffiti, and by grabbing small chunks of its broken concrete. The last arches of the old stadium fell to the wrecking ball early on Dec. 8.

3 BATTLE WITH THE BISHOP: As the leaders of St. Stanislaus Kostka church continued to defy, and the archbishop continued to threaten, the stakes kept getting higher. Finally, after the church hired its own priest, Archbishop Raymond Burke on Dec. 17 declared excommunicated the new priest and the parish board members. The

battle over control of parish assets had been simmering for decades.

4 MILITARY JOBS TAKEN AWAY: The Pentagon on May 13 spared Scott Air Force Base but announced that 2,600 other military jobs would leave the St. Louis area for other installations. So would thundering F-15s of the Missouri Air National Guard, based at Lambert Field. Local politicians howled, but the cutting of the national Base Realignment and Closure Commission prevailed in Washington.

5 PRAXAIR FIRE: The brilliant fireballs wobbled through the air and exploded * An inferno fed by hundreds of tanks of industrial gases. The fire at the Praxair Inc. plant just south of downtown on June 24 sent neighbors dashing to safety and transfixed a nationwide television audience. Amazingly, no one was seriously hurt.

6. RESERVOIR BREACH: More than 1 billion gallons of water burst through AmerenUE's hydroelectric reservoir in Reynolds County on Dec. 14, down Profit Mountain and onto Johnson Shut-Ins State Park.

7. STEM-CELL DEBATE: Missouri's anti-abortion ranks were shuffled Oct. 12 when Gov. Blunt and former Sen. Danforth supported an amendment to allow stem cell research with embryonic cloning. Many religious leaders oppose it.

8. ILLINOIS REVERSALS: The state's reputation as a haven for damage-suit lawyers took hits from its Supreme Court, which threw out billion-dollar judgments versus State Farm in Williamson County and Philip Morris in Madison County.

9. METROLINK COSTS: The extension into central St. Louis County, almost a year

behind, was supposed to cost \$550 million. But officials said in August that it might run \$132 million over. Filings in the who's-to-blame court case pile up.

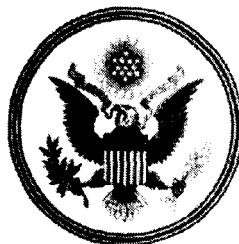
10. SMOKING BAN FIZZLES: After months of deliberation and not just a little shouting, the St. Louis County Council voted 4-3 on Aug. 16 against a plan to greatly limit smoking in public places, much to the relief of local casinos.

Opinions/ Editorials

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Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

EARLY



BIRD

February 7, 2006

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From saving jobs to saving lives

Officials Make BRAC Easier to Handle

Cichowski to discuss military defense budget

130th Airlift Wing celebrates Arrival of new cargo planes

Closed bases can be bonanza for military sell for top dollar in some areas

Copters' role ready to grow at arsenal Army's \$119M plans for airfield area include new facilities, test upgrades

Budgets key to area federal work Redstone and Marshall Projects heavily depend on Bush proposals today

Wright-Pat may benefit from proposed budget increases

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From saving jobs to saving lives

By Andrew J. Manuse

Daily News Staff

Tuesday, February 7, 2006

The group responsible for keeping Natick Labs and Hanscom Air Force Base open will now focus on building a Massachusetts-dominated defense-technology industry. The Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative, established in 2003 by the Waltham-based Massachusetts High Technology Council, was part of an event yesterday highlighting the U.S. Army's Future Combat Systems program and how it will benefit New England.

That program is the Army's modernization effort, which will automate much of the military's operations and make the battlefield a safer place for U.S. soldiers, according to the council.

While the initiative's previous efforts saved 33,000 jobs at Hanscom and the Army's Natick Soldier Center during the Pentagon's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure round, the group now will help the state's high-tech companies capitalize on \$6.8 billion of research and development

money slated for the Future Combat Systems program here. The program will be "a key economic driver" for the state's economy, according to Christopher Anderson, president of the Waltham-based council.

Future Combat Systems will involve technologies such as unmanned ground and aerial vehicles, remote-controlled artillery and equipment that connects U.S. soldiers electronically over a secure military network.

Nationwide, the Future Combat Systems program will cost the Army \$120 billion over 30 years, and will create 15 brigades, fully capable of operating anywhere in the world, even if uninvited, according to Lt. Gen. Dan Zanini, deputy program manager for Science Applications International Corp., or SAIC.

The technologies will be rolled out for use in battle in phases, but testing on some of them has already begun, Zanini said.

SAIC and Boeing, the contractors hired by the Army, will have hired 700 companies nationwide by the end of this year to work on several aspects of the program, according to Zanini.

Ranch Kimball, the state's secretary of economic development, said the general defense industry in Massachusetts already supports an estimated 65,000 to 85,000 jobs, which can be compared with the 17,000 to 30,000 jobs supported by the biotech industry here. Kimball, who also spoke yesterday, said the defense industry is an "incredibly important part" of the state's technology economy.

The Future Combat System, which will support only part of that defense industry

base, currently involves 26 Massachusetts companies, such as ron Systems Corp., where yesterday's event was held in Wilmington, iRobot Corp. in Burlington, Netegrity Inc. in Waltham, EComp in Ashland and Systinet Corp. in Natick.

ron Systems is working on technologies such as disposable sensors that soldiers involved in urban warfare can leave behind them when raiding a building to "watch their back." iRobot, the company commonly known for its "artificially intelligent" vacuum cleaner, has deployed 300 of its PackBots in Iraq and Afghanistan. The remote-controlled robots are used in urban warfare and caves to sense biological and chemical weapons as well as enemy personnel hiding behind corners.

While these robots come back to Massachusetts in pieces from time to time, they have prevented soldiers from returning in body bags, according to Thomas Ryden, director of government sales and marketing for iRobot.

The Natick Soldier Center, which works with several companies in and out of Massachusetts, is building components for U.S. soldiers so they will literally sit within the Future Combat System platform, according to Jean-Louis "Dutch" DeGay, an equipment specialist for the center. Soldiers will personally be equipped with infrared, thermal, global positioning and radio sensors, as well as "IFF" sensors that will identify other U.S. Army soldiers to prevent friendly fire.

"We are transforming the soldier into a secure laptop connected to a secure Internet to push and pull data," said DeGay. "They're part of the collective; a soldier has the ability to see what everybody sees and vice versa." Soldiers, who already control

PackBots, will have access to unmanned air vehicles, which can support them by locating and firing on the enemy from above.

The Massachusetts companies involved with the Future Combat System currently support 200 cutting-edge science and engineering jobs, according to U.S. Rep. Martin Meehan, D-Lowell, and a House Armed Services Committee member who spoke at the event.

"Our military superiority has resulted from weapons quality and technology advancements enabled by a robust foundation of basic research," said Meehan. "To keep our edge, we must continue investing in R&D."

Meehan said the Future Combat System program will thrive in Massachusetts, "where technology and innovation have long been a cornerstone of our economy." He said the state would also need to invest in science, technology, engineering and math education to ensure there are highly skilled workers to fill future jobs in the growing Massachusetts industry.

Officials Make BRAC Easier to Handle
Emerald Coast
February 6, 2006
Jennifer Otto

The realities of Base Realignment and Closure are drawing near as military officials determine ways to ease transition for service members and civilians.

To help with the transition, the Air Force Reserve Command is providing full-time Air Force civilians and Reservists with new Web-based job placement services.

Called clearinghouses, these virtual job fairs take personal career and location preferences into account and work to match BRAC-displaced people with new opportunities.

According to "A BRAC Guide for Civilian and Military Personnel Issues" – released by the command in January – gaining units must give first priority for placement in vacant positions to displaced people who register in one of the clearinghouses.

The technical reason why BRAC-displaced workers must find new jobs at new locations is because of the "transfer of function" rules. None of the command's BRAC actions qualify as a transfer of function. In cases where a job move is not a transfer of function, employees do not have a right to move with their job to the new unit. While employees may be given a chance to apply, they may have to compete with other candidates for the job.

Command people displaced by BRAC can learn more by accessing the guide from a military computer at www.mil.afrc.af.mil/hq/dp/brac.

Cichowski to discuss military defense budget
By Laura Hunt
Feb 6, 2006

The black jets Otero County residents see flying through the skies may be gone by 2008.

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Tom Fuller, Public Affairs media chief, said it was premature discuss details of the budget until after it is released. However, if the stealths are retired, Holloman won't necessarily be in danger of closing, he said.

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The base may even be viable for the F-22A Raptor, a jet capable of supersonic speeds and aerial combat.

"A team did come here last month in January to do a site survey at Holloman for the possible basing of the F-22 at Holloman," Fuller said. "However, similar teams have come here in the past to look for other weapons systems that didn't come here."

The site survey gives Air Force planners the information they need to make a decision, Fuller said. Right now, no one is officially slated to replace the F-117 at Holloman, Fuller said.

**130th Airlift Wing celebrates
Arrival of new cargo planes**
By The Associated Press
Monday February 06, 2006

Only months after escaping a plan that would have stripped the West Virginia Air National Guard's 130th Airlift Wing of its planes, the unit has a new fleet.

The Charleston-based unit celebrated the arrival of the last of nine C-130H3 Hercules cargo planes on Saturday.

The planes, which had been based at the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg, replace nine older C-130H2 models as part of a modernization of both units.

The Martinsburg unit will get C-5 Galaxy aircraft, among the largest in the world, next year.

"We're saying goodbye to an old friend that has taken care of us for 33 years," said Lt. Andrew Schmidt, the 167th Airlift Wing's public information officer.

After the planes touched down in Charleston, 167th commander Col. Eric Vollmecke handed a ceremonial key for the fleet to the 130th's Col. Tim Frye, to cheers from National Guard members and others in attendance.

Unlike the H2s, the H3s have digital cockpits, as well as improved radar and better night vision, according to the National Guard.

"I woke up this morning and thought, 'What a good day,' because we could be at Pope Air Force Base instead of here in West Virginia," said Adjutant General Allen Tackett, referring to the North Carolina facility that the Defense Department had recommended as the new home of the unit's planes.

"That fight is over and we are still here" said Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., who has been credited with leading the effort to persuade the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to reject the Pentagon's plan for the 130th.

"Is there some fight still left in the 130th Airlift Wing?" Byrd asked, to loud cheers. "You better believe it."

Closed bases can be bonanza for military sell for top dollar in some areas

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press
February 6, 2006

- With nearly two dozen major bases preparing to close around the country, the military and private developers say the sale of a shuttered Marine station for nearly \$650 million could be a blueprint for redevelopment in suburban hotspots. The private auction of El Toro Marine Air Base in fast-growing Orange County last year set a Department of Defense sales record when it became the fourth major property sold directly to developers by the Navy for a total of more than \$1 billion. While all those sales involved California properties, the latest round of base closings includes nearly a half-dozen military installations in other crowded commuter markets near such places as Atlanta, New York and coastal Virginia -- and developers are interested. Twenty-two major military bases are on track to close within six years and an additional 33 will be reconfigured, following a final decision by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission late last year. The money would be a windfall for the military, which in the past disposed of most of its bases by transferring the property to

local -- and often inexperienced -- redevelopment agencies for little or no money.

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"If you wait on the government to do it, it's going to take a lot more time," he said.

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Local officials say bases could be reused more quickly and efficiently under a profit-driven private developer.

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The change stems, in part, from a shift in philosophy by the federal government after the last round of closings in the mid-1990s, said Tim Ford, executive director of the

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"Previously, it had been focusing on doing whatever we can do to help this community recover," he said. "But the Bush administration started to think about it as, 'How much can we get for the Department of Defense and how much can we get from the land?'"

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Along with El Toro, which closed in 1999, the sales included portions of the Marine Corps Air Station in Tustin, a former naval hospital near San Francisco and former naval housing in San Pedro, south of Los Angeles.

"This was a very successful method for the Navy. We were extremely fortunate," Penn said. "But it's location, location, location." Developers echo that and caution that high-priced sales might not be feasible outside suburban New York, Atlanta, Virginia.

Copters' role ready to grow at arsenal Army's \$119M plans for airfield area include new facilities, test upgrades

Monday, February 06, 2006

By Shelby G. Spires

Times Aerospace Writer

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John Green, a general engineer in Redstone's master planning office. An unmanned aerial vehicle runway away from the main airfield along with a helicopter staging area. The staging area will be used to practice takeoffs and landings and emergency landings.

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"In the future, testing will be more flight-related and hardware-related. It does mean a lot more helicopter flying."

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part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations.

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The programs have grown, Green said, because Redstone program managers continue to use the range and airspace on the arsenal instead of going to places such as Eglin Air Force Base in Florida to test.

Included in the plan is the Rotary Wing Simulation Center which would simulate rough and nighttime environments for helicopters undergoing research and development tests.

"The simulation center would allow tests using a full helicopter in blackout and

nighttime conditions," Green said. "That's a capability that doesn't exist on Redstone now."

**Budgets key to area federal work
Redstone and Marshall Projects heavily
depend on Bush proposals today**

Monday, February 06, 2006

By Shelby G. Spires

Times Aerospace Writer

The White House is scheduled to release today the president's proposals for key federal budgets - Department of Defense, military construction and NASA.

The federal spending proposals could affect Pentagon plans to build office space for units moving to Redstone Arsenal and for Marshall Space Flight Center's work to return to the moon, Huntsville leaders say.

This year, the White House budget request is likely to be \$439 billion for the Pentagon, about \$13 billion for military construction, and about \$17.9 billion for the NASA budget, the Associated Press has reported. In 2005, the Bush administration asked the Congress to approve \$419.3 billion in defense spending, \$12.1 billion in military construction, and \$16.4 billion for the space agency.

Huntsville has several key projects tied to the federal budget, including military construction, missile defense and new space vehicles that NASA hopes will be used to return astronauts to the moon.

Military construction funds are key to the start of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommendations that will move about 5,000 federal jobs to Redstone Arsenal.

Redstone will have to undergo a spate of construction in the next four years to prepare

for the relocation of the Army Materiel Command headquarters, the Army Security and Assistance Command headquarters, and the Missile Defense Agency headquarters.

Alabama elected leaders have said the projects could take up to \$1 billion in spending over the next decade to complete office buildings and road improvements.

Also, the Army has plans to begin design work this year on a \$67 million BRAC project at the Redstone Airfield that will provide space for major helicopter work slated to be transferred from Fort Rucker in Alabama and Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Rep. Bud Cramer, D-Huntsville, said the military construction funds are crucial to making sure BRAC transfers are smooth.

"It's absolutely one of the most critical budget items we have today," Cramer said last week. "We are on the fast track for funding these as much as we can be." Over the next year, Cramer said, military and space budgets will be competing for dollars needed to pay for the war and natural disaster cleanup.

Last week, the White House asked for \$120 billion in Defense Department supplemental funding for the war in Afghanistan and Iraq along with \$18 billion more to pay for hurricane damage along the Gulf Coast.

"There is a tough atmosphere for budgets in general right now," Cramer said. "We are getting our hands around what level of funding we need for Iraq and to pay for (Hurricane) Katrina damage. "These are both issues we have to fund."

The White House is asking for a substantial boost in the NASA budget, \$1.5 billion more than requested for this year, but the

money might not be enough to pay for ongoing projects such as the International Space Station, space shuttle operations and development of new rockets.

The next five years mark crucial budgets for the space agency, said Mark McDaniel, a Huntsville lawyer and former member of the NASA Advisory Council, "because NASA has to complete the International Space Station and lay the groundwork to" return to the moon, he said.

McDaniel currently serves as an adviser to Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., who is the ranking member on the House Science Committee and holds sway over NASA's science and research budgets.

McDaniel said one major concern in Congress is keeping NASA focused on completing the space station so it can be used for research and fulfilling American commitments to the 15 other nations who partner with the U.S.

Another problem that could trip up budget approval, McDaniel said, is NASA not completing projects.

"There are concerns that NASA is allocated money and then changes to another project," McDaniel said. "NASA has to finish what it starts, and sometimes that just doesn't happen.

"This is very important, not just to keep members of Congress happy, but also projects need to be completed because of promises made to the American people. They pay the bills."

Wright-Pat may benefit from proposed budget increases

February 7, 2006

By Jessica Wehrman
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON | The Department of Defense proved to be the biggest recipient in President Bush's fiscal year 2007 budget proposal, receiving \$439.3 billion a 7 percent jump over this year's estimated spending and 48 percent more than was spent in 2001.

The total represents the department's discretionary spending and does not include \$50 billion proposed for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, which could increase as the year goes on, nor \$1.8 billion in mandatory spending.

Locally, the proposal includes \$2.7 million for military construction to convert the 445th Airlift Wing to the C-5 aircraft at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, as well as an overall increase in research and development programs that could affect the base.

The Fairfield-based O'Gara-Hess & Eisenhardt, meanwhile, would get \$582.6 million for its uparmored Humvee, a nearly 71 percent increase over current funding.

Ohio overall would receive \$9.9 million for military construction, a dramatic drop from the 2006 budget, when the state got \$104 million in military construction projects, including \$39 million for projects at Wright-Pat.

The 2007 construction proposal would give \$1.1 million to the Army National Guard in Columbus and \$6 million to the Marysville Army National Guard Readiness Center, in addition to the \$2.7 million for Wright-Pat.

Michael Gessel of the Dayton Development Coalition said the coalition was disappointed, but not surprised, by the low level of military construction funding.

Wright-Patterson, however, may benefit from the budget's proposed increase in funding for research, development, technology and evaluation.

Among the technology programs that see an increase are aerospace sensors, which would be funded at \$117 million, up from \$115.6 million in 2006.

Advanced aerospace sensors, meanwhile, would go from \$39 million in fiscal 2006 to \$55 million. Sensors programs are largely based at Wright-Pat.

"The increases in money for sensors will benefit Wright-Patterson," Gessel said.

Human effectiveness applied research programs would decrease, however — going from \$108 million to \$92.9 million. Those programs, under the base closure process, will be consolidated from Brooks City-Base in San Antonio to Wright-Patterson.

The Defense Department is realizing \$4.4 billion annually and \$36.5 billion over 20 years from last year's Base Realignment and Closure decisions, according to the budget.

The department is also trying to save money by converting more than 10,000 military positions to civilian slots by the end of 2007. Since 2004, the Defense Department has converted more than 20,000 military positions to civilian.

Elsewhere in the budget, \$46 million was earmarked for the continued cleanup of the Department of Energy's Mound site in Miamisburg and \$267 million for the continued cleanup of Fernald, near Cincinnati. Also, \$151 million was allocated for the continued cleanup at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant and \$72.2 million

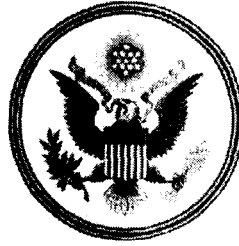
for Portsmouth's Hexafluoride Conversion
Plant.

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From saving jobs to saving lives

By Andrew J. Manuse

Daily News Staff

Tuesday, February 7, 2006

The group responsible for keeping Natick Labs and Hanscom Air Force Base open will now focus on building a Massachusetts-dominated defense-technology industry. The Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative, established in 2003 by the Waltham-based Massachusetts High Technology Council, was part of an event yesterday highlighting the U.S. Army's Future Combat Systems program and how it will benefit New England.

That program is the Army's modernization effort, which will automate much of the military's operations and make the battlefield a safer place for U.S. soldiers, according to the council.

While the initiative's previous efforts saved 33,000 jobs at Hanscom and the Army's Natick Soldier Center during the Pentagon's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure round, the group now will help the state's high-tech companies capitalize on \$6.8 billion of research and development

money slated for the Future Combat Systems program here. The program will be "a key economic driver" for the state's economy, according to Christopher Anderson, president of the Waltham-based council.

Future Combat Systems will involve technologies such as unmanned ground and aerial vehicles, remote-controlled artillery and equipment that connects U.S. soldiers electronically over a secure military network.

Nationwide, the Future Combat Systems program will cost the Army \$120 billion over 30 years, and will create 15 brigades, fully capable of operating anywhere in the world, even if uninvited, according to Lt. Gen. Dan Zanini, deputy program manager for Science Applications International Corp., or SAIC.

The technologies will be rolled out for use in battle in phases, but testing on some of them has already begun, Zanini said.

SAIC and Boeing, the contractors hired by the Army, will have hired 700 companies nationwide by the end of this year to work on several aspects of the program, according to Zanini.

Ranch Kimball, the state's secretary of economic development, said the general defense industry in Massachusetts already supports an estimated 65,000 to 85,000 jobs, which can be compared with the 17,000 to 30,000 jobs supported by the biotech industry here. Kimball, who also spoke yesterday, said the defense industry is an "incredibly important part" of the state's technology economy.

The Future Combat System, which will support only part of that defense industry

base, currently involves 26 Massachusetts companies, such as ron Systems Corp., where yesterday's event was held in Wilmington, iRobot Corp. in Burlington, Netegrity Inc. in Waltham, EComp in Ashland and Systinet Corp. in Natick.

ron Systems is working on technologies such as disposable sensors that soldiers involved in urban warfare can leave behind them when raiding a building to "watch their back." iRobot, the company commonly known for its "artificially intelligent" vacuum cleaner, has deployed 300 of its PackBots in Iraq and Afghanistan. The remote-controlled robots are used in urban warfare and caves to sense biological and chemical weapons as well as enemy personnel hiding behind corners.

While these robots come back to Massachusetts in pieces from time to time, they have prevented soldiers from returning in body bags, according to Thomas Ryden, director of government sales and marketing for iRobot.

The Natick Soldier Center, which works with several companies in and out of Massachusetts, is building components for U.S. soldiers so they will literally sit within the Future Combat System platform, according to Jean-Louis "Dutch" DeGay, an equipment specialist for the center. Soldiers will personally be equipped with infrared, thermal, global positioning and radio sensors, as well as "IFF" sensors that will identify other U.S. Army soldiers to prevent friendly fire.

"We are transforming the soldier into a secure laptop connected to a secure Internet to push and pull data," said DeGay. "They're part of the collective; a soldier has the ability to see what everybody sees and vice versa." Soldiers, who already control

PackBots, will have access to unmanned air vehicles, which can support them by locating and firing on the enemy from above.

The Massachusetts companies involved with the Future Combat System currently support 200 cutting-edge science and engineering jobs, according to U.S. Rep. Martin Meehan, D-Lowell, and a House Armed Services Committee member who spoke at the event.

"Our military superiority has resulted from weapons quality and technology advancements enabled by a robust foundation of basic research," said Meehan. "To keep our edge, we must continue investing in R&D."

Meehan said the Future Combat System program will thrive in Massachusetts, "where technology and innovation have long been a cornerstone of our economy." He said the state would also need to invest in science, technology, engineering and math education to ensure there are highly skilled workers to fill future jobs in the growing Massachusetts industry.

Officials Make BRAC Easier to Handle
Emerald Coast
February 6, 2006
Jennifer Otto

The realities of Base Realignment and Closure are drawing near as military officials determine ways to ease transition for service members and civilians.

To help with the transition, the Air Force Reserve Command is providing full-time Air Force civilians and Reservists with new Web-based job placement services.

Called clearinghouses, these virtual job fairs take personal career and location preferences into account and work to match BRAC-displaced people with new opportunities.

According to "A BRAC Guide for Civilian and Military Personnel Issues" – released by the command in January – gaining units must give first priority for placement in vacant positions to displaced people who register in one of the clearinghouses.

The technical reason why BRAC-displaced workers must find new jobs at new locations is because of the "transfer of function" rules. None of the command's BRAC actions qualify as a transfer of function. In cases where a job move is not a transfer of function, employees do not have a right to move with their job to the new unit. While employees may be given a chance to apply, they may have to compete with other candidates for the job.

Command people displaced by BRAC can learn more by accessing the guide from a military computer at www.mil.afrc.af.mil/hq/dp/brac.

Cichowski to discuss military defense budget
By Laura Hunt
Feb 6, 2006

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The programs have grown, Green said, because Redstone program managers continue to use the range and airspace on the arsenal instead of going to places such as Eglin Air Force Base in Florida to test.

Included in the plan is the Rotary Wing Simulation Center which would simulate rough and nighttime environments for helicopters undergoing research and development tests.

"The simulation center would allow tests using a full helicopter in blackout and

nighttime conditions," Green said. "That's a capability that doesn't exist on Redstone now."

Budgets key to area federal work Redstone and Marshall Projects heavily depend on Bush proposals today

Monday, February 06, 2006

By Shelby G. Spires

Times Aerospace Writer

The White House is scheduled to release today the president's proposals for key federal budgets - Department of Defense, military construction and NASA.

The federal spending proposals could affect Pentagon plans to build office space for units moving to Redstone Arsenal and for Marshall Space Flight Center's work to return to the moon, Huntsville leaders say.

This year, the White House budget request is likely to be \$439 billion for the Pentagon, about \$13 billion for military construction, and about \$17.9 billion for the NASA budget, the Associated Press has reported. In 2005, the Bush administration asked the Congress to approve \$419.3 billion in defense spending, \$12.1 billion in military construction, and \$16.4 billion for the space agency.

Huntsville has several key projects tied to the federal budget, including military construction, missile defense and new space vehicles that NASA hopes will be used to return astronauts to the moon.

Military construction funds are key to the start of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommendations that will move about 5,000 federal jobs to Redstone Arsenal.

Redstone will have to undergo a spate of construction in the next four years to prepare

for the relocation of the Army Materiel Command headquarters, the Army Security and Assistance Command headquarters, and the Missile Defense Agency headquarters.

Alabama elected leaders have said the projects could take up to \$1 billion in spending over the next decade to complete office buildings and road improvements.

Also, the Army has plans to begin design work this year on a \$67 million BRAC project at the Redstone Airfield that will provide space for major helicopter work slated to be transferred from Fort Rucker in Alabama and Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Rep. Bud Cramer, D-Huntsville, said the military construction funds are crucial to making sure BRAC transfers are smooth.

"It's absolutely one of the most critical budget items we have today," Cramer said last week. "We are on the fast track for funding these as much as we can be." Over the next year, Cramer said, military and space budgets will be competing for dollars needed to pay for the war and natural disaster cleanup.

Last week, the White House asked for \$120 billion in Defense Department supplemental funding for the war in Afghanistan and Iraq along with \$18 billion more to pay for hurricane damage along the Gulf Coast.

"There is a tough atmosphere for budgets in general right now," Cramer said. "We are getting our hands around what level of funding we need for Iraq and to pay for (Hurricane) Katrina damage. "These are both issues we have to fund."

The White House is asking for a substantial boost in the NASA budget, \$1.5 billion more than requested for this year, but the

money might not be enough to pay for ongoing projects such as the International Space Station, space shuttle operations and development of new rockets.

The next five years mark crucial budgets for the space agency, said Mark McDaniel, a Huntsville lawyer and former member of the NASA Advisory Council, "because NASA has to complete the International Space Station and lay the groundwork to" return to the moon, he said.

McDaniel currently serves as an adviser to Rep. Bart Gordon, D-Tenn., who is the ranking member on the House Science Committee and holds sway over NASA's science and research budgets.

McDaniel said one major concern in Congress is keeping NASA focused on completing the space station so it can be used for research and fulfilling American commitments to the 15 other nations who partner with the U.S.

Another problem that could trip up budget approval, McDaniel said, is NASA not completing projects.

"There are concerns that NASA is allocated money and then changes to another project," McDaniel said. "NASA has to finish what it starts, and sometimes that just doesn't happen.

"This is very important, not just to keep members of Congress happy, but also projects need to be completed because of promises made to the American people. They pay the bills."

Wright-Pat may benefit from proposed budget increases

February 7, 2006

By Jessica Wehrman
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON | The Department of Defense proved to be the biggest recipient in President Bush's fiscal year 2007 budget proposal, receiving \$439.3 billion a 7 percent jump over this year's estimated spending and 48 percent more than was spent in 2001.

The total represents the department's discretionary spending and does not include \$50 billion proposed for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, which could increase as the year goes on, nor \$1.8 billion in mandatory spending.

Locally, the proposal includes \$2.7 million for military construction to convert the 445th Airlift Wing to the C-5 aircraft at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, as well as an overall increase in research and development programs that could affect the base.

The Fairfield-based O'Gara-Hess & Eisenhardt, meanwhile, would get \$582.6 million for its uparmored Humvee, a nearly 71 percent increase over current funding.

Ohio overall would receive \$9.9 million for military construction, a dramatic drop from the 2006 budget, when the state got \$104 million in military construction projects, including \$39 million for projects at Wright-Pat.

The 2007 construction proposal would give \$1.1 million to the Army National Guard in Columbus and \$6 million to the Marysville Army National Guard Readiness Center, in addition to the \$2.7 million for Wright-Pat.

Michael Gessel of the Dayton Development Coalition said the coalition was disappointed, but not surprised, by the low level of military construction funding.

Wright-Patterson, however, may benefit from the budget's proposed increase in funding for research, development, technology and evaluation.

Among the technology programs that see an increase are aerospace sensors, which would be funded at \$117 million, up from \$115.6 million in 2006.

Advanced aerospace sensors, meanwhile, would go from \$39 million in fiscal 2006 to \$55 million. Sensors programs are largely based at Wright-Pat.

"The increases in money for sensors will benefit Wright-Patterson," Gessel said.

Human effectiveness applied research programs would decrease, however — going from \$108 million to \$92.9 million. Those programs, under the base closure process, will be consolidated from Brooks City-Base in San Antonio to Wright-Patterson.

The Defense Department is realizing \$4.4 billion annually and \$36.5 billion over 20 years from last year's Base Realignment and Closure decisions, according to the budget.

The department is also trying to save money by converting more than 10,000 military positions to civilian slots by the end of 2007. Since 2004, the Defense Department has converted more than 20,000 military positions to civilian.

Elsewhere in the budget, \$46 million was earmarked for the continued cleanup of the Department of Energy's Mound site in Miamisburg and \$267 million for the continued cleanup of Fernald, near Cincinnati. Also, \$151 million was allocated for the continued cleanup at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant and \$72.2 million

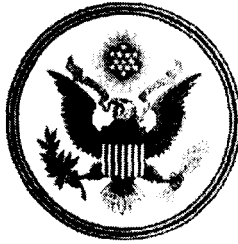
for Portsmouth's Hexafluoride Conversion
Plant.

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EARLY



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"Pentagon Budget \$239 Million in Construction at Washington Military Bases Next Year."

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"A High-Level Chat With Rummy About War." The Wall Street Journal
February 7, 2006
George Melloan.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld is seated behind his desk in a tan leather chair, wearing a USMC jacket. Bright sunlight

streams in from a small window and lights his face.

He talks about his already well-advanced redesign of the military for fighting unconventional wars against terrorists and guerrillas: "It is a very different business. It is also different attitudinally and culturally. Our people have been trained under a doctrine that tends to be an older doctrine. In an institution as large as this, things don't change on a dime."

But the very circumstances of this interview show that a lot has been changing. We are not in the Pentagon, but in the secretary's flying command center, a converted Boeing 737, at 33,000 feet over the Atlantic. Our fellow passengers include his senior military aide, Vice Admiral James G. Stavridis, Special Assistant Lawrence Di Rita, three assistant secretaries, and specialists in security and communications, among others.

It's a work day for all aboard. The aides are fielding cables from America's commanders throughout the world. The secretary is preparing his congressional testimony on the fiscal 2007 defense budget, and prepping for another working flight next weekend to a NATO defense ministers gathering in Sicily. He generously spares me time for a chat about defense strategy.

He had just spoken at this year's Wehrkunde Conference in Munich, sharing the Saturday morning session with America's new friend in Europe, German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Wehrkunde, a largely NATO event when launched 44 years ago, now attracts defense ministers and military theorists from throughout the world.

In her opening address, Ms. Merkel set the conference tone by asserting that Iran must be prevented from developing a nuclear

weapon. When Abbas Araghchi, Iran's deputy foreign minister, spoke up from the floor denying such intentions, she replied tartly that she hadn't heard him deny the threat by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to wipe Israel off the map. "I assume a president speaks for his country," she remarked acidly.

Mr. Rumsfeld sounded the same theme, adding that the "Iranian regime is today the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism." At his desk in the airborne Pentagon, he remarked that, "having countries committed to the same things, with the same stake in success, is powerful." In short, things are looking up again for the Atlantic alliance now that Germany has a popular new chancellor.

But of course, solidarity alone doesn't defeat the mullahs or their terrorist enterprises. The U.S., as always, has to lead that effort. The new U.S. Quadrennial Defense Review released over the weekend details the further strategy for conducting this kind of war. The new defense budget, released yesterday, confirms the strategy with its heavy emphasis on special operations forces and intelligence capabilities. As the QDR puts it, the military is shifting "from an emphasis on ships, tanks and planes to focus on information, knowledge and timely, actionable intelligence."

That doesn't mean demobilization. "You don't walk away from what you are doing," says the secretary. "The reason we are less vulnerable to big armies, navies and air forces is that we have a big army, navy and air force. You don't want to lose that and create incentives so they can come at us from that direction. On the other hand, we simply have to develop people, skills and mindsets that fit the tasks in hand. That's

what we have been engaged in for several years now.”

The U.S. Special Operations Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., is becoming a key part of the strategy. With the addition of a Marine Corps unit last November it now has components from the other four branches, each with special skills. Navy Seals are adept at underwater stealth and airborne commandos can descend on the enemy from above.

They all have the same mission statement: “To be the premier team of special warriors, thoroughly prepared, properly equipped, and highly motivated: at the right place, at the right time, facing the right adversary, leading the Global War on Terrorism, accomplishing the strategic objectives of the United States.”

The Pentagon has strengthened its interservice authority, says the secretary. “Instead of the Special Operations Forces operating generally only in support of someone else, we would have situations where Special Operations Command might be the one supported by other commanders around the globe.”

Special ops are prepared to go anywhere on unconventional missions. They sometimes work with friendly armies to ferret out subversive groups. They provide needed medical services to win the confidence of ill-served villages. One of the classic stories was the special ops soldier who four years ago rode out on horseback with northern tribesmen in Afghanistan, spotted the Taliban army and used his GPS to call in a devastating U.S. air strike on the enemy troops.

What can NATO contribute to this kind of warfare? The 26 NATO nations have specialties, too, says the secretary. Poland, France and Britain have good special ops teams. The Czechs have capabilities for dealing with chemical, biological and nuclear contamination. “You find other countries have a lot of language skills that can be helpful in human intelligence.”

So what has the U.S. military accomplished with its new capabilities? The QDR counts some significant achievements since the last review in 2001. They include liberating 50 million Afghans and Iraqis from despotism, permitting the first free elections in the history of either country, wiping out most of the top leadership of al Qaeda and organizing a coalition of 75 countries to cooperate in the war against terror. A new missile-defense system was brought on line and the military infrastructure was modernized through base closings.

There’s still more to come in the transformation Don Rumsfeld has conducted to make the U.S. military leaner and meaner and mobile enough to put out fires anywhere on the planet. Sitting across from him at a desk high above the clouds one wonders if the ability of this modern Jove to call down lightning on transgressors will be equal to the tasks ahead.

“US General Maps out Strategic Refit for Iraq, Middle East and Asia.”

Richard Norton-Taylor.

The Guardian (London, UK)

February 7, 2006

Number of Troops ‘May Be Contributing to Instability’ Public Profile of Ground Forces to Be Lowered

A senior US officer admitted yesterday that the presence of more than 300,000 foreign troops in the Middle East, most of them American, was a “contributory factor” to instability in the region.

The admission was made by Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt – a key strategist in the US central command covering the Middle East – as he spelled out the American military’s plan to “reposture” its forces over an area stretching from Egypt in the west to Pakistan in the east, and from Kazakhstan in the north to Uganda in the south.

The US would “not maintain any long-term bases in Iraq” he said in a major speech to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. “Our position is when we leave we will not have any bases there.”

He did not speculate when that might be, though he said the US could not stay in the region for as long as its forces have remained in Germany or Japan. American troops are still deployed there 60 years after the end of the second world war.

Nor did he say what would happen to four large air bases that the US is building around Baghdad. The implication behind his remarks is that the bases would be handed over to the Iraqis.

Although he said the US would not keep permanent military bases inside Iraq, Brig Gen Kimmitt made clear it would retain assets and enough forces nearby to protect its interests there.

He suggested that the US had learned from past mistakes and that in future it would be “more sensitive to [the] culture” of the people who lived in the Middle East.

He referred, as British military commanders have traditionally done, to the need to attract “hearts and minds”. The US army was setting up a corps of officers, he added, which would “understand the Middle East”.

Senior British military and intelligence officers have accused the US of “heavy-handed” tactics in Iraq and are likely to welcome any evidence that America is developing a coherent strategic approach to the region.

“Reposture” was one of a number of crucial principles that Brig Gen Kimmitt said underlined America’s new approach. The other was “helping others help themselves” – a reference to “nation building”, another task which, the American military concedes, has not been one of its priorities.

However, he made plain that the new strategy in America’s “long war” against al-Qaida and its affiliates would ensure that US forces, when they left Iraq, would not be far away.

The US would have “sufficient forces to deter, and to protect partners and its key national interests” in the region, Brig Gen Kimmitt said.

And he said that America’s preoccupations in Iraq should not lead to what he called “misunderstandings” about its ability to conduct other operations in the area. The US would “retain sufficient military capability” to strike Iran, he said. Those who believed otherwise were making a “very serious mistake”, he added.

He made it clear that under America’s military “reposturing”, its forces would be withdrawn from army bases in Iraq and other countries in the region, although the US will keep its Bagram base in

Afghanistan under a new “strategic agreement” signed by the two countries.

With that exception, the idea is to base fewer, more mobile, special forces – along with strike aircraft – further afield, where their presence would be less visible and less provocative.

US central command has its headquarters in the Gulf state of Qatar and it will be able to use its air base on the British Indian Ocean territory of Diego Garcia.

It could also have at its disposal the large RAF base at Akrotiri in southern Cyprus.

Brig Gen Kimmitt described the American base in Djibouti on the Red Sea as a “model for the future”. He said: “Twelve thousand Americans have the ability to maintain a presence with a very small footprint on the ground.”

The base covered a number of countries in the Horn of Africa and beyond, he said, including Eritrea, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and Yemen.

He declined to say what role Nato would have in the “long war” against Islamist extremists and terrorists.

The European allies are locked in a debate about this – not least with regard to their role in Afghanistan, where peacekeeping and nation-building tasks could be embroiled in counter-narcotics and counter-terrorist operations.

Brig Gen Kimmitt’s speech is the latest indication that the American army is planning significant reductions in its 130,000-strong force in time for the mid-term congressional elections, to be held in November.

The number of British troops in Iraq – now totalling 8,500 – is also likely to be reduced in a synchronised move.

“Bulgaria, U.S. to Complete Military Bases Deal in April.”

Associated Press Newswires

February 6, 2006

Sofia, Bulgaria (AP) – Bulgaria expects to sign a deal in April to host U.S. troops in military facilities, the Balkan country’s defense minister said Monday.

“The talks on joint military facilities develop within the agreed timetable and will be completed during the official visit of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Bulgaria,” Veselin Bliznakov was quoted by his press office as telling the U.S. ambassador in Sofia.

Bulgaria will host an informal meeting of NATO foreign ministers at the end of April.

Negotiations are underway to allow U.S. troops access to two Bulgarian bases for training and logistical operations. The locations are the Bezmer air base and the Novo Selo training area – both in southeastern Bulgaria.

American officials have said they plan to deploy troops on rotational training tours as part of a broader U.S. strategy of shifting troops based in Europe further east. Washington is interested in small, flexible bases, different from those set up to house large numbers of troops during the Cold War.

“Rep. Dicks: Pentagon Budget \$239 Million in Construction at Washington Military Bases Next Year.”

US Fed News
February 6, 2006

Washington, Feb. 6 – Rep. Norman D. Dicks, D-Wash. (6th CD), issued the following press release:

The Defense Department is planning to spend another \$329 million for construction activities at Washington state military bases in the next fiscal year, including \$197 million for housing and headquarters buildings at Fort Lewis, Rep. Norm Dicks said Monday.

Much of the construction activity at Fort Lewis is associated with the creation of a third Stryker brigade at the base, which will bring the Fort Lewis population up to 25,000 this year, Dicks said. The Pentagon is funding the construction of two barracks buildings in the current fiscal year as part of the base’s housing modernization program. In the next year, a total of \$84 million will pay for the construction of two more barracks structures, and another \$102 million will pay for the first phase of construction of the buildings associated with the new brigade. In the documents released by the Defense Department today, Rep. Dicks said the Army has budgeted \$408 million for the brigade complex buildings in four increments, beginning in Fiscal Year 2007.

In addition to the Army construction activities, the military construction budget for the next fiscal year includes \$28 million for weapons and personnel support buildings at Sub Base Bangor, \$21 million for a bachelor enlisted quarters building at Naval Station Everett, \$58 million for a new aircraft hangar and \$26 million for a

consolidated fuel facility – both at Whidbey Island NAS.

“None of the state’s military facilities was recommended for closure during the defense base closing process last year, which is an endorsement of the military value and the geographic importance of these installations,” Rep. Dicks said. “The Defense Department has made a substantial investment in our Army, Navy and Air Force bases, and it will continue in the next year making the steady, incremental improvements that have kept Washington bases modern and efficient,” he added.

The Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Budget contains the following Washington State Military Construction activities:

ARMY

Fort Lewis – Barracks Complex:
\$35,000,000

Fort Lewis – Barracks Complex:
\$49,000,000

Fort Lewis – Brigade Complex Increment 1 of 4: \$102,000,000.

Fort Lewis – Child Development Center:
\$10,600,000

NAVY

Sub Base Bangor – Limited Area Production & Storage Complex / Increment 2:
\$14,274,000

Sub Base Bangor – Reaction Force Facility Auxiliary Support Complex: \$13,507,000

Naval Station Everett – Bachelor Enlisted Quarters/Increment 2: \$20,917,000

Whidbey Island NAS – Hangar 5
Recapitalization: \$57,653,000

Whidbey Island NAS – Consolidated Fuel
Facility: \$26,000,000

Total Washington State Military
Construction: \$328,951,000.

**“Sens. Domenici, Bingaman
Disappointed in F-117 Retirement
Proposal, Seek Follow-On Mission.”**
US Fed News
February 6, 2006

Washington, Feb. 6 – The office of Sen.
Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., issued the
following press release:

Sens. Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman
today expressed their disappointment in the
Pentagon’s plans to retire F-117 stealth
fighters based at Holloman Air Force Base
in Alamogordo by FY2008.

The plans were made public when the
Defense Department released its FY2007
budget Monday. The proposed defense
budget seeks to retire 10 aircraft, with the
remaining stealth fighters planned to be
retired in FY2008. Domenici and Bingaman
have worked together in past years to
prohibit retirement of the aircraft through
the legislative process.

Holloman Air Force Base was not targeted
during the 2005 Base Realignment and
Closure process and has been lauded by
DoD officials for its facilities, weather and
proximity to Fort Bliss in El Paso.

Domenici and Bingaman pledged a thorough
review of the Air Force’s plans. The
Senators will seek to find out why the

Pentagon has compressed it’s timeframe for
F-117 retirements, and will seek to ensure
that the aircraft are not retired until a
replacement mission for Holloman has been
identified.

“Today’s news is certainly disappointing,
but I know that Holloman Air Force Base is
an excellent facility that will play a major
role in the future. We will work hard to
ensure that the base continues to have an
important mission, and we will be seeking
answers about the timeline of retirements
and future plans with the Air Force,” said
Domenici, who serves on the Senate
Defense Appropriations Committee which
funds the Department of Defense.

“Holloman Air Force Base will continue to
be an essential part of our national defense.
The only questions that remain are: what
will replace the F-117 and when will the
transition take place? We will work very
hard with the Pentagon to ensure that the
transition is seamless, and that the impact on
the community is minimal,” Bingaman said.

Last year, Domenici and Bingaman
successfully included language in the
FY2006 Defense Authorization and
Appropriations bills that prohibited
retirement of the F-117 Stealth Fighter.
Previous Pentagon requests have called for a
retirement of the aircraft by 2011.

According to Holloman officials, the Air
Force has already sent a team to Holloman
Air Force Base to consider its suitability for
the F-22, which could be a possible
replacement for the F-117, though no
decision has been made.

Holloman has previously transitioned from
the F-4 and the F-15 before receiving the F-
117 as its mission.

“Stealth Wings May Be Clipped.”

Albuquerque (NM) Journal
Miguel Navrot.
February 6, 2006

**Holloman Jets a Major Part Of
Alamogordo’s Economy**

The Air Force’s entire fleet of F-117A stealth jets could be facing retirement – a move that would throw the economic welfare of Alamogordo into turmoil.

Today, President Bush’s 2007 budget blueprint will be released, and several defense trade publications are saying the F-117 stealth jet could be phased out around the end of the decade.

Holloman base commander Brig. Gen. Kurt Cichowski is scheduled to make an announcement regarding the budget this afternoon at the base. The state’s congressional offices are expected to offer statements.

The nation’s fleet of 52 stealth Nighthawks is based at Holloman and played a critical role in both Iraq invasions. The sleek black jets, built a quarter-century ago to evade radar detection, are a familiar sight above Otero County and are the flagship of Holloman.

Base advocates said they fear that retirement of the F-117 could leave a vacuum at Holloman if no replacement is brought to the base.

In a telephone interview Sunday, Bill Burt of the Alamogordo Committee of 50 said, “One out of every two paychecks here is associated with Holloman Air Force Base.”

He said 1,000 to 2,000 airmen at Holloman are involved with the stealth jet.

Roughly 6,300 military and civilian employees work at Holloman.

Air Force officials would not comment Sunday on whether the Nighthawk will soon be retired to a desert boneyard. More information is expected today after the White House’s budget proposal is released.

A base spokesman said last week that it is “premature to speculate” on the potential employment loss at Holloman if the F-117 is retired completely.

“Holloman has never been tied to a particular aircraft,” base spokesman Tom Fuller wrote in response to questions from the Journal.

“Many different planes no longer in the active inventory have flown here, yet Holloman still remains,” Fuller wrote.

Keeping the entire Nighthawk fleet at Holloman has been a priority of New Mexico’s two senators. In the previous year, the Air Force has suggested trimming the 52-jet fleet by 10 for an estimated savings of \$75 million over five years.

The retirement of the entire fleet has never been formally proposed.

New Mexico’s congressional delegation, opposing any cuts, maintains the jets are needed for national security and points to the deployment record of the jets.

In addition to dropping the first precision explosives on Baghdad in both Gulf Wars, the stealths were deployed last year to the Korean peninsula as nuclear tensions heightened.

The Air Force is trying to update its combat might with the F-22A Raptor fighter. The stealthy Raptor, estimated to cost as much as \$330 million apiece, is capable of supersonic speeds and aerial combat – two feats the \$45 million Nighthawk can't perform.

But bringing the costly Raptor into the service has forced the Air Force to find money by cutting from other weapons programs.

As for Holloman, which previously housed F-15 Eagle fighter jets before the Nighthawks arrived in the early 1990s, proponents hope the military will at least fill any gaps created by a widescale retirement.

"We believe the ranges associated with Holloman are some of the best in the U.S. Air Force," Burt said.

Holloman recently lost part of a German air force training unit due to that country's shrinking of overseas operations.

Holloman also houses a large-scale construction group and a test unit that has evaluated the F-22A and other future Air Force weapons.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., has long advocated introducing the F-22 or another next-generation jet, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, to a state base.

The state's other air combat installation, Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, is under evaluation for a new occupant. The current tenant, the 27th Fighter Wing, is being dissolved as part of last year's base closure round.

"U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop Addresses Legislature."

Associated Press Newswires
February 6, 2006

Salt Lake City (AP) – Utah needs to be aggressive about expanding its military facilities in order to boost its economy and head off any efforts to close or reduce the size of its bases, U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop said in an address to the Legislature Monday.

"We have a window of opportunity we have to take advantage of. We can't sit back and feel good," Bishop said.

Hill Air Force Base survived the most recent round of base closures and realignments. Bishop said the governor, Legislature and Utah's Congressional delegation need to ensure the state's military facilities continue operating.

"If we can expand our facilities, there's an opportunity to not only help our military readiness, but also provide for economic stability," he said.

Strengthening Utah's military presence is one of several goals Bishop outlined Monday. He also said he wants to give states more authority and take away some of the federal government's power.

"I truly want to, and commit to, make sure the decision making process is changed so you make more decisions and I make fewer and fewer as time goes on," he said.

"Strategic, Technical and Program Management Services in Support of the U.S. Army Base Realignment and Closure

Program and Planning Efforts.”

FedBizOpps
February 6, 2006

NOTICE TYPE: Special Notice

DATE POSTED: 03-FEB-06

AGENCY: Department of the Army

OFFICE ADDRESS: Contracting Center of Excellence, Army Contracting Agency (ACA), ATTN: Policy and Compliance, 5200 Army Pentagon, Room 1D245, Washington, DC 20310-5200

SUBJECT: Strategic, Technical and Program Management Services in support of the US Army Base Realignment and Closure Program and Planning Efforts

CLASSIFICATION CODE: 00 – None

SOLICITATION NUMBER: USA-SNOTE-060203-001

CONTACT: not listed

NOTICE TEXT: Department of the Army
Defense Contracting Command-Washington

Contracting Center of Excellence, Army Contracting Agency (ACA)

On behalf of the Assistant Chief of Staff Installation Management and in accordance with FAR subpart 6.3, the Contracting Center of Excellence (CCE) intends to award a contract on a sole source basis to Calibre Systems, Inc. to continue support in Strategic, Technical, and Program Management Services. Services are in support of the U.S. Army Base Realignment and Closure Program and Planning Efforts, DA BRAC Division. There is NO

solicitation document. This notice is not a request for quotes. NO phone calls will be accepted. Interested firms may send a capabilities statement to the attention of Geoffrey Gill, CCE, fax, (703) 695-9747 or 5200 Army Pentagon, Room 1C256, CBD 5B, Washington, DC 20310-5200. Capability statements must be received by this office within 10 days from publication of this notice.

“Japan, U.S. Mull Phased Relocation of Futenma Forces.”

Jiji Press English News Service
February 6, 2006

Tokyo, Feb. 6 (Jiji Press) – Japan and the United States are considering starting the relocation of troops and aircraft from U.S. Marine Corps’ Futenma Air Station to a substitute facility near the Marines’ Camp Schwab before the construction is completed, Jiji Press learned Monday.

The plan is aimed at reducing the risk of flight accidents around the station, which is located at the center of the densely populated city of Ginowan, in the south of Okinawa Prefecture, informed sources said.

Camp Schwab is located in a less crowded part of the southernmost prefecture.

The two countries agreed in 1996 to vacate the station, but they have been unable to implement the agreement due to difficulties finding an alternative site for Futenma-based forces, comprising a helicopter group and associated command functions.

Demands for the relocation grew stronger after a Marine Corps helicopter crashed at a university campus near the station in August 2004.

The Japanese Defense Agency believes the risk of such accidents will not diminish unless training exercises for the helicopter force are transferred.

The United States previously insisted that the station should not be closed until an alternative facility is completed, but it is now showing more flexibility, the sources said.

The Japanese government hopes that the plan will lead the prefecture to drop its opposition to the relocation.

The island prefecture is demanding that an alternative site be constructed far off the coast from the camp or that the Futenma forces be transferred out of the island.

The island currently hosts more than half of U.S. troops stationed in Japan and provides three-quarters of the land used by the U.S. military in the country.

To address Okinawa's concerns, the two countries proposed in October the construction of a new air strip along the coast at Camp Schwab so that Futenma-based forces could be transferred there.

It is expected to take eight years to construct the air strip, including three years for environmental assessments, according to the two countries' estimates.

Reclamation work for the new air strip would begin in the barracks area of the camp before being expanded to an area of shallow waters along the coast and then to a deep water area in Oura Bay. Construction would be completed in fiscal 2014, according to the estimates.

The United States has informed Japan that the helicopter unit would be able to conduct basic operations if it had a helipad of 500 square meters.

Some Japanese officials now estimate that a large part of the helicopter unit could be transferred to the Camp Schwab area from the station by around fiscal 2011 or 2012, by which time the shallow water area would be reclaimed.

One drawback of a phased relocation is costs, which are expected to be higher than those for a one-stage relocation, because of the need to construct temporary hangers and fuel tanks.

The Defense Agency hopes to obtain Finance Ministry support for the idea.

The plan will be discussed in bilateral talks on base realignment to be held in Tokyo from Thursday.

"Secret Plan to Keep UK Military Force Permanently in Iraq."

Scotland on Sunday
February 5, 2006
Brian Brady

Britain is laying secret plans to maintain a permanent military presence in Iraq.

Ministers and military officials are in negotiations with their American counterparts over the British contribution to the long-term effort to maintain peace and stability in post-Saddam Iraq once the country is handed over to its newly elected government.

The scale of the commitment is yet to be formally agreed, but defence sources

confirmed that it could see the UK maintaining a military base in south Iraq, near Basra, which it currently controls, for years to come.

The news of the potential extended military posting in one of the world's most dangerous trouble spots came as a commander admitted that British soldiers preparing to deploy to lawless southern Afghanistan were "apprehensive" about the threats they will face.

The Americans, who have yet to formally admit to concrete plans for long-term military bases in Iraq once the new government has been established, are expected to maintain at least one, much larger, facility near Baghdad. Critics claim the negotiations are part of a long-term plan to maintain US control over Iraq and its oil reserves, and to establish a valuable permanent presence in the Middle East.

Details of the behind-the-scenes planning for the next phase of the Iraq operation emerged amid escalating speculation that Coalition forces were on the verge of a significant reduction in the thousands of troops currently occupying Iraq.

In the week that the death toll among UK troops in the country passed 100, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw predicted "good news" regarding the 8,000-strong force later this year. Reports from Tokyo later claimed that Japan had agreed to drastically reduce its presence in Iraq during the first half of this year, along with Britain, America and Australia, following a summit meeting in London last month.

The MoD confirmed that the government still hopes to begin a significant withdrawal this year, although the 4,000 leaving by May quoted in some reports is seen as far too

optimistic as the insurgency continues to disrupt everyday life in the British zone. Military planners foresee a phased "return to barracks" as a preliminary to a gradual reduction of forces during the year.

But even after significant numbers of troops have finally left Iraq, Britain will retain a presence. One senior defence source confirmed that negotiations with the Americans are ongoing, and that the MoD is actively considering the option of withdrawing to a "non-urban location", which could be termed as a base or a "training facility" with space for hundreds of troops.

Sir Tim Garden, a former assistant chief of the defence staff, said he expected the British and Americans to remain in Iraq for many years. But he warned that the government would be "foolish" to formalise its commitment into a full-scale military base.

Brigadier Ed Butler, commander of 16 Air Assault Brigade, which is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan, said his troops were "apprehensive", but well trained, equipped and prepared for the task ahead of them – and he was confident that they had the capability to "operate freely" in Helmand province.

U-2s face last takeoff in 2011

By Daniel Witter

Appeal-Democrat

February 7, 2006



Dave Nielsen/Appeal-Democrat

A U-2 flies over the Beale Air Force Base runway for a landing with the help of a chase car in this file photo.

U.S. Air Force officials aim to eliminate the U-2 reconnaissance jet by 2011, officials said Monday.

The high-flying surveillance plane, which for 20 years has called Beale Air Force Base home, would be replaced by satellites and the new Global Hawk aircraft.

During a press conference held in Washington, D.C., Pentagon officials talked about the 2007 defense budget and some of the programs that could be cut, including the U-2.

The Air Force budget, which explains the U-2's proposed fate, comes out today.

"You'll find in there also we talk about phasing out of the U-2 as we bring on more assets in terms of Global Hawk and other assets, satellite system; that's in there," said Vice Admiral Marty Chanik .

The proposal needs congressional and presidential approval before it becomes final.

The 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale operates and maintains the U-2 with 3,900 airmen and 2,500 civilians.

The U-2 flies at altitudes above 70,000 feet on missions for as long as 12 hours. The aircraft has an array of sensors that can take photos and gather infrared images of the situation on the ground.

Beale officials say they intend to carry out their mission until told otherwise.

"Although the Air Force specific Quadrennial Defense Review recommendations were made just this afternoon to phase out the U-2 by 2011, we are still evaluating the impact of this recommendation to the 9th Reconnaissance Wing," said Brig. Gen. Larry Wells, commander of the 9th Reconnaissance Wing on Monday.

"Beale currently has hundreds of warriors deployed throughout the world in harm's way, so our focus must remain on our vital reconnaissance mission that continues to save the lives of our deployed servicemen and women," Wells said.

Lt. Jessica Martin, a spokeswoman for the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, echoed those comments and added, "We'll keep people abreast as we get more information."

Rumors and press reports about the U-2's fate have circulated for weeks, following a United Press International report that the aircraft was slated to be phased out, citing an anonymous military official.

The news comes five months after the Base Realignment and Closure Commission

spared Beale from being shut down in a national round of military cutbacks.

Pentagon officials instead chose to convert Beale's mission into one for reconnaissance. The Air Force will redistribute about a dozen KC-135 aircraft managed by the 940th Reserve Air Refueling Wing and fold most of its personnel into the Global Hawk program.

The Global Hawk, an unmanned reconnaissance jet also stationed at Beale, is also handled by the 9th Reconnaissance Wing and has been used increasingly since the start of the second Iraq war. The first model arrived at Beale in October 2003, and Air Force officials plan to have a fleet of 51 Global Hawks stationed there by 2012.

Navy's top admiral says cost-cutting will be focus

By Dale Eisman
The Virginian-Pilot
February 8, 2006

WASHINGTON — The Navy's top admiral voiced hope Tuesday that the service can avoid replacing Oceana Naval Air Station, a move recommended last year by an independent base closing commission but one which could cost as much as \$2 billion.

"That kind of investment would be very difficult," Adm. Michael G. Mullen, the chief of naval operations, told reporters. With the service's overall budget expected to be static well into the future, he would have to tap funds set aside for new ships, aircraft and other equipment to build a new master jet base for the East Coast, Mullen said.

In an hour-long session at the Pentagon, Mullen signaled that he has put cost-cutting at the top of his agenda. Reversing the long slide in the size of the fleet depends on the service's ability to trim unneeded expenses, he said.

Mullen renewed calls for the retirement of the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy, which he argued is no longer needed for the nation's security. Other Navy officials have warned that maintaining the ship will cost the service more than \$1 billion over the next five years.

"I would like to ... get her off the books as soon as possible," Mullen said. Retirement of the Kennedy could prompt the Navy to transfer a Norfolk-based carrier to Mayport, Fla., pulling 3,000 jobs from the local economy.

Last year, the federal Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended last year that the Navy develop a new East Coast air hub and complained that Virginia Beach officials have let subdivisions and shopping centers creep too close to Oceana's runways.

If commercial and residential development continues, "it's going to make it very difficult to stay" at Oceana, Mullen said.

He added that authorities in Virginia Beach, who last month passed legislation that essentially bars additional growth in high-risk accident potential zones near the base, are "moving in the right direction."

While arguing that the Navy should seek a long-term replacement for Oceana, the BRAC Commission also told the state and the city of Virginia Beach to spend at least \$15 million annually to condemn and clear homes and businesses near the base.

Absent the city's agreement to take those steps, the commission wanted Oceana's jets relocated to Cecil Field, a former Navy base in Jacksonville, Fla .

Though Virginia Beach has refused to condemn property and force homeowners to relocate, Jacksonville has withdrawn an offer to provide the Cecil Field property. Mullen sidestepped a question about whether the two developments leave the Navy with little choice but to remain in Virginia Beach.

Now entering its second year, the Navy's attempt to retire the Kennedy has emerged as a symbol of the challenges faced by all the military services as they ponder the future of powerful but aging and perhaps outdated weapons systems that remain popular with lawmakers and the public.

Mullen's case against the ship was argued on Capitol Hill throughout 2005, but Florida lawmakers – the Kennedy is based in the Sunshine State – spearheaded a drive to save the ship and in December secured passage of legislation requiring the Navy to maintain at least 12 flattops.

U.S. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., who as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee played a key role in setting the 12-carrier minimum, already has promised to revisit the issue. Others who support keeping the Kennedy, including all four members of Hampton Roads delegation in the House of Representatives, are expected to continue their fight for the ship.

Their hand may be strengthened by a long-term shipbuilding plan Mullen released on Tuesday. It projects another drop in carrier strength, to 10 ships, in 2013, when the Norfolk-based Enterprise is scheduled to

retire. The arrival two years later of CVN-21, first in a new series of carriers, would bring the carrier fleet back to 11.

Overall, the shipbuilding plan calls for the addition of more than 30 ships by 2012, bringing the fleet to 315. Most of the new vessels would be part of a new class of "littoral combat ships," fast and relatively cheap vessels designed to be outfitted for specialized missions including mine hunting and pursuing terrorists who operate along coastlines. At 281 ships, today's Navy is the smallest U.S. force in decades.

"If I don't control the costs, we won't be able to turn it up," he said.

Air Force Plans Call for Beale AFB to Lose U-2

Written for the web by C. Johnson, Internet News Producer



Beale Air Force Base near Marysville may lose its signature aircraft, the high-altitude surveillance U-2, if an Air Force decision to phase out the aircraft is approved.

Beale AFB has been home to the 1950s-era plane for more than 20 years. Some 3,900 airmen and 2,500 civilians in the 9th Reconnaissance Wing are stationed at the base to maintain and operate the U-2.

According to Pentagon documents that first became public in December, the Air Force

plans to phase out the U-2 by 2011 and replace them with unmanned Global Hawk reconnaissance jets and satellites. In recent years, the military has increasingly relied more on satellite imagery than U-2 surveillance photography.

The U-2 is a single engine, single seat aircraft resembling a glider that is capable of 12-hour flights at 70,000 feet altitude. It carries sensors that photograph images on the ground. The Lockheed Corporation developed the U-2 in the 1950s to conduct surveillance on the Soviet Union.

Pilot Francis Gary Powers was in a U-2 when he was shot down over Soviet territory in May 1960. Two years later, in October 1962, U-2 photographs that captured the Soviet military installing nuclear warheads on Cuba precipitated the Cuban missile crisis.

The Air Force has also proposed moving about a dozen KC-135 aircraft stationed at Beale to other bases. Most of the 940th Reserve Air Refueling Wing that services and flies those planes would move to the Global Hawk program.

Five months ago the Base Realignment and Closure Commission spared Beale from closure. The Air Force wants to re-align Beale into a reconnaissance facility.

The decision to phase out the U-2 requires Congressional and presidential approval.

News briefs from around Texas

02/07/2006

Associated Press

Two Coastal Bend counties may be pitted against one another for the rights to

redevelop a 155-acre section of Naval Station Ingleside.

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission last year decided to close the base. U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison announced that most of the land would be turned over to the Port of Corpus Christi.

Nueces and San Patricio counties have decided to apply to be the local redevelopment authority, or LDA, in charge of the remaining property, which includes submerged acreage.

San Patricio Judge Terry Simpson said in Tuesday's Corpus Christi Caller-Times that he doesn't know how much the property is worth or how it would be developed.

"We need to assess what's there," he said.

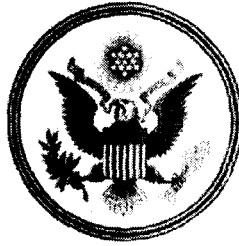
Nueces County Judge Terry Shamsie has said the closure would have significant impact on the county, and he felt Nueces officials would be more aggressive about pursuing federal assistance.

Opinions/ Editorials

Additional Notes

Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

EARLY



BIRD

February 9, 2006

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- "Planners Looking to Grow Depot."
- Town Sees New Development As Good Sign
- "240 Acres of Business Park Go Back to Army."
- "Kansas Governor Appoints 26-Member Council to Protect and Grow Kansas's BRAC Gains."
- "VA HB 166, 2006-2007, L. Scott Lingamfelter."
- "Navy's Top Admiral Says Cost-Cutting Will Be Focus."
- "New Stores Expected at Brunswick Plaza."
- "Tax Exemption for Military Seen As Lure."
- "St. Joe Land Plan Clears Hurdle."
- "Fort Monmouth Scientist Wants Work to Continue." The Star-Ledger
- "Senator Johnson Pushes for Financial Services Mission at Ellsworth."
- "City Argues for State Status in Overseeing Federal Facility Cleanups."
- "Warren Not Immune to Missile Cuts."
- "OK SB 1675, 2005-2006, Introduced, Bass, None, Senator Bass."
- "Opposition Grows to Navy's Broadway Development Plan."
- "Planners Looking to Grow Depot."

- **Town Sees New Development As Good Sign**
- **“Japan PM Woes Could Stall Agreement on US Military.”**
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APAC Customer Services, Inc. Reports Continued Progress on Business Turnaround; Quarterly Growth in Customer Care Revenues; Quarterly Improving Gross Profit Margins

Deerfield, Ill
Business Wire
Feb. 8, 2006

APAC Customer Services, Inc. (Nasdaq:APAC), a leading customer care service and solutions provider to market leaders in the healthcare, publishing, logistics, communication, financial services and travel and entertainment industries, today reported financial results for its fourth quarter and fiscal year ended January 1, 2006.

The Company reported a 2005 fourth quarter net loss of \$1.5 million, or \$0.03 per share, on revenue of \$59.7 million compared to a net loss of \$1.8 million, or \$0.04 per share, on revenue of \$69.2 million in the prior year

quarter. The 2005 fourth quarter results include \$5.0 million in restructuring and other charges associated with the Company's previously announced strategic realignment and a \$2.0 million incremental tax benefit to record now realizable prior year tax credits. The operating loss of \$4.5 million, after adjusting for restructuring and other charges, would have been a positive \$0.5 million, which compares to a similarly adjusted operating loss of \$3.1 million in the prior year quarter.

The decline in revenue from the 2004 fourth quarter is primarily due to the planned exit from the campaign-driven outbound customer acquisition business and the absence of \$4.1 million in revenue from the 53rd week of fiscal 2004, compared to a 52-week period in 2005. Fourth quarter 2005 revenue increased \$3.4 million, or 6%, from \$56.3 million in the 2005 third quarter. This improvement was due to a significant increase in revenue from the Medicare Part D enrollment and customer care program for one of our health care clients as well as other core client growth which more than offset a \$7 million reduction in revenue from exited businesses. Gross profit margin for the fourth quarter of 2005 of 13.1% was up from the prior year's fourth quarter margin of 8.8% and the 2005 third quarter's margin of 9.5%, reflecting the benefits of a more profitable client base, efficiencies gained in operations and a reduction in call center overhead.

For the 2005 fiscal year, the Company reported a net loss of \$22.4 million, or \$0.45 per share, on revenue of \$239.8 million compared to a net loss of \$6.5 million, or \$0.13 per share, on revenue of \$273.2 million in the prior year. The 2005 results include \$8.2 million in restructuring and other charges primarily associated with the Company's strategic realignment and \$10.9

million in asset impairment charges, \$10.5 million of which represents a non-cash charge associated with the write-down of goodwill. The year over year revenue decline resulted primarily from reductions in campaign-driven outbound customer acquisition business and the absence of the previously mentioned 53rd week. Gross profit margins fell from 12.2% in fiscal 2004 to 9.5% in fiscal 2005 as the revenue decline resulted in significant underutilized capacity and excess overhead expenses.

"Clearly 2005 has been a transitional year for us. We announced a strategic realignment on July 27, 2005 to exit the telemarketing business and focus primarily on customer care applications. Our fourth quarter results are strong evidence that our strategy is gaining traction. We clearly benefited, and will continue to benefit, from some of the complexities of the start-up of the Medicare Part D program, but the continued growth in our core client base and improvements in operational efficiencies also contributed to our success," commented Bob Keller, APAC Customer Services' CEO. "During the fourth quarter, we generated over \$0.8 million in adjusted free cash flow while spending \$2.7 million in capital expenditures to support our growth, and EBITDA, after adjusting for restructuring and other charges, has improved by \$2.5 million since the third quarter from \$1.0 million to \$3.5 million."

"As a result of this progress, I remain confident that our strategy and business turnaround is on track, our previous 2006 estimate of \$220 million in revenue is achievable and expect the Company to be profitable for the year." Mr. Keller continued.

In conjunction with the strategic realignment, the Company expects to incur

additional restructuring charges of approximately \$1 - 4 million in the first half of 2006 relative to the closure of additional call centers. Consistent with last quarter's announcement, the total charges for the realignment are expected to be \$8 -11 million. The \$4.9 million of the \$5 million restructuring charge taken in the 2005 fourth quarter reflects the reduction of the Company's corporate office space. The remaining quarterly revenue decline from the exited businesses is now estimated to be approximately \$2 million which will occur over the course of the first quarter of 2006.

Senior management of the Company will hold a conference call to discuss financial results at 10:00 a.m. CST Thursday February 9th.

About the Conference Call

The conference call will be available live at the Investor Relations section of APAC Customer Services' website, www.apaccustomerservices.com. Please access the site at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time in order to download the required audio software (RealPlayer or Windows Media Player). A replay of the webcast will be accessible through the Company's website for 7 days following the live event. For those unable to listen to the call via the Internet, a replay of the call will be available until 11:00 p.m. CST on Thursday, February 16, 2006, by dialing (888) 203-1112 or (719) 457-0820 for international participants. The confirmation number for the replay is 4442520.

About APAC Customer Services, Inc.

APAC Customer Services, Inc. (Nasdaq:APAC) is a leading provider of customer care service and solutions for

market leaders in healthcare, publishing, logistics, communications, financial services, travel and entertainment industries. APAC partners with its clients to deliver custom solutions that enhance bottom line performance. For more information, call 1-800-OUTSOURCE. APAC's comprehensive web site is at <http://www.apaccustomerservices.com>.

Forward Looking Statements

This document contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Generally, forward-looking statements include expressed expectations, estimates and projections of future events and financial performance and the assumptions on which these expressed expectations, estimates and projections are based. Statements that are not historical facts, including statements about the beliefs and expectations of the Company and its management are forward-looking statements. Sometimes these statements will contain words such as "believes," "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "estimates," "goals," "would," "could," "should," "plans" and other similar words. All forward-looking statements are inherently uncertain as they are based on various expectations and assumptions about future events, and they are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties that can cause actual events and results to differ materially from historical results and those projected. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of the Company's management. The Company intends its forward-looking statements to speak only as of the date on which they were made. The Company expressly undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements as a result of changed

assumptions, new information, future events or otherwise.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ from historical results or those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements: reliance by the Company on a small number of principal clients for a substantial portion of its total revenue; changes in or events affecting the business of the Company's clients; fluctuations in revenue associated with the Company's new Medicare Part D enrollment and customer care program; fluctuations in quarterly results of operations due to the timing of clients' initiation and termination of large programs; the ability of the Company's clients to terminate contracts on relatively short notice; the reaction of the Company's clients and employees to the announcement of its exit of non-strategic and unprofitable client relationships, the closing of Customer Interaction Centers and the reduction in the number of employees; and the Company's ability to successfully manage the costs and expenses associated with these activities and generate sufficient cash flow from operations during the transition.

Other reasons that may cause actual results to differ from historical results or those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements can be found in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended January 2, 2005, and the Company's Third Quarter Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended October 2, 2005. These filings are available on a web site maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>.

About Non-GAAP Financial Measures

To supplement the Company's consolidated financial statements presented in accordance with GAAP, the Company uses the

following measures defined as non-GAAP financial measures by the SEC: operating income, EBITDA, and free cash flow, in each case, before and after restructuring and other charges. The presentation of this financial information is not intended to be considered in isolation or as a substitute for the financial information prepared and presented in accordance with GAAP. For more information on these non-GAAP financial measures, please see the tables captioned "Notes to Press Release Tables" included at the end of this release.

The Company's management believes that these non-GAAP financial measures provide meaningful supplemental information regarding our performance and liquidity by excluding certain expenses and expenditures that may not be indicative of our core business operating results. The Company believes management, investors and lenders benefit from referring to these non-GAAP financial measures in assessing its performance and when planning, forecasting and analyzing future periods. These non-GAAP financial measures also facilitate management's internal comparisons to the Company's historical performance and liquidity. The Company believes these non-GAAP financial measures are useful to investors in allowing for greater transparency with respect to supplemental information used by management in its financial and operational decision making.

The Company expects to use consistent methods for computation of non-GAAP financial measures. The accompanying tables have more details on the GAAP financial measures that are most directly comparable to non-GAAP financial measures and the related reconciliations between these financial measures.

APAC Customer Services, Inc. and
Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of
Operations
(In thousands, except for per share
data)

		Unaudited	
		Thirteen / Fourteen	
Weeks Ended (a)		-----	

Increase		January 1, January 2,	
(Decrease)		2006 2005	
%		-----	

Net revenue		\$59,669	
\$69,203	-14%		
Cost of services		\$51,849	
\$65,097	-18%		

Gross profit		7,820	6,106
28%			
Operating expenses:			
Selling, general and			
administrative expenses		\$7,315	
\$9,244	-21%		
Restructuring and other			
charges		\$5,005	\$(136)
-			
Asset impairment charges			\$-
\$-	-		

Total operating expenses		12,320	
9,108	35%		

Other (income) and expense	(600)
(361)	66%
Interest expense	1,408
620	127%

January 1, 2006 and January 2, 2005
include 52/13 and 53/14 weeks,
respectively.

Loss before income taxes	(31,558)
(10,622)	197%
Income tax benefit	(9,160)
(4,123)	122%

APAC Customer Services, Inc. and
Subsidiaries
Consolidated Condensed Balance
Sheets

(In thousands)
Unaudited

Net loss	\$ (22,398)
\$(6,499)	245%

January 1,
January 2,
Assets
2005
2006

Net Loss per share:

Basic	\$ (0.45)	\$ (0.13)
246%		
Diluted	\$ (0.45)	\$ (0.13)
246%		

Current Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$960
\$271	
Accounts receivable, less allowances of \$1,919 and \$2,193, respectively	37,592
41,002	
Other current assets	9,248
11,253	

Weighted average number of
shares outstanding:

Basic	49,455	49,453
Diluted	49,455	49,453

Total current assets	47,800
52,526	
Property and Equipment, net	
22,233	24,214
Goodwill and Intangibles, net and Other Assets	41,017
42,793	

(a) The Company operates on a 52/53 week
fiscal year that ends on the
Sunday closest to December 31st. The
fiscal year and quarter ended

Total assets	\$111,050
\$119,533	

2006 and January 2, 2005 include 52 and 53 weeks, respectively.

Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity

APAC Customer Services, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Condensed Statements of Cash Flows

Current Liabilities:

Current maturities of long-term debt	\$11,971
\$313	
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	44,211
43,702	

Total current liabilities	56,182
44,015	

(In thousands)
Unaudited

Fifty-two / Fifty-Three

Weeks Ended (a)

January 2

January 1,

2006

2005

Other Liabilities	2,994
1,355	
Commitments and contingencies	-
-	
Total shareholders' equity	51,874
74,163	

Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$111,050
\$119,533	
=====	

Operating activities:

Net loss	\$(22,398)
\$(6,499)	
Depreciation and amortization	12,118
11,055	
Non-cash restructuring	904
75	
Asset impairment charges	10,886
2,200	
Deferred income taxes	(9,007)
(3,394)	
Gain on sales of property and equipment	(339)
-	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	5,431
(2,947)	

(a) The Company operates on a 52/53 week fiscal year that ends on the Sunday closest to December 31st. The fiscal year ended January 1,

Net cash provided (used) by operating activities

(2,405)

490

Investing activities:	
Purchases of property and equipment	(8,699)
(11,206)	
Net proceeds from sale of property and equipment	1,071
-	

Net cash (used) by investing activities	(7,628)
(11,206)	
Financing activities:	
Borrowings under revolving credit facility, net	11,971
-	
Payments on long-term debt	(313) (389)
Financing fees	(822)
(75)	
Stock option and warrant transactions including related income tax benefit	-
23	

Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	10,836
(441)	

Effect of exchange rate changes in cash	(114)
-	

Net change in cash and cash equivalents	689
(11,157)	
Cash and Cash Equivalents:	
Beginning of year	271
11,428	

End of year \$960
\$271

=====

(a) The Company operates on a 52/53 week fiscal year that ends on the Sunday closest to December 31st. The fiscal year and quarter ended January 1, 2006 and January 2, 2005 include 52/13 and 53/14 weeks, respectively.

APAC Customer Services, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Selected Financial and Statistical Information
(In thousands, except for per share data)

	Unaudited
	Thirteen / Fourteen
Weeks Ended (a)	-----

Increase	
(Decrease)	January 1, January 2,
	2006 2005
%	-----

Selected Financial Information:	
Net revenue	\$59,669
\$69,203 -14%	
Net loss	\$(1,496)
\$(1,804) -17%	

EBITDA (1) (1,480)
 68 -2276%

Adjusted EBITDA(1) 3,525
 (68) -5284%

Adjusted Operating Income
 (Loss) (2) 505 (3,138)
 -116%

Free Cash Flow (3) (4,156)
 (4,492) -7%

Adjusted Free Cash Flow (3) 849
 (4,628) -118%

Statistical Information:

Number of Customer Interaction
 Centers 13 24
 -46%

Weighted Average No. of Seats 6,463
 6,681 -3%

Revenue per Weighted Average
 No. of Seats \$9,232
 \$10,358 -11%

Fifty-Two / Fifty-Three
 Weeks Ended (a) -----

Increase
 (Decrease) January 1, January 2,
 2006 2005
 % -----

Selected Financial
 Information:

Net revenue \$239,845
 \$273,239 -12%

Net loss \$(22,398)
 \$(6,499) 245%

EBITDA (1) (18,032)
 1,053 -1812%

Adjusted EBITDA(1) 1,070
 5,160 -79%

Adjusted Operating Income
 (Loss) (2) (11,648)
 (6,256) 86%

Free Cash Flow (3) (26,731)
 (10,153) 163%

Adjusted Free Cash Flow (3) (7,629)
 (6,046) 26%

Statistical Information:

Number of Customer Interaction
 Centers 13 24
 -46%

Weighted Average No. of Seats 6,890
 6,749 2%

Revenue per Weighted Average
 No. of Seats \$34,811
 \$40,486 -14%

(a) The Company operates on a 52/53 week
 fiscal year that ends on the

Sunday closest to December 31st. The fiscal year and quarter ended January 1, 2006 and January 2, 2005 include 52/13 and 53/14 weeks, respectively.

See attached Notes to Press Release Tables

APAC Customer Services, Inc.
Notes to Press Release Tables
January 1, 2006

(1) The non-GAAP measure of EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA is presented to supplement the consolidated financial statements in accordance with GAAP. We define EBITDA as Net Income plus the provision (benefit) for income taxes, depreciation and amortization, and interest expense. Adjusted EBITDA also adds back restructuring and asset impairment charges. We use EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA, in addition to operating income and cash flows from operating activities to assess our liquidity and performance and believe that it is important and of interest to our investors to be able to evaluate our financial results using the same measures used by our management.

EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA can be reconciled to net income, which we believe to be the most directly comparable financial measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP, as follows:

EBITDA Reconciliation

	YTD	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
Net (loss) income	(\$22,398)	(\$13,507)	(\$1,496)	(\$1,804)
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(9,160)	(1,757)	(3,450)	(1,245)
Interest expense	620	305	402	1,408
Depreciation and amortization	12,118	3,104	3,064	2,928
EBITDA	(\$18,032)	(\$11,855)	(\$1,480)	\$68
Restructuring and other charges (benefits)	1,873	2,074	5,005	(136)
Asset impairment	3,238			8,216

charges 10,762 - - 10,886
 2,234 420

Adjusted
 EBITDA \$981 \$3,525 (\$68)
 \$1,070 \$5,160 \$23,181

EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA do not represent funds available for our discretionary use and are not intended to represent or to be used as a substitute for net income or cash flow from operations data as measured under GAAP. The items excluded from EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are significant components of our statement of income and must be considered in performing a comprehensive assessment of our overall financial results. EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA and the associated sequential trends should not be considered in isolation. Our calculation of EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA may not be consistent with calculations of EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA used by other companies.

(2) We use the non-GAAP measure of Adjusted Operating Income (Loss) to supplement the consolidated financial statements. We use this measure, in addition to operating income to assess our financial performance and believe that this measurement is of interest to our investors in relation to our ongoing operating results.

Adjusted Operating Income (Loss) can be reconciled to the net income

or loss, which we believe to be the most directly comparable financial measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP, as follows:

Adjusted Operating Income (Loss)

Reconciliation

	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter		
YTD				
2004	2005	2005	2004	2005
	2003			

Net (loss)				
income	(\$13,507)	(\$1,496)	(\$1,804)	
	(\$22,398)	(\$6,499)	\$4,339	
=====				

Provision				
(benefit)				
for income				
taxes	(1,757)	(3,450)	(1,245)	
	(9,160)	(4,123)	2,038	

Other				
(income)				
expense	(582)	44	(142)	(600)
	(361)	(100)		

Interest				
expense	305	402	189	1,408
	620	1,131		

Operating				
(loss)				
income	(\$15,541)	(\$4,500)	(\$3,002)	
	(\$30,750)	(\$10,363)	\$7,408	

Restructuring and other charges (benefits)	2,074	5,005	(136)	8,216
	1,873	3,238		

Asset impairment charges	10,762	-	-	10,886
	2,234	420		

Adjusted Operating (loss) income	(\$2,705)	\$505	(\$3,138)
	(\$11,648)	(\$6,256)	\$11,066

Adjusted Operating Income (Loss) does not represent net income and is not intended to represent or to be used as a substitute for operating income as measured under GAAP. The items excluded from Adjusted Operating Income (Loss) include Restructuring and Other Charges (Benefits) and Asset Impairment Charges and are significant components of our Statements of Operations and must be considered in performing a comprehensive assessment of our overall financial results. Adjusted Operating Income (Loss) and the associated sequential trends should not be considered in isolation. Our calculation of Adjusted Operating

Income (Loss) may not be consistent with calculations of Adjusted Operating Income (Loss) used by other companies.

(3) We use the non-GAAP measure of Free Cash Flow and Adjusted Free Cash Flow to supplement the consolidated financial statements in accordance with GAAP. We define Free Cash Flow as EBITDA less capital expenditures and Adjusted Free Cash Flow as Free Cash Flow less restructuring and other charges (benefits) and asset impairment charges. We use Free Cash Flow and Adjusted Free Cash Flow in addition to net cash provided (used) by operating activities to assess our liquidity and performance and believe that Free Cash Flow and Adjusted Free Cash Flow are of interest to our investors in relation to our debt covenants as capital expenditures are a significant use of our cash. Free Cash Flow and Adjusted Free Cash Flow do not represent the residual cash flow available for discretionary expenditures.

Free Cash Flow and Adjusted Free Cash Flow can be reconciled to the net cash provided (used) by operating activities, which we believe to be the most directly comparable financial measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP, as follows:

Free Cash Flow Calculation

	3rd	4th	YTD
	Quarter	Quarter	

	2005	2005	2004	2005
2004	2003			
EBITDA	(\$11,855)	(\$1,480)	\$68	
	(\$18,032)	\$1,053	\$19,523	
CAPEX	(716)	(2,676)	(4,560)	
	(8,699)	(11,206)	(8,348)	
Free Cash Flow	(\$12,571)	(\$4,156)	(\$4,492)	
	(\$26,731)	(\$10,153)	\$11,175	
Restructuring and other charges (benefits)	2,074	5,005	(136)	8,216
	1,873	3,238		
Asset impairment charges	10,762	-	-	10,886
	2,234	420		
Adjusted Free Cash Flow	\$265	\$849	(\$4,628)	
	(\$7,629)	(\$6,046)	\$14,833	
Free Cash Flow Reconciliation				
	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter		
YTD				

	2005	2005	2004	2005
2004	2003			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	2	(\$4,110)	(\$5,614)	
	(\$2,405)	\$490	\$34,026	
Purchase of property and equipment, net	(716)	(2,676)	(4,560)	(8,699)
	(11,206)	(8,348)		
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	(1,757)	(3,450)	(1,245)	
	(9,160)	(4,123)	2,038	
Interest expense	305	402	189	1,408
	620	1,131		
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	(987)	2,793	2,382	
	(5,431)	2,981	(16,208)	
Asset impairment charges	(10,762)	-	-	(10,886)
	(2,234)	(420)		
Loss (gain) on sale of property and				

equipment	398	(59)	-	339

Increase in deferred income taxes	1,121	3,651	4,152	
	9,007	3,394	(937)	

Non-cash restructuring	(175)	(707)	204	
	(904)	(75)	(107)	

Free Cash Flow	(\$12,571)	(\$4,156)	(\$4,492)	
	(\$26,731)	(\$10,153)	\$11,175	
=====				
=====				

Restructuring and other charges (benefits)	2,074	5,005	(136)	8,216
	1,873	3,238		

Asset impairment charges	10,762	-	-	10,886
	2,234	420		

Adjusted Free Cash Flow	\$265	\$849	(\$4,628)	
	(\$7,629)	(\$6,046)	\$14,833	
=====				
=====				

Free Cash Flow and Adjusted Free Cash Flow do not represent funds available for our discretionary use and are not intended to represent

or to be used as a substitute for cash flow from operations data as measured under GAAP. The items excluded from Free Cash Flow and Adjusted Free Cash Flow are significant components of our Statements of Operations and Statements of Cash Flows and must be considered in performing a comprehensive assessment of our overall financial results. Free Cash Flow and Adjusted Free Cash Flow and the associated sequential trends should not be considered in isolation. Our calculation of Free Cash Flow and Adjusted Free Cash Flow may not be consistent with calculations of Free Cash Flow and Adjusted Free Cash Flow used by other companies.

Town Sees New Development As Good Sign
By Jim Cyr
News 8 WMTW

BRUNSWICK, Maine -- Last summer's announcement by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission, that Brunswick Naval Air Station will be closed left the community of Brunswick uncertain about its future. But it appears that several retailers are eyeing Brunswick.

The news is encouraging to town officials for many reasons, especially since the property the retailers are looking at is right across from the base.

The largest parcel is the site of the former Shaw's supermarket at Merry meeting Plaza.

The Massachusetts-based owners of the plaza won't say who will be coming, but Brunswick's code enforcement officer said

that he has been asked to add four new business names to the plaza's sign. They are Borders, Old Navy, Talbot's and Coldwater Creek.

It's encouraging news to town officials, who worry about the possibility of rising unemployment when BNAS closes in 2011.

Brunswick Economic Development Director Matt Eddy told News 8 that he wouldn't be surprised if those businesses were up and running by late summer or early fall.

"Planners Looking to Grow Depot."

Jim Hook

Public-Opinion (Chambersburg, PA)

February 4, 2006

Letterkenny Army Depot is taking a look beyond the next round of base closings proposed in 2015.

Letterkenny — saved and revitalized by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission — has hired a consultant to plan for its strategic development through 2025.

A draft concept calls for new buildings, an investment of more than \$100 million from Uncle Sam and about 240 acres from the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority (LIDA).

One of the first steps for the Army will be to get back the land — land it took from farmer families in 1941 and started to return after BRAC 1995.

Letterkenny, the largest employer in Franklin County, stores ammunition and repairs tactical missiles and Humvees for the military.

"Letterkenny missions have significantly expanded in the last three years, and we have some tremendous opportunities ahead," Letterkenny Director of Public Works Rod Gettig said. "In order to capture these opportunities we must develop a plan now that allows us to expand our capabilities as wisely and effectively as possible."

Letterkenny has a few construction projects on tap and wants to build more on land currently controlled by LIDA.

Letterkenny commander Col. Robert A. Swenson has met in private with LIDA, at LIDA's request, to discuss a potential long-term lease of the property.

"I'm at a loss why there is any discussion," said L. Michael Ross, chairman of Opportunity '05, a community group founded to strengthen Letterkenny. "It's a natural to me that it should be made available to them."

Ross, a former LIDA officer and president of the Franklin County Area Development Corp., said the land is "crucial to the future of the installation."

"If we had an employer that was going to create 2,800 jobs we would be doing backflips," Ross said. "Everybody wants that employer. We have that employer, and we have the opportunity to grow that employer."

Twice the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) has balked at closing one of the Army's five maintenance depots. Red River Army Depot in Texas narrowly escaped closure in 2005. Letterkenny was hit hard in BRAC 1995, and lost 3,000 jobs during the 1990s.

BRAC 1995 also ordered Letterkenny to return 1,400 acres to the community. The Army was left with two tracts of land — 17,000 acres for industrial shops and ammunition storage and a small island of administrative and computer offices. The offices blended in with surrounding businesses until the 9-11 terrorist attacks, after which the Army hurriedly set up barricades.

The Army wants to better secure the offices and other operations that currently lease warehouses in the business park. The Army also wants land to buffer its vehicle and electronics shops from private land.

BRAC 2005 recommended both the force protection and the next BRAC review to begin in 2014.

It's been more than 12 years since Letterkenny has looked at a long-range plan.

Plans for a business park on former Letterkenny land had assumed that the depot might close, according to Ross. And for several years Letterkenny continued to lose work.

“With the turnaround at Letterkenny in the past three years, the dynamics are different,” Ross said. “Letterkenny has proven its military value and is meeting all its national defense objectives.”

Ross said Opportunity '05 will write LIDA in support of a no-cost, long-term lease with Letterkenny.

Citizens for a Quality Environment, a local group founded to oppose a proposed ethanol plant next to Letterkenny, also has written LIDA in support of turning the land over to the Army.

“We do not believe any business entity LIDA could attract to the 240 acres would provide the quality of jobs and salary that Letterkenny offers,” writes DeEtta Antoun, director of the citizens' group, in a letter dated Jan. 26. “A primary LIDA goal is to benefit the community and its residents. We believe that a land conveyance to Letterkenny is necessary to accomplish that goal.”

LIDA was created to bring jobs to the land that the Army returned to the community as a result of BRAC 1995. LIDA members are appointed by Franklin County Commissioners.

The real estate that Letterkenny wants to lease from LIDA is part of the land that BRAC ordered returned to the community. All of the land has not been transferred because the environmental cleanup is not yet complete.

LIDA has not had any interest from private businesses for the land that the Army wants back, Ross said.

“It's hard to put into perspective — given that we've just completed BRAC 2005 and we've breathed a sigh of relief and things are going well at Letterkenny,” Ross said. “We need to be preparing for the next round of BRAC. It seems way out there. It will be a short 10 years.”

Letterkenny has contracted with H.F. Lenz Co., Johnstown, for the \$210,000 master plan, the depot's first since 1993. The plan — “critical” to the depot's future, according to Gettig — should be completed by July.

What's Next

The Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority meets at 8:30 a.m. Monday at 220

Coffey Ave. in Cumberland Valley Business Park.

The Plan

Letterkenny Army Depot has more than \$35 million in construction projects that have at least been penciled in:

* A \$6.1 million ammunition shipping center is being designed and construction should begin in the fall 2006.

* The nation's military construction budget for 2009 includes a \$7.2 million staging and deployment center and more than \$11 million for construction to support additional missions from BRAC 2005.

* The 2010 budget provides for a \$14 million Army Reserve Center at Letterkenny.

* Other future proposals include repair shops and a new Letterkenny headquarters.

About the Depot

Employment: 2,800

Size: 17,000 acres

Location: Greene and Letterkenny townships

Founded: 1941

BRAC 1995: Lost more than 1,000 jobs

BRAC 2005: To gain about 200 positions.

Missions:

* Maintain tactical missile systems, such Patriot

* Repair Humvees and chemical detection trailers

* Store ammunition

* Assemble mobile kitchens and tent cities

“Opposition Grows to Navy’s Broadway Development Plan.”

Martin Stolz.

The San Diego Union Tribune
February 5, 2006

The Navy's plans to build San Diego's largest-ever complex of buildings on the harbor at Broadway – and the secrecy surrounding those plans – face new opposition from a coalition of architects, planners and community groups.

A group of 20 people, who are members of more than a dozen organizations, met last week to organize a public challenge to the Navy's goal of building up to 3.25 million square feet of high-rise offices, hotels and shops on 14.7 acres of waterfront land.

Those at the meeting questioned the wisdom of the plan and called on the Navy to re-examine its assumptions, which were made in 1992. They invited the Navy, instead, to help create a waterfront park or lower-scale project and swap its site at Broadway and North Harbor Drive for a higher-security location nearby.

The Navy Broadway Complex was spared from a round of military base closures last year under a deal with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The commission said the complex should be shuttered if a redevelopment deal isn't reached by Jan. 1.

Developers vying to win the contract must first clean up the site polluted from years of Navy use, and spend \$98 million to \$180 million to build new naval administrative offices, depending on the size of the buildings.

In return, developers could build hotels, offices, shops and a museum or another public attraction in towers on the rest of the site, leaving about 2 acres of open space.

The Navy is reviewing bids submitted by a Jan. 4 deadline and has not released information about the bidders.

Peter Q. Davis, a former San Diego Unified Port District commissioner and board member of the Centre City Development Corp., which advises the City Council on downtown redevelopment, says he hopes to persuade the Navy to “simply walk away from the property,” he said in a telephone interview yesterday. Davis spent a decade working with the Navy on earlier versions of the project.

Max Schmidt, the former chief planner and architect for CCDC, called the site the region’s most important available land and the best location “for the city to do something great.”

“The proposal is very ordinary – offices, retail, hotels,” he said. “The bottom line is all these uses can go elsewhere, including the Navy offices.”

The group, which is still unnamed, laid out a campaign for rallying the public and lobbying members of Congress and local officials. The group is also seeking to partner with other organizations.

The group proposes creating a joint powers authority between CCDC and the port,

which – unlike the city of San Diego – have the resources to issue bonds for public projects.

Several at the meeting advocated relocating the Navy’s downtown offices from Broadway to a waterfront building at 32nd Street, a secure Navy site with room for growth.

Mike Stepner, who worked for 27 years as a city planner, helped write the 1992 development agreement between the city and the Navy. At the time, downtown San Diego’s redevelopment prospects were uncertain.

“When the facts change, I change my mind, and the facts have changed,” he said. “It is public land, and public land belongs to the people.”

Much anger at Thursday night’s meeting focused on the secrecy of Navy officials.

A Navy spokesman said last month he was not permitted by Navy regulations to release the number of bids received by the Jan. 4 deadline or reveal the states where the development companies are based.

Navy officials could not find such regulations Friday, but the regulations exist, said Kevin Dixon, a spokesman for Navy Region Southwest.

Tom Angiewicz, an architect and board member of the San Diego Downtown Partnership, said “the selection process is secretive, and the selection is strictly in the hands of the Navy, which is scary” because of the Navy’s inexperience with development.

“To go forward with a 1992 plan – without any relook or any re-evaluation of those

assumptions, to any reasonable person – would seem goofy,” Anglewicz said.

Anglewicz called himself a “pragmatist” because changing the Navy’s mind would be difficult and many in development circles would prefer to avoid a public debate.

Nancy Graham, CCDC president, cautioned against “overreacting.” She expressed concern that the Broadway site could face a worse future if it returns to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

But Diane Coombs, a member of Citizen Coordinate for Century 3, a group formed in 1961 to monitor and influence growth, questioned those fears: “If it went to BRAC, could the ultimate use be any worse than what’s proposed?”

The land is “absolutely the most important site in San Diego,” Davis said, so “a public debate has to happen, regardless of the Navy’s right to develop,” and before the Navy selects a development team.

The Navy plans to begin negotiations by March 31 with a development team for a 75-year land lease.

After a development team is selected, CCDC staff will begin a limited review of the proposal for consistency with development and urban design guidelines contained in the 1992 agreement.

Through CCDC meetings, the public will have “more opportunity for review and more chance for oversight than is usually the case” with federal projects, Graham said.

U.S. Rep. Susan Davis, D-San Diego, who represents downtown, has met with the project’s opponents, the Navy and others “to

maintain a dialogue,” said Aaron Hunter, her spokesman.

Howard Blackson, a San Diego urban planner, recently returned from discussions about rebuilding Mississippi’s hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast. A waterfront park in downtown San Diego would serve as “a safety valve when we have an earthquake,” he said.

Christine Gaunt, of the Harborfront Community Coalition, said San Diego has “one chance to get it right, and this is our chance.”

“OK SB 1675, 2005-2006, Introduced, Bass, None, Senator Bass.”

Unattributed.

LegAlert

February 6, 2006

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE BILL 1675 By: Bass

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public finance; enacting the Oklahoma Military Base Protection Grant Program; stating legislative intent; making appropriation to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce; stating purpose of appropriation; authorizing certain transfer; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Oklahoma Military Base Protection Grant Program .

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. The Legislature finds that the economic benefits provided to local communities by established military bases and facilities are significant and that local communities would be adversely impacted depending upon actions taken by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) at the federal level.

B. It is the intent of the Legislature to create a program pursuant to which local communities may apply to the State of Oklahoma for a matching grant for critical infrastructure improvements, encroachment issues, transportation and access needs, utilities, communications, housing, environment and security in order to prevent adverse realignment or military base closure.

SECTION 3. There is hereby appropriated to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce from any monies not otherwise appropriated from the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, the sum of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) , or so much thereof as may be necessary to perform the duties imposed upon the Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning Commission by law , to be transferred to the Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning Commission Incentive Fund.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

“City Argues for State Status in Overseeing Federal Facility Cleanups.”

Unattributed.

Defense Environment Alert 14/3

February 7, 2006

A Washington state municipality is asking a federal district court to grant it the same oversight rights at federal facility cleanups guaranteed to states under the federal Superfund law, after the court in December ruled the city had been unfairly excluded by EPA from the development of a cleanup plan for a former Air Force site.

In a groundbreaking lawsuit, City of Moses Lake v. United States, the city of Moses Lake, WA, last week submitted a detailed plan to the U.S. District Court for the District of Eastern Washington arguing it is entitled to the same rights as a state has under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA) in overseeing cleanup of the former Larson Air Force Base. “The City submits that, on a go-forward basis, the interaction between the United States and the City related to the Site should mirror EPA’s regulations that govern state involvement in the [remedial investigation/feasibility study(RI/FS)] process, in selection of the remedy, in enhancement of the remedy, and in the remedial design/remedial action,” the filing states. Relevant documents are available on InsideEPA.com.

The plan, submitted for court approval Jan. 30, is intended to convey to the court what Moses Lake believes is necessary to protect its oversight rights under section 120(f) of CERCLA, which governs federal facility cleanups. The court ruled Dec. 30, 2005, that EPA could not release its proposed cleanup plan for the site because it had not properly consulted with the town, as required under section 120(f) of CERCLA (Defense Environment Alert, Jan. 24, p6).

Attorneys familiar with the ruling say it is the first decision addressing local oversight of federal facility cleanups, and will help local governments, which have long called for greater participation in the cleanup process. The ruling comes as local governments are likely to seek a say at the numerous BRAC sites undergoing cleanup in the 2005 BRAC round. An attorney for the town says Moses Lake has already received calls from other towns inquiring about the ruling. "A lot of towns find themselves in this position of being frozen out" of cleanup negotiations, the source says.

Section 120(f) of CERCLA requires the government to "afford to relevant state and local officials the opportunity to participate in the planning and selection of the remedial action, including but not limited to the review of all applicable data as it becomes available and the development of studies, reports, and action plans."

However, the law does not specify what steps the government should take to comply with the provision. Moses Lake therefore is proposing that it be afforded the same rights guaranteed to states in section 121(f). That provision allows states to review and comment on the RI/FS and all relevant data; the planned remedial action in the RI/FS; and other technical data and reports related

to implementing the remedy, among other rights.

EPA's regulations implementing section 121(f) require EPA-state memorandums of agreement detailing the nature and extent of interaction between the two during EPA-lead cleanups. The city is asking the court to require "a similar site-specific agreement" with the city.

The city is also asking the court to allow 90 days for negotiations between the city and EPA over the framework. EPA has 15 days to submit a response to the court, according to the town's attorney.

EPA could not be reached for comment

Unattributed. 2006. "Base Closure and Community Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance Act." Federal Register 71/25 (February 7): 6274.

Base Realignment and Closures

SUMMARY: This Notice is provided pursuant to section 2905(b)(7)(B)(ii) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990. It provides a partial list of military installations closing or realigning pursuant to the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Report. It also provides a corresponding listing of the Local Redevelopment Authorities (LRAs) recognized by the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), as well as the points of contact, addresses, and telephone numbers for the LRAs for those installations. Representatives of state and local governments, homeless providers, and other parties interested in the redevelopment of an installation should contact the person or organization listed. The following information will also be published

simultaneously in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of each installation.

There will be additional Notices providing this same information about LRAs for other closing or realigning installations where surplus government property is available as those LRAs are recognized by the OEA.

DATES: Effective Date: February 7, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT: Director, Office of Economic Adjustment, Office of the Secretary of Defense, 400 Army Navy Drive, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22202-4704, (703) 604-6020.

Local Redevelopment Authorities (LRA's) for Closing and Realigning Military Installations

California

Installation Name: Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Concord.

LRA Name: City of Concord.

Point of Contact: Mr. James Forsberg, Director of Planning and Economic Development, City of Concord.

Address: 1950 Parkside Drive, MS/1B, Concord, CA 94519-2578.

[Page Number 6275]

Phone: (925) 671-3383.

Georgia

Installation Name: Fort McPherson.

LRA Name: McPherson Planning Local Redevelopment Authority.

Point of Contact: Mr. Felker Ward, Chair, McPherson Planning Local Redevelopment Authority.

Address: 86 Pryor Street, Atlanta, GA 30303-3131.

Phone: (404) 614-8298.

Installation Name: Naval Air Station Atlanta.

LRA Name: NAS Atlanta Local Redevelopment Authority.

Point of Contact: Mr. Bob Elsberry, Chairman, NAS Atlanta Local Redevelopment Authority.

Address: P.O. Box 671868, Marietta, GA 30066.

Phone: (770) 859-2342.

Installation Name: Navy Supply Corps School Athens.

LRA Name: Navy Supply Corps School Local Redevelopment Authority.

Point of Contact: Mr. Buddy Allen, Chairman, Navy Supply Corps School Local Redevelopment Authority.

Address: 2595 Atlanta Highway, Athens, GA 30604.

Phone: (706) 549-0706.

Kansas

Installation Name: Kansas Army Ammunition Plant.

LRA Name: Kansas Army Ammunition Plant Local Redevelopment Planning Authority.

Point of Contact: Mr. Brian C. Kinzie, Chairman, Labette County Commission.

Address: P.O. Box 387, Oswego, KS 67356.

Phone: (620) 795-2138.

Maine

Installation Name: Naval Air Station Brunswick.

LRA Name: Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority.

Point of Contact: Mr. Mathew Eddy.

Address: 28 Federal Street, Brunswick, ME 04011.

Phone: (207) 721-0793.

Installation Name: Naval Air Station Brunswick (Topsham Annex).

LRA Name: Topsham Local Redevelopment Authority.

Point of Contact: Mr. Gary Brown, Town Manager, Town of Topsham.

Address: 22 Elm Street, Topsham, ME 04086.

Phone: (207) 725-5821.

Texas

Installation Name: Red River Army Depot.

LRA Name: Red River Redevelopment Authority.

Point of Contact: Mr. Denis Washington, President, Board of Directors, Red River Redevelopment Authority.

Address: 107 Chapel Lane, New Boston, TX 75570.

Phone: (903) 223-9841.

Installation Name: Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant.

LRA Name: Red River Redevelopment Authority.

Point of Contact: Mr. Denis Washington, President, Board of Directors, Red River Redevelopment Authority.

Address: 107 Chapel Lane, New Boston, TX 75570.

Phone: (903) 223-9841.

Virginia

Installation Name: Fort Monroe.

LRA Name: Federal Area Development Authority.

Point of Contact: Mr. Brian DeProffio, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Hampton.

Address: 22 Lincoln Street—8th Floor, Hampton, VA 23669.

Phone: (757) 727-6884.

February 1, 2006.

L.M. Bynum,

OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,
Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. E6-1590 Filed 2-6-06; 8:45 am]

“Warren Not Immune to Missile Cuts.”

Shauna Stephenson.
Wyoming Tribune-Eagle
(Cheyenne, WY)
February 8

Despite early reports about the reduction of Minuteman III missiles, Air Force Space Command officials say no final decision has been made as to where those cuts will come from.

On Saturday, The Associated Press reported that the 50 missiles recommended to be cut in the Quadrennial Defense Review, which came out last week, would most likely come from Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

They are part of the 500 missiles in the ICBM fleet located at three bases in Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota.

But Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz, vice commander of Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., said that decision has yet to be made.

U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., said the decision will be made by the Armed Services committees in the House and Senate, and Congress as a whole, when they decide where to allocate money. After that, it would be at the discretion of the Air Force.

Enzi said he favors a 500-missile force.

“Our ICBM force is a deterrent that we need to maintain and modernize to fit the information and technology age,” he said. “Deterrence is still a bedrock principle of our defense.”

But U.S. Sen. Craig Thomas, R-Wyo., said the reduction recognizes some of the changes taking place in the nation’s defense.

“It’s a pretty reasonable thing to do,” he said. “In order to stay up to date, change needs to take place.”

Thomas said the challenge will be to work with the changes as they happen. He said he wants Wyoming and F.E. Warren Air Force Base to be part of the discussion on the changes.

Klotz said the Quadrennial Defense Review reaffirmed the importance of Space Command.

“In our view, (it) revalidates the fact that America needs space for our nation’s defense.”

He said it also recognized the need to modernize the force, the average age of which is about 23 years.

“For us it’s one of the oldest forces we’ve had to operate,” he said.

Many of today’s nuclear weapons systems were designed in the 1950s, Klotz said. That makes it increasingly expensive to operate and more difficult to find parts. Many of the original vendors have gone out of business.

That encompasses the 50 missiles in Montana, which have a different operating system than the other wings controlled by the Air Force. Different operating systems

mean different parts, different training and different requirements of airmen.

Klotz said the difference in operating systems is because when they were originally put in, there were two contractors designing the missiles, hence the different operating systems.

Originally there were six wings of missiles. One contractor built the first five wings; another built the last wing. This latter wing was distributed at Grand Forks, which is now deactivated, and Malmstrom, which includes the 50 in question.

All Minuteman III missiles are in the process of being updated; they are expected to last until 2020.

Klotz said the Pentagon is reviewing an analysis of alternatives for the Minuteman III after 2020.

Reductions in Guard troops While the reduction in missiles has gained much attention, Wyoming's senators also are reacting to proposed cuts in number of Air and Army National Guard troops.

Both signed a letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld urging the Department of Defense to keep numbers at current levels. It also said the White House should consult with the states' adjutants general before making any cuts.

Enzi said if a recommendation in the Quadrennial Defense Review were implemented, the Wyoming Air and Army National Guards would have to restructure their units.

He said with the increasing number of missions the Guard is taking on, Congress

"must be careful not to recommend too many cuts."

"Our opposition to the reductions is likely to affect the outcome, but at this point it's too early to say to what degree," Enzi said.

Thomas said he strongly opposes the reductions in the Guard. He said when the war in Iraq first began, much of it was highly technical.

"But then when it came to continuing to finish the job, it took more manpower," he said.

But it is still too early to tell what the final result will be.

Deidre Forster, public affairs officer for the Wyoming National Guard, said they have yet to get any news.

"Whether or not Wyoming is going to have any of those cuts, we don't know," she said.

The reductions also may affect the active-duty portion of the military.

Klotz said over the next five years he expects a cut of about 40,000 people. But he said the distribution has yet to be determined.

"Senator Johnson Pushes for Financial Services Mission at Ellsworth."

Unattributed.

US Fed News

February 8, 2006

Washington, Feb. 8 – The office of Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., issued the following press release:

Sen. Tim Johnson (S-SD) expressed support again today for a financial services mission at Ellsworth Air Force Base. Johnson has been in frequent contact with the Air Force on this topic, and his staff will be meeting with Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne tomorrow.

“I will be pushing hard for this mission right up until the decision is made. Ellsworth is a world-class military installation due in large part to the upgraded facilities at the base. I have used my position on the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee to help direct money to improve the base. I will work with the Air Force to see if there are any further enhancements that would be needed to make this mission fit at Ellsworth,” Johnson said. “This is a mission that can easily transition into the Ellsworth environment and we’d be proud have them join us in the Hills.”

In January, Johnson sent Wynne a letter offering support before the final decision is made this spring. This mission will consist of approximately 775 employees, both military and civilian personnel, who will perform customer service duties on behalf of our nation’s military.

In late September 2005, Air Force officials conducted a site survey of Ellsworth Air Force Base to see if it is capable of operating a central processing center (CPC) and a contact center to deliver financial management services to military personnel. The financial mission will consist of approximately 775 employees who will perform customer service duties.

Last year, after initially being targeted for closure by the Bush Administration, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recognized that Ellsworth Air Force Base is a premier military installation

and voted to remove it from the base closure list.

Julianne Fisher and Joshua Rosenblum,
202/224-5842.

“Fort Monmouth Scientist Wants Work to Continue.” The Star-Ledger

Maryann Spoto
(Newark, NJ)
February 8, 2006

Nanoscience Expert Seeks Two Buildings for Research

When Jeeps kept breaking down in the tropical forest battlegrounds in World War II, Fort Monmouth developed a moisture-repellent spark plug that would keep the vehicles running despite the soggy climate.

That improvement on the spark plug, the result of nanoscience research and development at Fort Monmouth more than six decades ago, led to a number of uses that seem commonplace today.

Sam DiVita, one of the first scientists at Fort Monmouth in this field, is now fighting for the science to get a new life after the fort’s impending closure.

An electrical engineer, DiVita says he wants two buildings on the fort to be dedicated to evaluating super-small nanostructure particles to determine whether they are appropriate for use in military communications equipment.

As the man who helped introduce nanoscience to Fort Monmouth when he started working there in 1942, DiVita said it’s only fitting that even if the fort goes, its

legacy as a leader in military communications will remain.

“I think it’s a worthwhile project,” said DiVita, 92, and still active in research at the army installation for free after his retirement in 1980. “It will keep the reputation of Fort Monmouth because that’s where nanoscience was born.”

Nanoscience, though not a household word, is employed in every aspect of household items, from televisions and computers to aspirin and hand lotion. The science involves working with matter on an ultra-small scale, in measurements of nanometers. A nanometer – one-billionth of a meter – is so small that it takes 80,000 nanometers to equal the width of one human hair. It’s what brought televisions and radios down to their compact size. It’s also what made pills small enough to swallow whole.

DiVita, an inventor of fiber optics, made his pitch to the Fort Monmouth Reuse Committee in December and said he plans to attend the panel’s monthly sessions to urge members to see it his way.

Although Fort Monmouth representatives have not taken a position on DiVita’s proposal, spokesman Timothy Rider acknowledged military specifications for equipment typically are more stringent than for items available commercially.

He said some personal laptop computers used by soldiers in Operation Iraqi Freedom could not stand up to the dust and heat of the desert. Computers made to military specifications, though bulkier and more expensive, could survive those conditions, he said.

“The military has a system of testing and evaluating . . . to ensure that (equipment)

will survive in environments that are more extreme and varied than commercial products,” Rider said.

DiVita, a widower, said there are no complete standards in the U.S. Department of Defense to test and evaluate nanostructures for use in military communications systems. He said he envisions the proposed center devising a list of materials approved for construction of equipment and an approved military list of manufacturers making the materials for items such as detectors or amplifiers.

“No one has evaluated those materials to find out whether they are suitable for the combat environment,” DiVita said. It’s an operation the military or the private sector could handle.

Robert Lucky, a Fair Haven resident who is an internationally recognized expert on the state and future of telecommunications, said that although nanoscience is a “real hot area” now, DiVita might have a difficult time convincing planners to make it a requirement of redevelopment.

Lucky, former corporate vice president of Telcordia Technologies and executive director of the Communications Sciences Research division at AT&T Bell Laboratories, said it would make more sense to create an industrial park by wooing technologies “that New Jersey has been good at – telecommunications and pharmaceuticals.”

“I see an industrial research park, and maybe you could tip the field to a nanoscience endeavor,” he said.

In August, the federal Base Realignment and Closure commission voted to shutter Fort Monmouth and move its operations

elsewhere, mostly to the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. In the next four to six years, state, county and local officials will hammer out how the 1,126-acre parcel in Oceanport, Tinton Falls and Eatontown will be redeveloped.

The reuse committee, a precursor to the redevelopment authority that eventually will decide what will be put on the campus, heard DiVita's presentation and is taking it into consideration along with other possible uses.

Eatontown Mayor Gerry Tarantolo, chairman of the reuse committee, said it's too early to commit to any proposal. The committee still needs to create advisory groups that will work with consultants to gather information about all the options for the site, located in the heart of Monmouth County.

Under the closure procedure, the federal government gets first dibs at the property, whether it involves leaving current operations in place or moving new agencies to the Fort Monmouth site. The land that is not used by the federal government after the fort closure becomes the center of the regional redevelopment project that will have to be approved by the three surrounding communities.

"That's always been one of the issues we wanted to raise," Tarantolo said about whether the federal government will completely leave the fort.

Rider said such a center like the one DiVita is proposing – if created within the Department of Defense – most likely would not be at Fort Monmouth because all defense operations will be relocated.

"St. Joe Land Plan Clears Hurdle."

The News Herald (Panama City, FL)
Ryan Burr
February 8, 2006

The St. Joe Co.'s development plans for 550 acres sandwiched between Mexico Beach and Tyndall Air Force Base are sufficient to proceed for state review, the Mexico Beach Planning and Zoning Board says.

With about 60 Bay County residents in attendance at its regular meeting Tuesday night in the civic center, the board voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve transmitting St. Joe's project to the state. The council will decide whether or not to do that at its next meeting on Tuesday.

Although some residents said further study was needed looking at the effects the development would have, St. Joe representatives reminded the board that the project is still subject to extensive scrutiny from various agencies.

"So far, what (St. Joe) has done has been very professional," said planning board member William Stroud. "I feel blessed ... that they're working with us," he said after the meeting.

The planning board's decision involves St. Joe's request for Mexico Beach to annex the 550-acre property and change the land-use from its designation as agriculture-timberland to a new classification of mixed-use/tourist. St. Joe wants Mexico Beach to annex the parcel because the proposed development abuts the city limits. Thomas Morgan, company vice president and general manager for Bay County, said both parties will be better served in the planning process if Mexico Beach has jurisdiction.

St. Joe's designs for the site include residential, commercial, civic and recreational development. Morgan said current plans are to build 70,000 square feet of commercial space and 750 residential units, plus "significant trails and parks." The way planning board member John Bass sees it, the developer "has bent over backwards" to appease Mexico Beach with the project by proposing density of two units per acre and a 48-foot height limit. If St. Joe developed under Bay County land-use rules, it could build 230-foot structures with a density of 24 units per acre, according to Bass.

Besides Morgan, there were three other representatives from St. Joe at Tuesday's meeting. They compared the 550-acre project to St. Joe's WaterColor development in Walton County. That mixed-use development includes a Publix, architecturally designed to blend with the community. "We need a Publix in this area," Stroud said.

During a public comment period of the meeting, however, Panama City Beach resident Peter Rougier said WaterColor "is an example of failure to plan. ... There are issues with (adequate) road capacity.

"I don't want to stop St. Joe from developing," but its proximity to Tyndall makes the base vulnerable to closure in a future round of federally ordered Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) meetings, Rougier said.

Bob Hurst, vice president of the Bay County Historical Society, took a neutral position on St. Joe's request until he sees how the company will work with several historic roads that run through the property, as well as an old bridge. "Development can destroy

or it can enhance natural and cultural resources," he said.

Several residents lauded the project as a long-desired improvement to the recreational offerings in and around Mexico Beach. Not all aspects of St. Joe's project sat well with planning board members before the vote. John Frantz worried about precedent from the requested land-use change.

"If we approved mixed-use, then we can't prevent (the entire project) from being 48-foot" buildings, he said. "And what about adjacent property owners building at 48 feet after this?"

Stroud said he was pleased that St. Joe had reserved in its plans 64 acres for preservation for the dunes on the beachfront part of the property. But when he asked Morgan how far back structures would be from high tide's reach, Morgan didn't have an estimate.

"Tax Exemption for Military Seen As Lure."

Tom Bell.
Portland (ME) Press Herald
February 8, 2006

State House: A Proposal Would Free Service Retirees from State Income Taxes.

Veterans groups rallied around a proposal Tuesday to exempt new military retirees from state income taxes, describing it as an economic development tool for attracting skilled workers who have few needs for government services. Military people retire early enough to begin second careers, said retired Marine Col. Robert McAleer, 58, of Harpswell. They have lifetime medical

benefits, so they won't burden Maine's health-care system, and most don't have children in schools.

"From a purely business perspective, they represent a well sought-after demographic," he said at a joint meeting of the Legislature's Appropriations and Taxation committees.

The tax break, which is being championed by Gov. John Baldacci, would apply only to military people who retire after Jan. 1, 2007. It would, on average, amount to an annual tax savings of about \$1,000 per person.

All of the state's major veterans groups support the measure, and a group of nine veterans sat behind McAleer as he spoke. Nobody testified against it.

Sen. Richard Nass, R-Acton, said he supports the proposal but is troubled by a perception that it would be unfair to other retirees who would still have to pay taxes, on much lower incomes.

A military commander or lieutenant colonel with 25 years of service, or a chief master sergeant with 30 years, can receive a pension of about \$48,000 a year.

Nass said he lives near a former teacher who retired 20 years ago and whose pension amounts to about \$5,250 a year, after subtracting the cost of health insurance premiums.

Rep. Harold Clough, R-Scarborough, said he doesn't see why the state should help military retirees. They have good pensions, he said, and their training will help them compete with Mainers for the best jobs.

"This is not a needs-based proposal," said McAleer. "This is a proposal to attract

people here because we need these people to strengthen the industries we do have and attract new industries."

McAleer belongs to the Maine Military Coalition, which has been working for nearly four years on this effort.

The Pentagon's 2005 decision to close the Brunswick Naval Air Station has helped the group win support from Baldacci and House Speaker John Richardson, D-Brunswick, who says it would improve the midcoast's ability to recover from the base closure.

Jack Berman, vice president of the Military Coalition, said people who work at the base were enthusiastic when they heard about the proposal.

The group's initial plan was to give a tax break to all of Maine's military retirees, but that proposal failed to win support because it would have cost the state too much in lost revenue.

About 250 to 275 military people retire in Maine a year. Exempting just new retirees would cost \$250,000 in revenue the first year. The cost would grow as more retirees qualified.

Twelve states now exempt military pensions from state income taxes, and nine states do not have income taxes.

A comparison between Maine and New Hampshire does not indicate taxes are an overriding factor in people's decision about where to retire. Maine has about 10,000 military retirees. New Hampshire, which has no income tax, has 8,600 military retirees, according to the Defense Department's annual statistical report. From 1996 to 2001, both states had the same annual growth rate of military retirees: 0.5 percent.

McAleer said a better comparison would be Maine versus the nation. While the number of military retirees between 1996 and 2001 grew by 3.7 percent nationally, the number in Maine grew by 2.3 percent, he said.

Staff Writer Tom Bell can be contacted at 623-1031 or at: tbell@pressherald.com

“New Stores Expected at Brunswick Plaza.”

Dennis Hoey.
Portland (ME) Press Herald
February 8, 2006

A Sign Application Lists Borders, Old Navy, Coldwater Creek and Talbots.

Vacant space at the Merrymeeting Plaza, near the entrance to the Brunswick Naval Air Station, will apparently be occupied soon by several major retail chains. A spokesman for the plaza’s owners, W/ S Development of Chestnut Hill, Mass., said Tuesday that the space is being renovated for new tenants, but corporate policy dictates that he not identify them until leases have been signed.

Brunswick’s code enforcement officer, Jeffrey B. Hutchinson, said he got an application on Jan. 25 to update the plaza’s sign with four new names: Borders, Old Navy, Coldwater Creek and Talbots.

The additions would fill empty space at the plaza and indicate that the retail climate in the midcoast is strong, despite the pending closure of the air station.

Merrymeeting Plaza is directly across Old Bath Road from the main entrance to BNAS, which employs more than 4,700 military and

civilian personnel. The base is scheduled to close in five years.

“While we are aware the base will close in 2011, our outlook remains positive,” said David Fleming, a spokesman for W/S Development, which has owned the plaza since it opened in 1991. “We expect the closure will have some impact, but because we draw customers from all along Route 1 and the coast region, we remain optimistic.”

The 45,000 square feet of retail space became available about a year ago, after a Shaw’s Supermarket relocated last February to a renovated area at the end of the plaza.

Hutchinson, the code enforcement officer, said he met with plaza owners about two weeks ago to discuss their plans for the vacant space. Other than securing building permits, the stores that move into the plaza will not need any review by the Planning Board, he said.

For years, Merrymeeting Plaza was anchored by Shaw’s and Service Merchandise, a chain that went out of business.

In addition to Shaw’s, the 160,000-square-foot plaza houses AAA, Pet Quarters, Fashion Bug, General Nutrition Center, Days Jewelers, PayLess Shoes and a CVS pharmacy.

Borders Group is an Ann Arbor, Mich.-based company that operates more than 1,200 Borders and Waldenbooks stores around the world. Old Navy specializes in family clothing.

Coldwater Creek, based in Idaho, specializes in women’s apparel, jewelry, accessories and gifts, while Talbots offers classic apparel, shoes and accessories.

Of the new tenants, Borders may have the greatest impact on Brunswick's economy.

The town has two local bookstores – Brunswick Bookland and Cafe at the Cook's Corner Shopping Mall, a short distance from Merrymeeting Plaza, and Gulf of Maine Bookstore downtown.

Brunswick Bookland's owners could not be reached Tuesday. Gary Lawless, owner of the Gulf of Maine Bookstore, said he expects Borders will challenge Brunswick Bookland.

"We keep thinking that being downtown is our protection, but I think it will be much worse for Bookland than for us if Borders comes to Brunswick," said Lawless, whose store has been on Maine Street for 27 years.

Staff Writer Dennis Hoey can be contacted at 725-8795 or at: dhoey@pressherald.com

"VA HB 166, 2006-2007, L. Scott Lingamfelter."
Unattributed. 2006.
February 8, 2006

Virginia Defense Facility and Transportation Improvement Fund and Program.

Establishes the Virginia Defense Facility and Transportation Improvement Fund and Program. The Fund is to consist of \$250 million of annual collections of state recordation taxes. Its proceeds are to be allocated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board to highway construction districts wherein federal defense facilities or bases are expanded as the result of actions of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and are to be used

for transportation infrastructure improvements. The provisions of the bill would expire on July 1, 2011.

20051229 – (H) PREFILED AND ORDERED PRINTED; OFFERED 01/11/06 068729380

20051229 – (H) REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

20060118 – (H) ASSIGNED TO TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE: #3 (CARRICO)

20060207 – (H) TABLED IN TRANSPORTATION

"Navy's Top Admiral Says Cost-Cutting Will Be Focus."

Dale Eisman.
The Virginian pilot
February 8, 2006

The Navy's top admiral voiced hope Tuesday that the service can avoid replacing Oceana Naval Air Station, a move recommended last year by an independent base closing commission but one which could cost as much as \$2 billion.

"That kind of investment would be very difficult," Adm. Michael G. Mullen, the chief of naval operations, told reporters. With the service's overall budget expected to be static well into the future, he would have to tap funds set aside for new ships, aircraft and other equipment to build a new master jet base for the East Coast, Mullen said.

In an hour-long session at the Pentagon, Mullen signaled that he has put cost-cutting at the top of his agenda. Reversing the long

slide in the size of the fleet depends on the service's ability to trim unneeded expenses, he said.

Mullen renewed calls for the retirement of the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy, which he argued is no longer needed for the nation's security. Other Navy officials have warned that maintaining the ship will cost the service more than \$1 billion over the next five years.

"I would like to get her off the books as soon as possible," Mullen said. Retirement of the Kennedy could prompt the Navy to transfer a Norfolk-based carrier to Mayport, Fla., pulling 3,000 jobs from the local economy.

Last year, the federal Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended last year that the Navy develop a new East Coast air hub and complained that Virginia Beach officials have let subdivisions and shopping centers creep too close to Oceana's runways.

If commercial and residential development continues, "it's going to make it very difficult to stay" at Oceana, Mullen said.

He added that authorities in Virginia Beach, who last month passed legislation that essentially bars additional growth in high-risk accident potential zones near the base, are "moving in the right direction."

While arguing that the Navy should seek a long-term replacement for Oceana, the BRAC Commission also told the state and the city of Virginia Beach to spend at least \$15 million annually to condemn and clear homes and businesses near the base.

Absent the city's agreement to take those steps, the commission wanted Oceana's jets

relocated to Cecil Field, a former Navy base in Jacksonville, Fla.

Though Virginia Beach has refused to condemn property and force homeowners to relocate, Jacksonville has withdrawn an offer to provide the Cecil Field property. Mullen sidestepped a question about whether the two developments leave the Navy with little choice but to remain in Virginia Beach.

Now entering its second year, the Navy's attempt to retire the Kennedy has emerged as a symbol of the challenges faced by all the military services as they ponder the future of powerful but aging and perhaps outdated weapons systems that remain popular with lawmakers and the public.

Mullen's case against the ship was argued on Capitol Hill throughout 2005, but Florida lawmakers – the Kennedy is based in the Sunshine State – spearheaded a drive to save the ship and in December secured passage of legislation requiring the Navy to maintain at least 12 flattops.

U.S. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., who as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee played a key role in setting the 12-carrier minimum, already has promised to revisit the issue. Others who support keeping the Kennedy, including all four members of Hampton Roads delegation in the House of Representatives, are expected to continue their fight for the ship.

Their hand may be strengthened by a long-term shipbuilding plan Mullen released on Tuesday. It projects another drop in carrier strength, to 10 ships, in 2013, when the Norfolk-based Enterprise is scheduled to retire. The arrival two years later of CVN-21, first in a new series of carriers, would bring the carrier fleet back to 11.

Overall, the shipbuilding plan calls for the addition of more than 30 ships by 2012, bringing the fleet to 315. Most of the new vessels would be part of a new class of "littoral combat ships," fast and relatively cheap vessels designed to be outfitted for specialized missions including mine hunting and pursuing terrorists who operate along coastlines. At 281 ships, today's Navy is the smallest U.S. force in decades.

"If I don't control the costs, we won't be able to turn it up," he said.

Reach Dale Eisman at (703) 913-9872 or icemandc@msn.com.

"Kansas Governor Appoints 26-Member Council to Protect and Grow Kansas's BRAC Gains."

Unattributed.

States News Service

February 7, 2006

The following information was released by the Kansas Governor:

Maintaining a strong military presence in Kansas is a priority for state and local leaders. To continue an effort that is already bringing 13,000 new military and civilian personnel to Kansas, Governor Kathleen Sebelius today announced her appointments to the Governor's Military Council.

"We had a coordinated effort to keep our military bases open and active. As a result, our bases are adding thousands of new military and civilian personnel," Governor Sebelius said. "I believe we must maintain the military's presence in our state, and even expand it, and that's the mission I'm giving the council."

Lieutenant Governor John Moore will serve as chairman, while John Armbrust, Manhattan, will serve as executive director. Armbrust retired from the Air Force as a full colonel in 1993.

Previously, both served in similar positions on the Governor's Strategic Military Planning Commission, which spearheaded efforts to protect and grow Kansas bases during the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

As with the earlier commission, the Governor's Military Council is a partnership between the administration, key legislators, all members of the Kansas congressional delegation and key business and military leaders representing the Kansas communities of Leavenworth/Lansing, Junction City/Manhattan, Wichita, and Topeka.

The 26-member council will foster cooperation between the installations and private and public sectors, and pursue initiatives to enhance the quality of life for all military personnel, active and retired. The council will also assist in the development, coordination and execution of strategy required by any future change in missions proposed by the Department of Defense.

Each member will serve at the pleasure of the Governor and by Executive Order 06-02, the council will continue in operation until May 1, 2007.

The Governor's Military Council will include the following military and community leaders:

Major General Tod M. Bunting
Senator Sam Brownback

Senator Pat Roberts
Congressman Dennis Moore
Congressman Jerry Moran
Congressman Jim Ryun
Congressman Todd Tiahrt
State Senator Mark Gilstrap
State Senator Roger Reitz
State Representative Tom Hawk
State Representative Lee Tafanelli
Neil Fisher, Topeka
Alonzo Harrison, Topeka
Scott Stuckey, Junction City
Colonel Robert Ulin (retired), Lansing
Lt. General Robert Arter (retired),
Leavenworth
Charlie Gregor, Leavenworth
Doug Kinsinger, Topeka
Steven J. Martens, Wichita
John Montgomery, Junction City
Sen. Lana Oleen (retired), Manhattan
Andrew Schlapp, Wichita
Mike Shilling, Manhattan
Robin Spurrier, Wichita

The first meeting of this council is Friday, February 17, in Topeka, which is also Armed Forces Appreciation Day.

“240 Acres of Business Park Go Back to Army.”

Jim Hook,
Public-Opinion (Chambersburg, PA)
February 7, 2006

The authority developing the Cumberland Valley Business Park agreed Monday to give about 240 acres of the business park to Letterkenny Army Depot.

Letterkenny, Franklin County’s largest employer, had asked for the land to secure its operations from potential terrorist attacks and the 2015 Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

The Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority met in private for about an hour and returned to open session to approve a no-cost, long-term lease by a unanimous show of hands.

“I commend them for that action,” said L. Michael Ross, chairman of Opportunity ‘05, a group dedicated to strengthening Letterkenny. “That goes a long way in assuring the future of the installation long term.”

The land allows Letterkenny to move its administrative and computer offices behind a secure fence. It also gives the depot room to expand.

Letterkenny spokesman Alan Loessy said the Army would hold comment until receiving official notification of the authority’s action.

“This seems to make the most sense today, to provide property for the depot to grow,” said John Van Horn, LIDA executive director.

Letterkenny employment has nearly doubled as a result of its agility in dealing with work from Iraq, Afghanistan and other trouble spots. Letterkenny repairs Humvees and tactical missiles, assembles tent cities and mobile kitchens and stores and ships ammunition.

Letterkenny is to pick up about 200 jobs, mostly in vehicle maintenance, from the 2005 BRAC. A draft proposal calls for construction of a maintenance shop to house vehicle work sent by BRAC. The draft also proposes more than \$100 million in construction. Letterkenny has hired a consultant to develop a long-range plan.

“Letterkenny is aggressively marketing the installation to defense contractors to co-locate in the same area,” Ross said. “We want to partner wherever and whenever we can.”

The Army would leave a narrow island of office buildings for the new land. The offices were unprotected at the time of the terrorist attacks of 9-11, but were surrounded hurriedly with concrete barricades. The future of the buildings is not known, should the Army move out.

“That’s a logical addition to the Cumberland Valley Business Park, and they are willing to talk with us.” Van Horn said.

The island of office buildings was left outside the secured Letterkenny fence after BRAC 1995.

Letterkenny was ordered to return 1,400 acres to the community at a time when the Soviet threat was disappearing and terrorism in the United States was almost unthinkable.

The 240 acres has a market value of about \$11 million. Van Horn said that since 1997, potential investors had proposed two different uses for some of the land.

The business park could recover potentially lost revenue with the island of Army business offices, but the tax money would be going to Greene Township instead of Letterkenny Township. Most of the 240 acres is in Letterkenny Township, a rural township with little growth. Letterkenny Township levies a real estate tax. Greene does not. The Army does not pay taxes.

The LIDA-Army lease would allow a 500-foot buffer between the depot fence and any Army buildings.

The new configuration would not dramatically alter LIDA’s plan to connect Development and Opportunity avenues to make a circular access road through the business park, according to Van Horn. It also allows the Army to use both sides of a road that is near the existing depot fence.

An Army-LIDA lease does not change plans for a proposed ethanol plant nearby, according to Van Horn.

The 240 acres was once part of the original 19,000 acres that the Army seized from local families in 1941 to create Letterkenny Army Depot. BRAC 2005 ordered 1,400 acres — including the 240 acres — returned to the community. LIDA’s task is to convert the land into business and recreation parks.

The Army has been slow to transfer the land to LIDA because of environmental cleanup. LIDA owns a portion of the 240 acres, and should receive the final plot in 2009.

ARMY LEASE

The Army would lease three separate parcels from the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority: n 193 acres near the test track for new construction; n 44 acres for a buffer zone at the east edge of Letterkenny Army Depot; n three acres around the historic farmhouse where the depot commander resides.

OFFICIALS YEARN FOR SUPPORT OTHER MAINTENANCE DEPOTS HAVE

Staff reports L. Michael Ross and three other members of Opportunity ‘05 visited Anniston Army Depot in Alabama a week ago.

They were looking for ways to improve community support for the local Army installation, Letterkenny Army Depot.

They had heard how effective and entrenched Alabama politics were in supporting the military at Anniston.

“We came back very impressed,” said Ross, also president of the Franklin County Area Development Corp. “The congressmen, governor and state delegation are in sync in their support of Alabama military installations. While Congressman Bill Shuster could not be any more supportive, as a congressional delegation we do not have that same unity. Ours is like herding cats.”

The local group took a six-hour tour of Anniston Army Depot and met with Anniston’s chamber of commerce and economic development officials.

The Army has five maintenance depots — Letterkenny, Anniston, Red River in Texas, Corpus Christi in Texas and Tobyhanna near Scranton.

“Japan PM Woes Could Stall Agreement on US Military.”

Linda Sieg.
Reuters News
February 9, 2006

Tokyo, Feb 9 (Reuters) – The United States and Japan are struggling to finalise plans to reorganise American military forces in Japan by late March, but Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi’s waning clout could make it tough to meet the deadline.

The two close security allies agreed last October on a broad plan to reorganise U.S. bases in Japan – host to about 50,000

American military personnel – as part of Washington’s global efforts to make its armed forces more flexible and deepen cooperation with Japan’s military forces. U.S. and Japanese officials began meeting in Tokyo on Thursday for another round of talks to flesh out the details, a Japanese foreign ministry spokesman said.

Opposition from local communities worried about crime, pollution and noise associated with the bases, however, is making it difficult to finalise the plan, including an agreement to relocate the Futenma Marine Corps air base on Japan’s southern island of Okinawa and shift some 7,000 Marines off the island.

In a sign of local concern, the mayor of the western Japanese city of Iwakuni – one of several communities affected by the relocation plans – this week set a non-binding public referendum for March 12 to gauge voters’ views.

Some analysts question whether Koizumi, set to step down in September after more than five years in office, can do what it takes to persuade local communities to accept the changes.

Koizumi’s popularity ratings have fallen below 50 percent after a series of scandals and missteps, including the handling of a ban on U.S. beef imports.

Would-be successors are already jockeying to replace the maverick prime minister, who sprang to power in 2001 with popular support for his pledges to shake up his Liberal Democratic Party and the stalled economy.

Koizumi’s enemies in the LDP, long silenced by his flair for winning elections,

are now less wary of expressing their dissent.

“If this were last year, Koizumi could have done it,” said political analyst Atsuo Ito, referring to the boost to Koizumi’s lustre from his party’s huge win in a September general election.

“But he is rapidly becoming a lame duck and that makes it hard to exercise leadership.”

U.S. Frustration

Koizumi has forged a close relationship with U.S. President George W. Bush and linked Japan’s security policies tightly to Washington, but a failure to agree on base realignment or resolve the beef spat could make two-way ties touchy, analysts said.

Japan reimposed a ban on U.S. beef imports on Jan. 20, just a month after lifting it, when it found cattle parts believed to carry a higher risk of mad cow disease in a shipment of U.S. veal. Domestic critics charge Tokyo had caved in too quickly to pressure from Washington to end the import restrictions.

The recent arrest of a senior defence official and two others on suspicion of involvement in a bid-rigging scandal has also come at an awkward time, as did the arrest of a U.S. sailor last month on charges of murdering a 56-year-old Japanese woman in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, where the USS Kitty Hawk aircraft carrier is based.

U.S. officials are steering clear of direct comments on Japan’s local politics and trying to stress the bigger picture.

“Sometimes it becomes almost a real estate negotiation as opposed to strategic

negotiations,” U.S. ambassador to Japan Thomas Schieffer told reporters last week.

“We think these negotiations are about big strategic issues.”

The two sides are also likely to be squabbling about money.

U.S. officials want Tokyo to pick up the tab for about 75 percent of the estimated \$8 billion needed to shift 7,000 or so Marines to Guam from Okinawa, Japanese media said.

Japan has allocated 232.6 billion yen (\$1.96 billion) in its draft budget for the year to March 31, 2007, to help pay for the cost of keeping U.S. troops in Japan, down slightly from 237.8 billion in 2005/06. But that does not include any expenses for the U.S. troop realignment, a foreign ministry official said.

Some Japanese politicians want to reduce the amount Tokyo pays for U.S. military support, arguing Japan needs to cut back as part of efforts to get its own huge public debt under control. (\$1=118.49 Yen) Unattributed, 2006. “Romania President Reiterates No Secret CIA Prisons in Romanian Territory.” Xinhua News Agency (February 9).

Bucarest, Feb. 9 (Xinhua) – Romanian President Traian Basescu reiterated on Wednesday that there are no secret prisons allegedly run by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on Romanian territory.

Basescu admitted that CIA flights may have passed through Romania’s airspace because the authorities were unable to determine which American agency was piloting U.S. planes.

“Planes belonging to the United States government have landed at Mihail Kogalniceanu airport without it being possible for us to identify” which agency they were from, Basescu said in a telephone interview broadcast live on news channel Realitatea TV.

The Mihail Kogalniceanu base, near the Black Sea port city of Constanta, was used by the United States to transit troops and equipment during wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The U.S. military withdrew its forces from Romania in June 2003.

Allegations that the CIA had established secret detention centers in Eastern Europe were first reported last November by The Washington Post.

Romania has repeatedly denied such reports.

Defense Minister Teodor Atanasiu said last month that U.S. planes had regularly flown to Romania but there was no evidence of prisoners on board.

“We authorized many American planes to land in Romania and they never declared they were carrying detainees, and the controls we carried out on some of the planes never revealed such a thing,” he said.

Romania’s parliament has set up a committee to investigate allegations of CIA flights and secret prisons in the country.

“Iraqi Army Takes Control of Some Bases.”

VOA English Service
Unattributed.
February 8, 2003

The U.S. military says 100 Iraqi army battalions, totaling about 104,000 Iraqi soldiers, are now fighting alongside U.S. troops in Iraq. The U.S. military says most of these battalions are in the lead in the fight against the insurgency. American generals say the Iraqi army now controls 60 percent of Baghdad. Part of this transition is the transfer to Iraqis of what are called forward operating bases, or FOBs. The U.S. military says more than a dozen FOBs have been transferred to Iraqi authority in the past year.

Outside the barracks of the 6th Iraqi Army’s Muthana Brigade, 19-year-old Saif Rafid stands guard. Rafid joined the Iraqi army one year ago to fight the insurgents, and because it pays \$400 a month. Like all the other soldiers, he gets a seven-day break every three weeks but he has to be careful about how often he visits his family in Iraq’s south.

“It is very difficult to travel, so we have to hide, and not go so often,” he said. “We do not want to show up all the time because we are concerned about the security of our families.”

That is just one element of the insecurity that Iraqi soldiers have to deal with on a daily basis. Late last month, during a patrol in Baghdad, insurgents attacked Rafid’s unit, killing one soldier and injuring four others. Two other soldiers were injured in a later attack.

Meanwhile, back at the Muthana brigade’s base, called FOB Constitution, soldiers were living in tents, waiting for their new barracks to be built. The U.S. adviser to the brigade, Dennis Grimsley, says conditions were difficult.

“Then of course the rains came, which flooded the tent area. So, the rain knocked

the generator out, so they didn't have any power, so now they're sleeping on cots that were wet from the dripping tents, floors were flooded, and it was just a mess C and in one-week span, all this happened," he said.

Grimsley says 100 Iraqi soldiers went absent without leave that week, out of a total force of around 400. The American trainers feared the unit would disintegrate. But when the rains stopped, many of the Iraqi soldiers started to come back, just as some of their newly renovated barracks were completed.

The American training command in Iraq is putting \$35 million into building FOB Constitution, and construction is everywhere. There is a new Iraqi command center and headquarters. A new mosque, modern kitchen, school for non-commissioned officers, and more barracks are being built. Lt. Colonel Mark Samson, who is involved in the project, says the Iraqi soldiers seem pleased by what is being done.

"Down the road, you can see the buildings with the fresh white paint, those are just coming on line," he said. "They'll put 20 or 30 guys in each one, we got [them] new bunk beds, foot lockers, seem pretty happy to be in there. Can't blame them, they've got running water."

Samson says ownership of the FOB was transferred from the Americans to the Iraqis last June, about the same time he arrived to command the 40 men on the American Military Assistance Transition Teams, or MITs, based here to help this Iraqi brigade develop.

The officer says the base has come a long way.

"When we got here, there were two or three locations where guys had pulled up water pipe from ground, like a fountain, and that's where they would go to wash themselves," he added. "I have no idea what was used as a latrine at that time."

FOB Constitution is home to about 1,500 soldiers from the 3rd Brigade of the 6th Iraqi Army. The American army hopes that some day the brigade, like the base, will be able to function without American help. But it has a long way to go.

Samson says, to start with, the brigade needs 25 percent more soldiers. The Americans supply bullets, weapons, uniforms, body armor and vehicles. The brigade also needs better radio communications, armored vehicles, and spare parts for the thin-skinned pick up trucks they currently use. And there are problems with pay – it is not getting distributed regularly. An Iraqi-American contractor who works on the base says this is a big problem for the soldiers.

"They come over here, join army, and when the pay is screwed up, they turn around and leave," he said.

Although the Iraqi soldiers say they joined the army to fight terrorism and defend Iraq, in a country with an estimated 30 to 60 percent unemployment rate, the contractor says money is also a big incentive.

"Most of them are here for the pay," he said. "This is the only job they can get, not a lot of jobs outside the army in the country right now, there aren't a whole lot of employers anywhere."

But beyond the daily patrols, life at FOB Constitution is not so bad since the recent renovations. The brigade has its own food

and water now, and most of the soldiers have warm beds to sleep in at night.

The Iraqis have also got a new Tactical Operations Command, which is essential to the Muthana Brigade's ability to control its own operations, intelligence, supplies and communications.

"Moved in here two months ago and they are awful proud of it," he added.

From here, the Iraqi brigade command has started planning their own missions, albeit with American help.

Iraqi commanders in green uniforms with gold detail sit around a shiny table, in a brand new conference room, where a laptop computer projects maps and troop movements on a white screen. They plan the next day's mission, as American advisers sit nearby, watching and listening. It is moments like these that the Americans want to see increase, in hopes that, with the right training, equipment and facilities, the Iraqis can assume more responsibility for the country's bases and battlefields.

"Sweden Ready to Evacuate Soldiers and Civilians from Afghanistan."

Dagens Nyheter
BBC Monitoring European
February 8, 2006

Text of report by Swedish newspaper
Dagens Nyheter website on 8 February

The Swedish military has also increased its state of alert after the violent attacks on a Norwegian military base in Afghanistan on Tuesday [7 February]. All available Hercules planes are ready to evacuate

soldiers as well as Swedish civilians if necessary.

"There is a risk that the conflict caused by the Muhammad cartoons will escalate in the coming days with Thursday's Muslim holiday and Friday prayers," Lt. Gen. Jan Jönsson told Svenska Dagbladet [Swedish daily newspaper].

The Swedish force in Afghanistan consists of 155 people at the moment, but will be increased to 300 when Sweden takes over responsibility for the base in Mazaar-el-Sharif. The base that was attacked in Maimana is about 300 kilometres from Mazaar-el-Sharif.

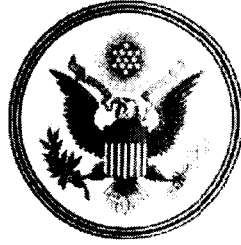
Source: Dagens Nyheter, website, Stockholm, in Swedish 8 Feb 06.

Opinions/ Editorials

Additional Notes

Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

EARLY



BIRD

February 10, 2006

Department of Defense Releases

“BRAC Keeps Military Health System Relevant.”

National News Articles

Local News Articles

“Iwakuni Terminal Veto Hits Civil Flights Plan.”

“Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facilities, Design Build IDIQ Contract.”

“Tire Privatization Industry Day IAW the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Statue.”

“Air Force Expected to Bring Training Mission to Kansas Guard.”

“Pueblo Finalizing Plans for Air Force Pilot School.”

“OK SB 1675, 2005-2006, Bass”

“LIDA Draws on Credit to Pay Natural Gas Bill.”

“Community Leaders Suggest Shifting Focus to Future.”

Opinions/ Editorials

Additional Notes

Department of Defense Releases

“BRAC Keeps Military Health System Relevant.”

Unattributed.

Department of Defense U.S. Air Force Releases

February 3, 2006

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, process has created opportunities and challenges for the military community, and specifically the military medicine community, the commission’s chairman said here Feb. 2.

Four BRAC actions affect large medical facilities. At least four more affect Medical research and management activities, and seven outpatient hospitals will convert to clinics with ambulatory surgery capability, said Anthony J. Principi at the State of the Military Health System 2006 Annual Conference.

The BRAC-mandated changes will help the military health system become a more modern, joint force capable of dealing with the changing environment, Mr. Principi said.

“The worlds of national defense and of medicine are changing ever more rapidly and ever more profoundly. And just as chance favors the prepared mind, change favors the prepared organization,” he said.

The decision to realign Walter Reed Army Medical Center here into a multiservice facility upset many people, Mr. Principi said. They perceived it as the loss of a facility with rich heritage and a world-class reputation. But the BRAC commission agreed the change will “transform a legacy * an aging medical infrastructure * into a premier, modernized joint operational medicine platform,” he said.

Another example of transformation is the decision to establish a joint medical facility at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and to convert nearby Wilford Hall Medical Center on Lackland Air Force Base into an ambulatory care center, Mr. Principi said.

The BRAC addressed many infrastructure issues, but the top priority for health care leadership is providing quality care for service members and their families, Mr. Principi said.

“Those men and women look to you * the health care professionals in this room * to provide them and their families with the medical care they need,” he said.

Change will be painful at first, as it is in all organizations, Mr. Principi said, but it is necessary to keep up with a society and an environment that will continually evolve.

“Over the long run, the status quo and a dynamic environment are incompatible,” he said.

The BRAC results will make the military health system able to adapt to this changing environment and continue to be relevant to its beneficiaries, Mr. Principi said.

National News Articles

Local News Articles

“U.S. Iwakuni Terminal Veto Hits Civil Flights Plan.”

Unattributed.

Daily Yomiuri

February 10, 2006

The U.S. government has refused to allow the construction of an air terminal for commercial use on the site of the U.S. Marine Corps' Iwakuni Air Station in Yamaguchi Prefecture, despite a basic agreement reached last year to allow civilian flights to land at the airfield, sources said Thursday.

The Pentagon has insisted on siting the new terminal for civil flights outside the base, putting the current plan to allow commercial airlines to land at Iwakuni from fiscal 2009 in doubt, the sources said.

Tokyo and Washington reached an agreement in October to allow up to four commercial flights a day to land at the existing Iwakuni airfield after the U.S. marines' new landing strip is built.

The agreement was reached as part of a measure to compensate Iwakuni's city government and business community for the

transfer of 57 U.S. carrier-based planes and 1,600 marines from the U.S. Navy's Atsugi base in Kanagawa Prefecture to Iwakuni.

A 240-meter runway is planned to be completed on reclaimed land about one kilometer from Iwakuni Air Station in fiscal 2008. The new strip will replace the existing runway.

The Japanese government put forward a proposal to build a terminal for civilian flights on the space vacated by the existing runway, but the U.S. government in January refused the plan at a meeting of senior officials, saying the vacated space was earmarked as a parking area for carrier planes as well as for other military purposes, sources said.

Concerns have been raised among Iwakuni's local community that construction of a new terminal outside the air station might delay the start of commercial flight services and result in higher construction costs and a less convenient service.

The Pentagon's refusal to let the civilian air terminal construction proceed at the agreed site could impact Iwakuni's March 12 referendum on whether to accept the transfer of the U.S. carrier-based planes.

Local Govts to Discuss Base Move

The government plans to set up a standing committee to give concerned local governments a platform to discuss the impact of the U.S. base move, including how best to stimulate local economies and development after base closures or expansion. Defense Agency Director General Fukushima Nukaga said Thursday.

"We're in touch with Washington at ministerial level over the issue of regrouping bases in Japan. Once it becomes clear where we're heading, it'll be necessary to establish a conference body with governors and mayors of communities to discuss how we should proceed." Nukaga said during a House of Representatives Budget Committee session.

"Tule Elk Capture Set for Concorde Naval Weapons Station."

Unattributed
US Fed News
February 9, 2006

Weeklong Effort to Transport Elk to Existing Herds

Sacramento, Calif., Feb. 9 -- The California Department of Fish and Game issued the following press release:

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) will begin relocating a 30 year old Concord area tule elk herd to free range public lands Feb. 13. DFG established the herd at Concord Naval Weapons Station in the mid 1970s to supply animals for new or existing herds throughout the state. The four day operation will move approximately 46 animals to herds in Lake, Colusa, and Solano counties.

"The Department of Fish and Game's efforts have helped bring back the tule elk from the brink of extinction to sustainable numbers," said DFG Elk Program coordinator Joe Hobbs. "The herd at the Concord site is no longer needed for surplus animals, so the department has decided to remove the elk and set them free on public lands."

Wildlife experts believe the herd holds as many as five 2 year old bulls, up to 25 adult

bulls, and as many as 16 cows and calves on the 3,000 acre site, located at the south edge of Suisun Bay in Contra Costa County. The capture has been timed to allow the bulls to drop their antlers but before the 2006 calving season.

Capture methods may involve the use of a net gun or a tranquilizer dart shot from a helicopter, ground darting, baiting into a corral trap, or herding the elk into a corral trap with the use of a helicopter or ground teams. Ten ground teams made up of DFG wildlife biologists and volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will conduct the operation using all terrain vehicles with attached sleds.

Once an animal is netted, ground crews will move in to subdue it before transporting it to the base camp. The physical restraint techniques are designed to protect both the animals and the crew from injury. A large bull can weigh up to 900 pounds. At the base camp, a veterinary team will check the animal's overall health, take biological samples and then vaccinate it with a broad range of appropriate antibiotics. After the exam, the elk will then be loaded into stock trailers and driven to the release sites.

DFG will move the herd to open ranges in the Cache Creek area in Lake and Colusa counties. A small group of young bulls will move to the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area in Solano County.

"We believe it's in the best interest of the elk to allow them to thrive in a free range environment," said Hobbs. "At the current site we don't have personnel to monitor the elk in case they get caught in fences, fall into the canal, or have other problems associated with confined herds."

The Concord Naval Weapons Station, officially known as Detachment Concord, has closed the Inland Area of the base under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process. Ownership of the Tidal Area of the property has transferred to the U.S. Army. Due to workload and budget reductions, the military placed the area into a reduced operational status in 1999.

Tule elk's recovery has been enormously successful. Its numbers have grown from only one small herd at the turn of the 20th century to more than 3,800 animals in 22 different herds today. This subspecies of elk is endemic to California. Tule elk population growth has been so impressive that DFG no longer has space to establish new herds and must remove animals in confined herds every few years to keep the population from exceeding the carrying capacity.

"Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facilities, Design Build IDIQ Contract."

Unattributed.

FedBizOpps

February 9, 2006

IMA/Southwest Region Encompassed by AR, AZ, CA, LA, NM, NV, OK, & TX

NOTICE TYPE: Modification to a Previous Procurement Notice

DATE POSTED: 08-FEB-06

AGENCY: Department of the Army

OFFICE ADDRESS: US Army Engineer District, Tulsa, ATTN: CESWT-CT, 1645

South 101st East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74128-4609

SUBJECT: Y-TACTICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE FACILITIES, DESIGN-BUILD IDIQ CONTRACT.
IMA/SOUTHWEST REGION
ENCOMPASSED BY AR, AZ, CA, LA, NM, NV, OK, & TX

CLASSIFICATION CODE: Y –
Construction of structures and facilities

SOLICITATION NUMBER: W912BV-06-R-2008

CONTACT: tinacox, 9186697088
SETASIDE: N/A

PLACE OF PERFORMANCE ADDRESS:
US Army Engineer District, Tulsa ATTN:
CESWT-CT, 1645 South 101st East Avenue
Tulsa OK

PLACE OF PERFORMANCE ZIPCODE:
74128-4609

PLACE OF PERFORMANCE COUNTRY:
US

NOTICE TEXT: Department of the Army

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Army Engineer District, Tulsa

Amended to reflect Total Contract Capacity
NTE \$165,000,000 over a period of 3 years.

Minimum task order limitation will be
\$50,000.00

Presolicitation Notice

Unrestricted Solicitation for Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ), Single Award Contract for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Southwestern Division) for Design-Build Construction Services, to include (but not limited to) planning, design, and the construction of new facilities located within the boundaries of our military customers in the Southwest Region.

The Southwestern Region refers to the geographic area encompassed by the IMA/Southwest Regional Office (AR, AZ, CA, LA, NM, NV, OK, and TX).

It is anticipated that a large portion of the work will be at Fort Bliss, TX.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: This contract is required by the Army's initiatives under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), the Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy (IGPBS), and the Army Modular Force (AMF) program, although the projects may be required from any Military Program.

The Army must posture facilities to effectively orient combat capabilities where they can most effectively organize, train, and deploy to support ongoing operations worldwide. The execution of the work under the Military Construction Program will be accomplished using a product line concept for the facilities.

The product line concept will be used for the construction of barracks, dining facilities, company operation facilities, headquarters buildings, vehicle maintenance shops, unit and ammunition storage facilities, aviation facilities, equipment parking areas, and other features of the program. Under the product line concept, Districts in the Corps of Engineers Southwestern and South

Pacific Divisions will be assigned one or two facility types and will be responsible for awarding Design-Build IDIQ contracts for their assigned type of facility (product line). When there is a requirement for their facility type, each District product line team will scope, negotiate, and award a task order to deliver the required facilities to the Program Office assigned to manage the overall project.

The District product line team will assist with the administration of the task order to include design reviews, submittals, and modifications. The design/build contractor for each product line will be responsible for maintaining current documents and incorporating into future task orders changes in army criteria as well as, modification, and clarification identified in ongoing task orders.

The team will be responsible for keeping up with the current standards and criteria for their facility type(s).

SCOPE OF WORK: This particular notice announces the design and construction of the product line for Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facilities (TEMF) through a Design-Build IDIQ contract administered by Tulsa District. Each TEMF could be of various sizes depending on the type of battalion to which it supports. The TEMF will provide facilities for the purpose of maintaining and repairing organizational equipment and vehicles, complete with maintenance bays, equipment and parts storage, administrative offices, Oil Storage buildings, Hazardous Material Storage and Dispatch buildings in support to an overall Brigade. Task orders could be awarded to include organizational parking (hardstand)

and other site work relating to a TEMF. The TEMF is intended to be similar to heavy equipment or vehicle repair facilities in the private sector community.

Typical work for the Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facilities (TEMF) product line may include but is not limited to

- 1) planning, design, estimating, and construction
- 2) site planning and site verification
- 3) site engineering to include subsurface investigations, laboratory analysis, and final geotechnical report
- 4) pavement design
- 5) coordinate with utility providers and Land Development Engineer, and other product line contractors
- 6) acquiring all local, state and federal permits
- 7) architecture and interior design to include building exterior and interior, signage, and comprehensive furniture package
- 8) design of telecommunications systems and service
- 9) lightning protection systems
- 10) heating, ventilation, and air conditioning to include building automation systems, testing, adjusting and balancing, and commissioning
- 11) energy conservation
- 12) fire protection

- 13) sustainable design solutions to meet a minimum LEED Silver/SPiRiT Gold to support the MILCON program
- 14) site electrical systems
- 15) meetings and design review conferences
- 16) design configuration management
- 17) quality control systems
- 18) safety plans
- 19) environmental protection through the following products: environmental protection plans, incorporating protection features, environmental assessment of contract deviations, land resources plans, monitoring water resources, air resource monitoring and control, chemical materials management and waste disposal, recycling and waste minimization, preservation of historical, archaeological, and cultural resources, protect biological resources, integrated pest management, post construction clean-up
- 20) traffic control plans
- 21) scheduling and phasing
- 22) preparation of design drawings on AutoCadd and Microstation
- 23) and development of as-built drawings.

CONTRACT INFORMATION: This solicitation will be evaluated under the Two Phase Design Build Process. The first phase consists of a process known in the commercial design-build industry as the Request for Qualifications or the acronym: RFQ. (This solicitation refers to it as Phase 1).

In Phase 1, interested firms or joint venture entities (referred to as Offerors) may submit certain specified performance capability proposals, demonstrating their capability to successfully execute the design-build construction IDIQ contract resulting from this solicitation. The Government will evaluate the performance capability proposals in accordance with the criteria described in the solicitation and will short-list no more than five of the Phase 1 Offerors to compete for the design-build contract in Phase 2 of the process.

In Phase 2, the selected Offerors will submit preliminary technical design proposals, the remainder of the performance capability proposals, including the contract duration, a preliminary schedule and a price proposal. The Government will evaluate the Phase 2 proposals, in accordance with the criteria described for Phase 2 in the solicitation, and award the contract to the responsible Offeror, whose proposal conforms with all the terms and conditions of the solicitation and whose proposal is determined to represent the overall best value to the Government, considering technical-design quality, performance capability, and cost.

The following evaluation criteria listed for Phase I and Phase II are proposed as follows:

Phase I Volume I (Performance Capability)

Organizational Structure and Business Management Plan; Team/Corporate Experience; Specialized Experience; Past Performance Information; Key Project Personnel Capabilities and Experience; and Financial Capability.

Phase II Volume I (Remaining Performance Capability Proposal): Key Subcontractors; Preliminary Schedule; Subcontracting Plan Large Business Offerors; Past Performance on Utilization of Small Business Concerns.

Volume II (Design-Technical Information): Building Functional Arrangement; Building Aesthetics; Minimum Space and Facility Size; Building Systems and Material Quality; Site Design; Sustainable Design Requirements; and Oral Presentation.

Volume III (Price and Pro Forma): Price; and Self Performed Work Requirement.

The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code applicable to this project is 236220 (Commercial and Institutional Building Construction), which corresponds to SIC 1542. The Small Business Size Standard is \$28.5 Million. The total contract capacity is estimated not to exceed \$165,000,000 over a period of three years. The estimated duration for each contract award will be an initial Base Period of twelve (12) months with up to two (2) Option Periods of twelve (12) months each, for a total not to exceed contract period of thirty-six (36) months. Each contract will remain active:

- 1) unless the contractor has a documented past performance record of unsatisfactory;
- 2) until contract expiration;
- 3) until task order completion;
- 4) until the total contract capacity limit is reached, or
- 5) the contract is Terminated for Convenience of the Government.

The minimum guarantee will be \$200,000. The minimum guarantee amount will be applicable to the base period only. Funds above the minimum guarantee will be obligated with the issuance of task orders. The minimum task order limitation will be \$50,000. The maximum task order limitation for the contracts will be \$35,000,000. The Government reserves the right to exceed the stated maximum task order limitation. This contract may be used for other agency requirements where the contracting officer has made a determination that the new requirement is within scope.

Estimated solicitation issue date is on or about February 10, 2006 under solicitation number W912BV-06-R-2008. Phase 1 Proposals are anticipated to be due on or about March 14, 2006 (30 days from issuance of the solicitation). If the Government elects to conduct a Pre-Proposal Conference, details regarding the Conference will be provided in the solicitation.

The solicitation will be a negotiated acquisition. There will be no public bid opening.

Proposals from Large businesses must comply with FAR Clause 52.219-9, regarding the requirement for a Subcontracting Plan. The goals (expressed as a percentage of the contractors total planned subcontract amount) are as follows: Small Business 51.2%; Small Disadvantaged Business 8.8%; Women-Owned Small Business 7.3%; HUBZone Small Business 3.1%, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business 1.5%.

Plans and specifications will not be provided in a hard paper copy. This solicitation will

be issued via Internet only. Notification of amendments shall be made via Internet only, as well. It is therefore the contractors responsibility to check the following address daily for any posted changes to this solicitation. For security reasons, all technical and engineering data related to this solicitation will be distributed using the Federal Technical Data Solutions (FedTeDS) system. FedTeDS is a web-based dissemination tool designed to safeguard acquisition-related information for all Federal agencies. Interested bidders must register with FedTeDS before accessing the system. Registration instructions can be found on the FedTeDS website (<https://www.fedteds.gov>) by clicking on the Register with FedTeDS hyperlink. Contractors registered with the Federal Technical Data Solutions (FedTeDS) may view and/or download this solicitation and all amendments from the Internet after solicitation issuance at the following Internet address:
<https://www.fedteds.gov/fedteds/start.nsf/form.vendorlogin-openform&SolicitationNumber=W912BV-06-R-2008>. For a limited time, contractors may also view and/or download the solicitation and all amendments from the Internet address after solicitation issuance at the following address:
<http://www.swt.usace.army.mil/>.

You are advised that FedTeDS currently does not have a Plan Holders List capability. Therefore, offerors are encouraged to post notices of prospective subcontracting opportunities on the Small Business Administration's Subnet, at <http://web.sba.gov/subnet>. All offerors are encouraged to visit the Armys Single Face to Industry Website at <https://acquisition.army.mil/asfi> to view other business opportunities. Offerors shall

register themselves to be included on the plan holder list. Offerors must be registered with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), in order to receive a Government contract award. To register, the CCR Internet address is: <http://www.ccr.gov>. The Contract Specialist for this solicitation will be Mr. Daniel Foyil, 918-669-7045; or by e-mail at Daniel.A.Foyil@usace.army.mil.
View Plan Holders List

INTERNET ADDRESS:
<http://www.fbo.gov/spg/USA/COE/DACA56/W912BV-06-R-2008/listing.html>

“Tire Privatization Industry Day IAW the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Statute.”

Unannounced.
FedBizOpps
February 9, 2006

NOTICE TYPE: Special Notice

DATE POSTED: 08-FEB-06

AGENCY: Defense Logistics Agency

OFFICE ADDRESS: Defense Logistics Agency, Logistics Operations, Defense Supply Center Columbus, P O Box 3990, Columbus, OH, 43218-3990

SUBJECT: 26 – TIRE PRIVATIZATION INDUSTRY DAY IAW THE 2005 BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE (BRAC) STATUTE

CLASSIFICATION CODE: 26 – Tires and tubes

SOLICITATION NUMBER: Reference-
Number-TIRES3

CONTACT: Mark Stanley, Contract
Specialist, Phone 614-692-2258, Fax 614-
692-6273, Email DSCC.Tires@dla.mil

NOTICE TEXT: Defense Logistics Agency

Logistics Operations

Defense Supply Center Columbus

THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION NOTICE.

In accordance with the 2005 Base
Realignment and Closure (BRAC) statute,
the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) will
host a Tire Privatization Industry Day on
Thursday, March 9, 2006, at the Defense
Supply Center, Columbus (DSCC),
Columbus, OH.

The purpose of this Industry Day is to
discuss establishing a Performance Based
Logistics (PBL) approach for the supply
chain management of tires for the
Department of Defense. Under the Base
Realignment and Closure Act of 1990, 10
U.S.C. 2687 note, the BRAC Commission's
recommendation to privatize the supply,
storage and distribution for tires (Federal
Supply Classes 2610, 2620, and 2630)
became law on November 8, 2005. This
recommendation is intended to create a more
responsive supply support to user
organizations and deployment, and the
sustainment of forces when deployed
worldwide. Privatization enables the
Department to take advantage of the latest
technologies, expertise, and business
practices, which translate into improved
support to customers at less cost. This
recommendation disestablishes the
wholesale supply, storage, and distribution

functions for all tires used by the
Department of Defense, retaining only the
supply contracting function. The
Department will privatize these functions
and will rely on private industry for the
performance of supply, storage, and
distribution of these commodities. By doing
so, the Department can divest itself of
inventories and can eliminate infrastructure
and personnel associated with these
functions. This Industry Day is for
informational purposes only. The
Government will present several briefings to
broadly address BRAC requirements, the
Army and Air Force Tire programs,
Distribution, Disposal and the acquisition
strategy for the privatization of tires. DLA is
interested in receiving industry comments,
recommendations, and ideas regarding this
initiative. The agenda will include a time for
questions and answers as well as informal
discussions. Written comments will also be
accepted.

Final registration is due by Thursday, March
2, 2006, 2:00 PM EST. To register, please
send an email to Kathy Manley (614)692-
2258, at DSCC.Tires@dla.mil with your
company name and address, CAGE code,
names of attendees, and a primary point of
contact to include telephone number and e-
mail address. A return email will confirm
your registration.

Schedule: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Thursday,
March 9, 2006

INTERNET ADDRESS:

[http://www.foo.gov/spg/DLA/J3/DSCC/Ref-
erence-Number-TIRES3/listing.html](http://www.foo.gov/spg/DLA/J3/DSCC/Reference-Number-TIRES3/listing.html)

Provided by Federal Information & News
Dispatch, Inc. (FIND) 202-429-5944

Mark Stanley, Contract Specialist, Phone 614-692-2258, Fax 614-692-6273, Email DSCC.Tires@dlm.mil

“Air Force Expected to Bring Training Mission to Kansas Guard.”

John Milburn,
Associated Press Newswires
February 9, 2006

Topeka, Kan. (AP) – Two members of the state’s congressional delegation said Thursday that the Air Force intends to transfer a fighter training squadron from a base in Georgia to a Kansas Air National Guard wing at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita.

The plans, announced jointly by Republicans Sen. Pat Roberts and Rep. Todd Tiahrt, would transfer at least one squadron of T-38 fighter trainers to the Kansas Air National Guard. The mission continues the tradition of the “Flying Jayhawks” of the 184th Air Refueling Wing, which previously was a fighter and bomber wing.

The move would mean Kansas National Guard airmen would continue to fly aircraft. Under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, the 184th was to transfer its squadron of KC135 tankers to the 190th Air Refueling Wing at Topeka’s Forbes Field. The Air National Guard would continue with other missions at McConnell, including intelligence and network security for the Air Force.

A date for the transfer of the squadron from Georgia to Kansas wasn’t announced. Roberts and Tiahrt said they had been

working on getting a new flying mission for Wichita since the BRAC announcement.

“We are pleased our efforts have resulted in a continued air presence for the Flying Jayhawks of the 184th,” Tiahrt said. “Senator Roberts and I strongly urge Governor Kathleen Sebelius to accept this new mission on behalf of the Kansas Air National Guard.”

There are more than 2,250 airmen in the Kansas Air National Guard. It was not immediately clear how many additional jobs or aircraft will be coming to McConnell as a result of the new mission.

Kansas was expected to gain more than 3,530 military and civilian jobs statewide as a result of the BRAC announcement, including several thousand soldiers at Fort Riley with the return of the headquarters of the 1st Infantry Division from Germany.

Sebelius’ spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran said while an official announcement from the Air Force was forthcoming, the governor was pleased that efforts by Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard, were having results in bringing new missions to Kansas.

“While we’ve been given a preliminary indication this is the direction the Air Force intends to go, Governor Sebelius is incredibly proud that General Bunting’s hard work is paying off for our soldiers, our communities, and our state,” Corcoran said.

Bunting said Kansas officials routinely remind Air Force officials of the state’s capabilities, including wide open spaces, two runways suitable for training and the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range near

Salina. The awarding of the new mission validates those efforts and returns McConnell and the Kansas Air National Guard to its roots.

“We’re definitely going back to the training days with lots of airplanes flying around the state,” Bunting said.

The decision was part of routine Air Force program adjustments and not related to the BRAC decision, he said.

The 184th has fulfilled various flying missions since World War II ended and it was assigned F-51 “Mustang” aircraft. Later it was assigned the F-84 “Thunder Jet.”

In 1971, it was designated the Air Force Combat Crew Training School. In 1982, the wing reorganized to train fighter pilots in F-4D and F-16 aircraft.

During the early 1990s, the wing converted to the B-1B bomber, the first National Guard unit to fly the aircraft. That mission ended in 2002 when the wing began flying tankers.

McConnell Air Force Base is home of the active duty’s 22nd Air Refueling Wing. Under BRAC, the wing is scheduled to expand by 24 tankers to a total of 48, making it the largest tanker base in the United States.

“Pueblo Finalizing Plans for Air Force Pilot School.”

Dennis Darrow And Karen Vigil.
The Pueblo Chieftain (CO)
February 9, 2006

Pueblo offered major incentives to win an Air Force pilot training school but will not release any details pending final negotiations. Pueblo City Manager Dave Galli said Wednesday.

“It could be significant,” but also in line “with the kind of opportunity and prospect we’re talking about,” Galli said of the incentives. “It’s being looked at like any other economic development opportunity.”

More details continue to become known about the school, called the Introductory Flight Training school, a new venture by the Air Force that seeks to consolidate smaller civilian schools from around the country. The idea was conceived during the latest round of military base closures and reassignments.

On Tuesday, U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Cor., announced Pueblo won the bidding for the school but did not release details about the incentive package. Pueblo’s bid topped proposals submitted by Midland, Texas, and Selma, Ala.

The school – set to open in October – will:

Feature a permanent staff of 190 workers, made up of pilot instructors, office staff, custodial crews and cafeteria workers. The office staff will include 18 Air Force officers

Route through about 165 would-be pilots every 40 days. Graduates will go on to more advanced flight schools elsewhere in the country to receive their pilot licenses.

Maintain a fleet of 45 to 48 training aircraft on site.

The school will occupy the vacant Sperry building and land at Pueblo Airport Industrial Park.

The vacant Sperry building is now owned by Lockheed, which has never occupied the building and has shown an interest in leasing out or selling the site in the past.

The school's dormitories, gym and classrooms will go inside the building; and, on the outside, the city will build three hangars, a ramp and a taxiway to connect the school to airport.

"It's exciting, especially given everything else going on in the area relative to the military," Galli said. The Fort Carson Army post in south Colorado Springs anticipates thousands of more soldiers in coming years under another part of the military base and realignment law.

"We've got a great facility in the area with our airport and we have great opportunities to do things with aviation-related business. We've got the infrastructure, the clear skies and the weather. It's a great fit," Galli said.

The pilot training program is a 40-day training program that will include 25 hours flying time on the propeller-driven Diamond DA20, a two-seat, propeller-driven plane.

Day-to-day management of the school will fall to Colorado Springs-based DOSS Aviation, an experienced pilot training school awarded a 10-year, \$178 million contract to handle Pueblo's consolidated school.

Frank G. Hunter, president and chief executive officer of DOSS, said the Air Force officers stationed at the site will oversee management and oversight of the school.

The Pueblo Economic Development Corp. remains in the lead on negotiating a final agreement between the city, DOSS pilot training services in Colorado Springs and the U.S. Air Force, Galli said.

The date when a final incentive package will come before Pueblo City Council remains undetermined, Galli said. Council must formally vote approval of any final package. The final proposal should come forward relatively soon.

Site prep work on the pilot school is expected to start in April with classes opening in October.

In Midland and Selma, the loss of the project drew expressions of significant disappointment, according to newspaper accounts.

In Texas, Mike Conaway, R-Midland, issued a statement of pained acceptance of the Air Force's choice of Pueblo:

"Despite our best efforts, we fell short of our goal of bringing the flight training program to West Texas. It is a decision I personally disagree with but one I am sure was made with the best interests of our country in mind." Conaway told the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

In Alabama, Wayne Vardaman of the Selma area's Economic Development Agency

sounded a conciliatory note but also suggested his city was outmuscled politically on the decision.

“We feel like we had the best compelling reason for the Air Force to locate in Selma, but you cannot take the politics out of politics,” Vardaman said.

“The long delay in announcing shows how difficult the decision was for the Air Force. The project brought the team and the community together.”

The loss was made more painful to Midland and Selma because both cities went public early with their intentions to win the contract, touching off a public bidding war.

In Pueblo, the city’s decision to join the bidding was never reported publicly. Economic development leaders now say they think the quiet approach was another of the keys to the city’s winning bid.

The only noise military leaders like is the sound of soldiers at work, according to Pueblo Economic Development Corp. Chairman Marvin Stein.

“It was a tremendous offensive by the city, maybe one hundred people involved, and this thing has been totally hush, hush,” Stein said.

DOSS, privately owned by Hunter and eight partners, offers 29 years of experience in flight training, along with aircraft and air base maintenance and support, for the military.

“OK SB 1675, 2005-2006, Bass.”

Unattributed.

LegAlert

February 9, 2006

An Act Relating to Public Finance; Enacting the Oklahoma Military Base Protection Grant Program; Stating Legislative Intent; Making Appropriation to the Oklahoma Department Of Commerce; Stating Purpose of Appropriation; Authorizing Certain Transfer; Providing for Noncodification; and Declaring an Emergency.

20060221 – (S) PREFILED

20060206 – (S) FIRST READING

20060206 – (S) AUTHORED BY SENATOR BASS

20060207 – (S) SECOND READING REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS

20060207 – (S) PENDING AUTHORSHIP REPRESENTATIVE(S) ARMES

20060207 – (S) REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS/SUB-NATURAL RESOURCES AND REGULATORY SERVICES

“LIDA Draws on Credit to Pay Natural Gas Bill.”

Jar Book

Public Opinion (Chambersburg, PA)

February 8, 2006

The authority developing a business park on former lands of Letterkenny Army Depot has drawn on a \$2 million line of credit for the first time.

The Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority needed cash to pay a \$450,000 natural gas bill until the Army reimburses the authority, according to LIDA financial officer Cindy Lawver. The authority buys gas in bulk and resells it to customers in the business park.

Paying the bill from cash reserves was not an option, according to Lawver. The authority has about \$140,000 in reserves.

The authority, jump-started about eight years ago with federal grants, is running on its own revenue sources — gas and electric sales, leases and real estate sales.

LIDA's budget is tight.

The authority had projected a \$2 million surplus at the end of 2005. Instead, its unaudited statements recorded a loss of about \$118,500.

The stalled sale of 55 acres for a proposed ethanol plant slashed \$1.3 million, or nearly 15 percent, from projected revenues in 2005.

"Our business is leasing and selling property," said John Van Horn, LIDA executive director.

"Sure, we had anticipated closure on the property. We try to be frugal in what we do. We prioritize in what we are doing."

A citizens' group has challenged local approvals of the project. Developer Penn-Mar Ethanol LLC, York, has appealed.

Fred Antoun, an attorney representing Citizens for a Quality Environment, told

LIDA on Monday: "It's going to be years before it gets through (the courts). Prepare to take it off the market for years."

LIDA lists the sale of the property on its 2006 budget.

The authority in 2005 cut back on landscaping of the Rocky Spring Golf Course in the business park.

"When we don't have cash coming in, we minimize expenses," Van Horn said.

Administrative costs came in 5 percent under budget, according to Lawver.

"We did show a positive cash flow for a year, and that was nearly all operations," she said.

Lease revenue was up in 2005. LIDA has more than 40 tenants in the Cumberland Valley Business Park, but there are no more buildings to rent in 2006. Much of the land for the park, potentially available for sale, remains in Army hands until it gets environmental clearances.

LIDA is constructing a \$1.2 million building on speculation that it will find a tenant.

"We try to stay pay-as-you-go and not with a whole lot of long-term financing," Van Horn said.

Last year, LIDA took a long-range look at the park's future. It was the lead agency for two major projects — a \$126,000 joint land use study about the future of neighboring Letterkenny Army Depot and a \$1.3 million utility and road project that opens up 140 acres of the park to development. LIDA shares in the costs of the projects.

The authority, an arm of the Franklin County Commissioners, is creating a business park from 1,400 acres that the Army is returning to the community. The 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission ordered major cuts at Letterkenny Army Depot.

The Army depot, the largest employer in the county, is slated to add about 200 positions from BRAC 2005. The depot covers about 17,000 acres.

Jim Hook can be reached at 262-4759, or jhook@pubop.com.

“Community Leaders Suggest Shifting Focus to Future.”

JoDee Black, 2006.

Great Falls (MT) Tribune
(February 4): 3A.

Local officials say they aren't surprised that the newly-released Quadrennial Defense Review document prescribes cutting 50 land-based missiles, which Montana senators say probably will come from Malmstrom Air Force Base.

The loss of the personnel and resources that go with a squadron of missiles would be an economic blow locally, but may be necessary to meet the military's objectives, they say.

“I support the long-term Department of Defense objectives,” said Cynthia Schultz, the director of the Great Falls International Airport and an active military supporter. “The military is so efficient that they are

downsizing and we need to be ahead of the curve. As a community, we need to position ourselves to be viable in the future of the Department of Defense.”

The unique 564th Missile Squadron, which was installed after Malmstrom's other missiles and uses a different command system, could eventually become a liability to the future of the entire local mission, she said.

“Because it is different from the others, it could be a liability in future Base Realignment and Closure rounds,” Schultz said. “We could end up losing more than 50 missiles.”

Instead of trying to challenge the cut, Great Falls might be better off focusing on ways to expand the missions at Malmstrom, Schultz said.

Northcentral Montana has plenty of assets that fit that bill, including unmatched air space and a quality of life that helps Malmstrom enjoy some of the best retention and recruitment numbers in the Air Force, she said.

“Retention is key to the military, especially in times of war when recruiting is harder,” Schultz said.

Malmstrom officials could have a chance to showcase those assets when Air Force personnel visit Great Falls next month for an “attributes” study.

“Malmstrom is a secure air base with great access and uncluttered air space,” said Mike Green, chairman of the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee. “We want the missions to expand there. We are most interested in

getting the runway open. We'll do what we can to help make that happen."

The QDR recommendations are just that, said John Kramer, president of the Great Falls Development Authority.

"The loss of 50 missiles would hurt, but nothing is permanent and this isn't over," he said.

Kramer pointed to the recent review by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

The BRAC initially recommended eliminating all of the F-16 fighter jets stationed at the Montana Air National Guard on Gore Hill.

Eventually the commission decided to replace MANG's jets with newer F-15s, preserving the future of a Guard flying mission in the state.

Military cutback announcements, whether they eventually happen or not, are a good justification for efforts to recruit new industries to Great Falls, Kramer said.

"This is another wake-up call," he said. "Nothing is permanent, not even Mahstrom. We need to continue to work to diversify our economy."

If missiles are dismantled, the void will be deeper than empty silos, however.

Toole County, for example, has nine missile sites, all of which belong to the 564th squadron. The Air Force provides gravel for the rural roads used to reach those missiles and supplements the county's road fund to help with the upkeep.

"The last few years we've received about \$9,000 a year in direct payments," said Toole County Commissioner Allan Underdal. "But if there had been more snow removal, the amount would have been higher.

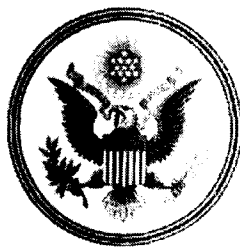
"And that amount doesn't include the gravel they provide or the work done to put the gravel down. And there is no way to quantify how much money the personnel that travel back and forth to the missiles spend in town."

Opinions/ Editorials

Additional Notes

Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

EARLY



BIRD

February 13, 2006

Department of Defense Releases

National News Articles

Local News Articles

"General Looks into Tyndall's Future."

"Planning Official Sees Job Losses on Horizon, but Effects Unclear."

"Moscow Daily Views US Base's Possible Move from Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan."

"Hutchison Challenger Runs Campaign like a Startup Law Firm."

"Football and Pizza Point to US Staying for Long Haul."

"Czech Troops in Afghanistan Also Face Restrictions over Unrest."

"Sixth Contingent of Salvadoran Soldiers Leaves for Duty in Iraq."

"Fitch Rates Monmouth County Improv Auth, N.J. \$22.86MM Guaranteed Revs 'AAA.'"

"Cannon Could Become Home to Special Operations."

"Air Base Home to Fighters Again."

"LaHood Named to Subcommittee."

"Officials Say Little about Jet Unit Cut."

"Naval Base at Risk, Say Manchester Home Foes."

"Base Backers Fighting Rezoning."

"N.O. Military Jobs Get an Early Exit."

"Texas City Eyeing Jets from Oceana."

"Delegate Says Politics Killed Ft. Monroe Bill."

"BRAC Opens IT Opportunities for Army."

"Rents Rise With Falling Vacancies."

"Texas City Wants to Net a Few Oceana Hornets."

"Business Agenda."

"Sub to Undergo \$175M Modernization."

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National News Articles

Local News Articles

“General Looks into Tyndall's Future.”

Ed Offley.

The News Herald (Panama City, FL)

February 11, 2006

Commanding Officer Sees Increase in Birds, Traffic

The 325th Fighter Wing in the year ahead expects to gain an additional six F-22A Raptors but will decommission one of its three F-15 training squadrons as a result of recommendations in the just-released Quadrennial Defense Review, Tyndall's commanding general said this week. The changes are not expected to have a major impact on the current operational tempo or personnel strength of the base, said Brig. Gen. Jack B. Egginton, commander of the 325th Fighter Wing. With more than 5,300 military and civilian employees and an estimated annual economic impact exceeding \$403 million, Tyndall is a major economic engine for the Bay County area. In a wide-ranging interview with The News Herald, Egginton also said: Tyndall officials are watching carefully plans by The St. Joe Co. to develop a 550-acre mixed-use community on land it owns between the city of Mexico Beach and the base's eastern perimeter.

A previous attempt by the company to develop the site in 2002 prompted sharp criticism by both the base and local business leaders that the project would create serious encroachment issues that could leave the base vulnerable in a future Base Realignment and Closure round. Despite increasing vehicular traffic on U.S. 98 –

which bisects the developed areas of the 29,000-acre military reservation – the Air Force would prefer to build an overpass to connect the administrative and operations areas rather than relocate U.S. 98 to the proposed Gulf Coast Parkway and close off public access on the existing highway.

Egginton said that the long-term flying training mission at Tyndall will remain robust but will face adjustments because of the change in long-term fighter procurement plans dictated by the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review, or QDR, study.

Air Combat Command commander Gen. Ron Keys last fall told Air Force magazine that the service's long-term goal of fielding 381 Raptors would enable the service to cut the F-15 fighter force from the current total of 544 to as few as 179 aircraft. Instead, the QDR capped the Raptor program at 183 aircraft. Fielding fewer F-22A Raptors means that the Air Force will be forced to extend the service life of more F-15s, including those in the training wing at Tyndall, Egginton said.

“The F-15 fleet is going to have to be extended and improved” beyond the original plan of a 179-aircraft fleet, Egginton said.

The Air Education and Training Command, Tyndall's parent headquarters, has not formally made the decision, Egginton cautioned. But he said it is his “personal” assessment that the base will see its Raptor fleet expand from 23 to 29 aircraft and the F-15 training support shrink by only one squadron.

“We are in the process of drawing down one of the (F-15) training squadrons,” Egginton said. Most maintenance support personnel will transfer to other Tyndall units and only 20 to 30 positions, at most, will be lost, he

said. The increased number of Raptors also will require the construction of an additional maintenance hangar, the general said.

Regarding the St. Joe project, Egginton said he is proud that Tyndall Air Force Base has an excellent relationship with local governing bodies and the business community. He said base technical experts are working with Bay County, the city of Mexico Beach and state development planners on the proposed project to ensure there are no impacts that would interfere with flying, training or other operations on the base.

"It's been on the radar scope," Egginton said of the planned community, "but it's just now starting to surface."

In 2002, base officials objected loudly to an initial St. Joe plan that called for high-rise condominiums on the site, which falls within the eastern approach corridor to the base's main runway. In addition to safety issues, the base expressed concern that the development would lead to noise complaints that, in turn, could make the base vulnerable to closure. St. Joe amended the plan to exclude high-rise residential units and subsequently withdrew it from consideration. The current development plan would limit residential units to 48 feet in height.

"We are not counter-development," Egginton said. "We will participate with the local communities. As plans become more specific, we'll have the chance ... to voice our concerns if we have them."

As to vehicular traffic congestion around the base, Egginton said officials do not want to close off the base by shunting U.S. 98 onto the planned parkway. The proposed Gulf Coast Parkway aims to connect U.S. 98 east

of Mexico Beach to U.S. 231 northeast of Panama City, which would provide an alternate route around Tyndall Air Force Base.

"From a security and base perspective, it would be slick" to fence off the base, Egginton admitted. "But you would close off emergency services and hurricane evacuation from the area. That access has to be preserved."

"Planning Official Sees Job Losses on Horizon, but Effects Unclear."

Mike Grass

The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, VA)
February 11, 2006

In a best-case scenario, Hampton Roads would lose 2,400 jobs because of base closings, and the federal government would slowly increase defense spending by 2011.

In a worst-case scenario, the region would lose the 2,400 jobs, two aircraft carriers would relocate, Oceana Naval Air Station would close, and the federal government would cut defense spending. The combination would slash nearly 25,000 jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue from 2008 to 2011.

These predictions from John W. Whaley, deputy executive director of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, opened Friday's 2006 Business Summit.

"I don't know where we're going to end up on that spectrum," Whaley said, "but we should find out later this summer."

Friday's event focused on an economic forecast for 2006 as well as workforce shortages caused by the aging baby boomer

generation, efforts to market the region by the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, and emerging technology trends.

Presenters stressed improving education and building more affordable housing across the region. Whaley said low mortgage rates, military pay increases and non traditional financing options have led to higher demand for housing. At the same time, newly constructed homes have been more expensive.

For the first time in several years, the Hampton Roads economy is expected to perform below the national average in 2006 and will slow modestly, Whaley said. The national economy is expected to grow 3.1 percent.

The planning district commission estimated a 2.8 percent growth rate for the region. Another estimate by Old Dominion University pegged the region's growth rate at 3.0 percent.

Warren Harris, the director of Chesapeake's economic development department, said the event stressed the strength and interdependency of South Hampton Roads.

"Looking into the future, Hampton Roads bodes well as a region," Harris said.

Reach Mike Gruss at (757) 222-5207 or mike.gruss@pilotonline.com.

"Texas City Seeks Training Squadron from Oceana."

Jon W. Glass,

The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, VA)
February 11, 2006

Officials in Kingsville, Texas, are making a public bid to snare some of Oceana Naval Air Station's fighter jets.

At a time when Oceana's future is uncertain, Kingsville wants to get a squadron whose role is training pilots to fly F/A-18 Hornets and Super Hornets.

Known as Oceana's fleet replacement squadron, the unit has about 55 of the base's estimated 258 fighter and attack jets.

Kingsville, a city of 25,000 in south Texas near the Gulf Coast, is home to a naval air station that trains Navy and Marine pilots.

The city's quest for more jets got a boost last year from the federal Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

The BRAC panel demanded that Virginia Beach halt and roll back development in high-risk areas around Oceana. It also urged the Navy to "begin immediately" to address noise and safety issues by moving "high-density training" operations to other bases. The final BRAC report cited Kingsville and Whitehouse Outlying Landing Field, near Jacksonville, Fla., as two possibilities. Whitehouse was once used by pilots at the Navy's former Cecil Field to simulate aircraft carrier landings.

The Navy is not required to move training operations under the BRAC finding, but the report bolstered Kingsville's case, said Dick Messbarger, executive director of the Greater Kingsville Economic Development Council.

A delegation from Kingsville met late last month in Washington with BRAC's chief of staff to discuss the commission's findings.

“It’s pretty apparent that there is concern about high-intensity air traffic in and around Virginia Beach,” Messbarger said. “Shame on us if we don’t do our due diligence in this kind of environment.”

An air of drama now surrounds the fate of Oceana.

In August, the BRAC panel voted to move Oceana’s jets to the former Cecil Field in Florida if Virginia Beach and Virginia failed to comply with its demands by March 31.

Two months later, however, Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton dropped his city’s bid for Oceana’s jets.

In December, the Virginia Beach City Council adopted a plan to protect Oceana. It did not, however, include one of BRAC’s key demands: a program to condemn and buy homes and businesses in the high-risk Accident Potential Zone 1 around the base.

Beach officials say their plan, which bans all new homes and most new businesses in APZ-1, meets the BRAC demands. But in a recent letter, the Pentagon warned that the city’s plan may not go far enough.

No one is sure what will happen if the Defense Department’s inspector general rules that Virginia Beach did not comply with BRAC’s demands. The inspector general has until June 1 to decide.

Charles Battaglia, executive director of the BRAC staff, said it’s possible Florida will resurrect the Cecil Field option if Virginia Beach’s plan does not pass muster.

“My sense is that they’re going to wait until it’s determined whether Virginia Beach is found to be in compliance,” Battaglia said.

“The governor did make a strong push there.”

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has expressed “disappointment” over the Jacksonville mayor’s decision. He has not publicly ruled out the possibility of bringing Oceana’s jets to Florida. The state has until Dec. 31 to meet BRAC’s conditions for moving the jets to Cecil Field.

At this point, said Lt. Cmdr. Kathy Sandoz, a Navy spokeswoman, Florida’s offer for Oceana’s jets “is not considered off the table.” As for Kingsville’s bid, she said, splitting Oceana’s fleet replacement squadron from the other units would not be ideal.

If neither Virginia Beach nor Florida complies with BRAC’s demand, Sandoz said, the jets are expected to stay at Oceana. The Navy’s assessment that Oceana “remains the most suitable option” for the East Coast master jet base has not changed, she said.

Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera E. Oberndorf said she was not surprised that Texas and perhaps other states might be vying for jets from Oceana.

Last year, several states — including Texas, Florida and North Carolina —

competed for the base’s jets. U.S. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., compared the jockeying to a “public auction.”

Oberndorf said the City Council will stick by its pledge not to condemn homes and businesses, and she noted that the federal government has the power of condemnation. “If they feel it’s that critical, perhaps they should exercise that option.”

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**“Moscow Daily Views US Base’s Possible
Move from Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan.”**

Nezavisimaya Gazeta.

BBC Monitoring Central Asia

February 11, 2006

A Russian newspaper has suggested that the USA wants to create an air base in Turkmenistan. It said the revamping of the runway of Mary military airfield and the restoration of Kushka airfield is evidence of this. It said Turkmenistan's Mary-2 airfield, which is being considered as a potential base, had been used by the Americans to refuel their planes for a long time. At the same time, the paper says the creation of the base exclusively depends on the will of one person – Turkmen President Saparmyrat Niyazov. The following is the text of an article by Viktoriya Panfilova and Viktor Myasnikov entitled “Turkmenbasy's American games. In exchange for military base, United States may turn blind eye to President Niyazov's methods of rule”, published by the Russian newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta on 6 February; subheadings inserted editorially:

Yesterday the Turkmen Foreign Ministry denied Russian media reports about the domestic political situation in the country. In particular, about some of the republic's citizens having been deprived of their pensions. This is not the first such denial: Earlier the foreign policy department denied reports about the relocation of the US military base from Xonobod (Uzbekistan) to Mary-2 (Turkmenistan). The Turkmen Foreign Ministry described this report as “fabricated and totally false.” However, the facts indicate the opposite. The refuelling of

US military planes heading for Afghanistan centres at the specially revamped Mary-2 Soviet air base. Furthermore, following last September's visit to Turkmenistan by General John Abizaid, head of US Central Command, US servicemen have become frequent visitors to Mary-2.

Creation of Base Possible

The US flag was lowered at the Xonobod air base on 21 November 2005. The last US plane left the base at 1545 [time unspecified] the same day. It is totally impossible to transfer anything from the empty base. So the only possibility is to create a new base in the Central Asia region, and specialists believe that Mary-2 may be considered as an option. The Mary military airfield was a major military-strategic facility in the USSR. Later, military pilots from friendly countries were trained there.

By September 2005 the run-down Turkmen airfield had been totally revamped by building companies from the UAE. At the same time a US Defence Department commission deemed the facility fit for use. Arab builders are also conducting full-scale restoration work at another airfield – in Kushka (which used to be the southernmost point in the USSR).

Aleksandr Snaravin, director of the Institute for Political and Military Analysis, told your Nezavisimaya Gazeta correspondent that there is no information about talks between the United States and Turkmenistan. In his opinion, however, it is probable that a base will be created, because it is vital to the Americans to obtain positions in Central Asia.

Appearance of American Base Clashes with Principles of Democracy

True, this need conflicts with the democratic rhetoric of US representatives. At a PACE session on human rights last September Lorne Kranser, US assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights, and labour, said: "Imagine the situation: The United States, which criticized the Uzbek government over human rights violations during the Andijon events, withdraws its military base from Uzbekistan and transfers it to Turkmenistan, where the situation is even worse. It's absurd!"

To all appearances, the arrival of Americans in Turkmenistan should not be expected in the near future. As for whether this will happen in the medium term, nobody will venture to say this, because decisions in Turkmenistan depend exclusively on the will of one man – Saparmyrat Nyyazow. Emigre Turkmen opposition leader Hudayberdi Orazow believes that the decision to put the Mary-2 base at the disposal of the US Air Force is merely "Nyyazow's flirting with the Americans." In an interview for Nezavisimaya Gazeta he noted that it is probably a question of redistributing the load after the Xonobod base closure among Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan's Mary-2 airfield, which is being considered as a potential base, is indeed used by the Americans to refuel their planes, and it has been used in this way for a long time. Although originally the Americans were given authorization only to use Turkmenistan's airspace."

Source: Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Moscow, in Russian 6 Feb 06 p 3

"Hutchison Challenger Runs Campaign like a Startup Law Firm."
Wendy Benjaminson.

Associated Press Newswires
February 11, 2006

Houston (AP) * In her first political campaign when no Democrat holds a statewide office in Texas, Barbara Radnofsky decided to challenge a popular incumbent Republican for the U.S. Senate.

"The kids were old enough," the mother of three said to explain her run against Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

But that's far from the only reason for the 45-year-old attorney * spurred by the economy, the national debt, progress of the Iraq war and her belief Hutchison is "not nearly as moderate as people thought."

With Hutchison's approval rating at about 70 percent and the senator's campaign funds at nearly \$8 million, though, Radnofsky faces a tough, expensive journey beyond the March 7 primary election.

"Barbara Radnofsky is the Democratic candidate for the Senate because the Democratic Party in Texas is in disarray," said Cal Jillson, a political scientist at Southern Methodist University. "Anyone who volunteers and has a professional presence can get the nomination."

Radnofsky dismisses Jillson's comments, saying her no-nonsense style can "make positive changes" in Washington. And, Democratic party officials in Texas and in Washington, pleased with someone willing to take on Hutchison, are helping with fund-raising.

Radnofsky, with two nominal challengers in the primary, runs her campaign out of her \$125,000 house in Houston's wooded Memorial Park. She makes lunches for the staff of volunteers, family members and paid

employees, including a staffer dedicated to “aggressively” make donors live up to their pledges.

When not campaigning, she's a partner at Houston's Vinson & Elkins law firm, practicing mediation and civil law. Her husband, Ed Supkis, an anesthesiologist, has temporarily left his medical practice to handle the campaign Web site and “do all the mommy stuff,” which Radnofsky said, “I used to do 90 percent of.” The couple have three children: Danielle, 21, Max, 18, and Michaela, 16. They also have a 14-year-old golden retriever named Vicki.

Radnofsky said her interest in public service was limited by the demands of raising children, practicing law and teaching mediation to special needs children at a private school. With her oldest daughter out of college and the teenagers almost there, Radnofsky said, “They were ready for me to do this, too.”

Once Radnofsky decided to run, she attacked it like a new legal case. She studied campaign law, hired a lawyer and spent a month calling “people who lost, people who won, people who were active and consultants.”

But she hasn't hired any of those high-priced consultants. The thrifty candidate also won't stay in hotels while campaigning. She instead finds a supporter with a spare room.

“Democratic campaigns aren't run like businesses,” she said, noting that Democrats traditionally can be well-intentioned but poorly organized. “This is going to be different from any other Democratic campaign.”

She'll need her businesslike attitude to hang in against Hutchison until November. So far,

Radnofsky has raised just a fraction of what Hutchison has, about \$700,000, with \$426,000 available to spend.

Radnofsky plans to center her statewide campaign on three main issues: veterans, health care and education.

She says Hutchison has only belatedly taken up the issue of a veterans' hospital in South Texas, which she attributes to her campaigning on the issue. The nearest veterans hospital to the Rio Grande Valley is at least five hours away in San Antonio, and the largely Mexican-American vets in South Texas have been pushing for one closer to home.

On health care, Radnofsky wants to reform insurance laws to require companies to cover preventive care and opposes efforts to privatize Social Security. She also wants to ensure that public hospitals and the state get reimbursed by the federal government for the Medicare portion of Texans' health care.

On education, Radnofsky wants to expand peer mediation among students as well as programs that help poor students prepare for college or K-12 studies, such as Upward Bound and Head Start, and more college financial aid through Pell Grants.

While Radnofsky says Hutchison is no moderate, Radnofsky is no old-style liberal. She believes in abortion rights, but with caveats.

“Having teenage kids can change your politics,” she said, noting that she supports parental notification laws “as long as a minor seeking an abortion can argue to a judge that telling her parents would cause her harm.”

As a lawyer, Radnofsky made her mark by representing plaintiffs who were injured by a defective barbecue lighter, even though her prestigious law firm is known for defending companies against litigation. She got permission to take on the personal injury cases and along with winning several cases, the lighter was eventually recalled. She worked with the Consumer Product Safety Commission to develop new lighter standards in 1999.

Mark Suzumoto, a Southern California lawyer who defended Scripto lighter company in some of those cases, praised Radnofsky as a "zealous advocate," who he believed was motivated by the cause, not by money or prestige.

Suzumoto said he was not surprised that Radnofsky would take on an uphill Senate campaign in her first try at politics. "Barbara doesn't see the mountain, she sees the peak," Suzumoto said.

Hutchison, 62, has said little publicly about her challenger, and campaign spokesman Bryan Eppstein said Hutchison wouldn't comment until after the primaries.

One of Texas's most popular Republicans, Hutchison campaigns in Texas whenever she's not in Washington, focusing on NASA, working with communities affected by military base realignment and veterans affairs.

Radnofsky maintains her own busy schedule, traveling to the far corners of Texas so people will know her well before the fall election.

She is also one of two Jews seeking statewide office this year, a rare occurrence. Kinky Friedman, running for governor with

bumper stickers that read, "My governor is a Jewish cowboy," is the other.

Radnofsky says she tries to observe her faith on the campaign trail. When she's in a town with no synagogue, she seeks out a Jewish supporter who will host her for Friday Sabbath dinners. As for her religion being another obstacle, Radnofsky is characteristically optimistic.

"If the perception is the old concepts that I'm smart, efficient and well-connected, then that works to my favor, doesn't it?"

* * * * *

"Football and Pizza Point to US Staying for Long Haul."

Omair Poole, 2006.

The Daily Telegraph (London, UK)

February 11, 2006

THE airbase at al-Asad is the biggest marine camp in western Anbar province. It is in the midst of the most rebellious region in Iraq, where thousands of insurgents have been killed in a series of operations over the past year.

But get "inside the wire" and this stretch of desert increasingly resembles a slice of US suburbia rather than the front line in a war zone.

Its restaurants include a Subway and a fast food pizza shop. There is a coffee shop, football pitch and even a swimming pool.

A cinema shows the latest films while the camp's main recreational centre offers special dance nights * hip hop on Friday, salsa on Saturday and country and western on Sunday.

There is even a Hertz car rental providing saloons with bullet-proof windows for those wanting to cross the base in something more comfortable than a military Humvee.

For as the news from Washington focuses on troop withdrawals, the US military is beginning to implement at immense cost the next stage in its policy for Iraq. And it is one likely to disappoint those hoping for a quick exit of all foreign troops.

Last summer reports began to emerge that plans had been drawn up to create four "super-bases", giant camps that would house tens of thousands of US soldiers similar to other sprawling military facilities around the world.

The intention was for the newly trained and equipped Iraqi army to gradually take over the majority of combat operations, allowing a proportion of the 138,000 US troops to depart. Those remaining would provide back-up from their new centres of operation when requested.

That handover has already begun with a dozen smaller bases evacuated in recent weeks. In total 100 are scheduled to be transferred to the Iraqi government this year.

Although no official confirmation will be given of where super-bases will be located, at al-Asad there is every impression that one is in the process of being created.

The guidelines under which reporters are allowed to visit military facilities prohibit any mention of their location, size or number of troops.

But it breaks no rules to say this is a place so extensive it has two bus routes inside and the sight of workers constructing new billets for more troops is common.

Last month red "Stop" signs * the ubiquitous feature of American street furniture * went up at all road junctions.

Senior members of the governing Shia parties have complained that they show American plans for a long-term presence in their country.

Sunni members of the Iraqi Islamic Party regard them as evidence of an open-ended "occupation", a charge denied by US officials who insist the bases are another step in an eventual withdrawal.

But even the marines based at al-Asad are sceptical about how quickly that step will be completed.

The Iraqi army is considered "at least" a year from being able to take the fight to the insurgents.

Senior officers point out that when the main army base near Tikrit was handed over to Iraqi forces, a transfer widely touted by Washington as evidence of Iraq's growing ability to stand alone, it was looted bare within weeks by the very Iraqi units who were meant to protect it.

Above all there is the knowledge gained through grim experience that predictions of what Iraq will be like in the immediate future are almost always wrong.

Col H R McMaster, the commander of troops in Tal Afar and the US senior officer whose counter-insurgency tactics have been singled out for praise in Washington and London, was asked recently what he thought the next 12 months would hold for Iraqis.

He declined to speculate. "Anyone who claims to understand what is happening in Iraq does not understand it," he answered.

Servicemen, meanwhile, confidently predict that they will be rotating through the base for at least a decade.

One sergeant pointed out that at least they will be able to buy a proper cup of coffee.

."Sixth Contingent of Salvadoran Soldiers Leaves for Duty in Iraq."

Associated Press Newswires
February 10, 2006

Comapa, El Salvador (AP) * The sixth contingent of Salvadoran soldiers headed to Iraq for humanitarian work on Friday following a send-off by mariachi musicians.

Carrying Salvadoran flags and holding rifles to their chests, the 380 soldiers boarded two U.S. planes at the military base in Comapa, 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the capital.

They planned to stop in the United States, Ireland and Kuwait before traveling by land to the Iraqi city of Kut, 160 kilometers (100 miles) southeast of Baghdad.

During their six-month stint, the soldiers will build schools, medical clinics and drinking water wells, as well as provide free medical attention to Iraqis.

"It is an honor to form part of this mission," said Sgt. Raul Nerio before boarding the plane. "Morale is high."

The new group of engineers and special forces are replacing 380 soldiers who will return to El Salvador at the end of February.

Two Salvadoran soldiers have been killed in Iraq, one by Iraqi insurgents and one in an accident.

El Salvador is the only Latin American nation with troops still in Iraq. Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic withdrew their troops.

"Czech Troops in Afghanistan Also Face Restrictions over Unrest."

Ceska Tiskova Kancelar
Daily News
February 10, 2006

Prague, Feb 10 (CTK) * The German commander's decision to restrict the movement of his allied military unit in northeast Afghanistan outside their base also concerns the Czechs members of the unit, Iva Ruskovska from the Czech Defence Ministry's press department told CTK today.

The Czechs are part of a German-Czech-Danish unit.

The restriction that came in reaction to the unrest that broke out in Muslim countries due to the publication of cartoons with the Prophet Mohammad in European newspapers, is effective until its revocation.

"It is allowed to leave the base only in urgent cases necessary to secure the base's protection," Ruskovska said.

On Wednesday, Czech Defence Minister Karel Kuchel said that the protection of the Czech contingent in Afghanistan has been tightened.

About 60 Czech soldiers operate within the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

“Fitch Rates Monmouth County Improv Auth. NJ \$22.86MM Guaranteed Revs 'AAA'.”

Unattributed.
Business Wire
February 10, 2006

Fitch Ratings assigns an 'AAA' rating to the Monmouth County Improvement Authority, New Jersey's (MCIA) \$22,860,000 county guaranteed governmental loan refunding revenue bonds, series 2006. The bonds are scheduled to price via negotiation on or about Feb. 14 with Raymond James, Inc. as lead underwriter. The bonds will mature serially with semiannual interest and principal payments on Feb. 1 and Aug. 1, commencing Aug. 1, 2006. Bond proceeds, along with other available funds, will currently refund the MCIA's outstanding series 1986 bonds. At this time, Fitch affirms the 'AAA' ratings on MCIA's \$47.5 million outstanding county-guaranteed bonds and Monmouth County's (the county) approximately \$273 million outstanding GO bonds. The Rating Outlook is Stable.

The 'AAA' rating reflects the county's solid financial management resulting in continued strong operations and financial flexibility, stable growth in its wealthy tax base, and low direct debt levels with rapid amortization. The county continues to experience positive employment growth and unemployment levels are well below the state average. Fund balances continued to grow in 2005 due to the county's conservative budget practices, expenditure controls, and healthy flow of revenue driven by an expanding property tax base. The county's capital plan has grown but remains affordable, and although primarily bond-funded, debt levels should remain moderate given the county's conservative policies including rapid amortization rates.

The series 2006 bonds are being issued pursuant to the MCIA's 2006 governmental loan refunding revenue bond resolution. The primary security on the bonds is provided in the form of an unconditional, irrevocable guaranty of the county. Pursuant to the county guaranty agreement, the MCIA must notify the county if there is a debt service fund deficiency on the 15th day of the month preceding the month debt service is due. The county is then obligated to take all necessary actions to provide funds to make the debt service payment in full.

The county is located along the northern Atlantic shore of New Jersey, 50 miles outside New York City. The 2000 census revealed an 11.3% population increase over that of 1990, and the 2004 estimate of 636,298 exceeded state growth trends. While still concentrated in health care and retail, employment is diversifying with significant gains in the construction and finance sectors. The county's wealthy property tax base has expanded steadily and remains primarily residential at 80%. The equalized value (EV) of property grew a strong 12.3% on average from 2002-2006. Income levels remain strong and are further demonstrated in the county's high market value per capita of \$164,703 in 2005, up 19% since 2004. The county's unemployment rate of 3.8% in November 2005 remains below the state and national averages of 4.4% and 5.0%, respectively. Of recent note is the recommended closure of Fort Monmouth by the Federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Fitch believes the county's ability to withstand the base closure is strong as the economy is deeply diversified providing opportunities for the highly skilled displaced employees. The 5,500 civilians employed at the base represent a relatively small portion

of the county's overall labor force, which totaled 333,644 in 2005.

The county's financial position is strong. The 2005 unaudited unreserved fund balance was \$85.2 million, or 18.6% of expenditures. Overall, fund balances over the past five years have increased 6.8% on an average annual basis, supported by conservative budgeting and effective expenditure controls. The strong housing market has augmented revenues in the current fund, somewhat offsetting budget stress related to rising insurance and pension costs.

The county's direct debt burden is low at \$428 per capita and 0.26% of EV. Debt levels are more moderate, on an overall basis, with debt per capita at \$2,763 and 1.68% of EV. Pursuant to county resolution, debt is amortized very rapidly, providing ample capacity in future years for continued capital investment. Amortization rates are comfortably above the 70% policy with over 91% retired in 10 years. Series 2006 bond proceeds will provide funding for loans to 12 municipalities, four boards of education, and two sewerage authorities in Monmouth County.

Fitch's rating definitions and the terms of use of such ratings are available on the agency's public site, www.fitchratings.com. Published ratings, criteria and methodologies are available from this site, at all times. Fitch's code of conduct, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, affiliate firewall, compliance and other relevant policies and procedures are also available from the 'Code of Conduct' section of this site.

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"Cannon Could Become Home to Special Operations."

Associated Press Newswires
February 10, 2006

Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. (AP) * An Air Force special operations group based in Florida has been looking at southern New Mexico's Cannon Air Force Base, which slated to close in 2010 if a new mission can't be found for it.

The Special Operations Command has made two official visits to Cannon, one late last year and one last month, said Capt. Andre Kok, a spokesman at the base's public affairs office.

Special operations officials were assessing the suitability of Cannon's infrastructure for the command's use, he said.

An Air Force spokesman said no conclusions have been reached.

"Any decision about a mission there will be made by the secretary of the Air Force and the Department of Defense," said Master Sgt. Stewart Camp of the Huriburt Field public affairs office. Huriburt Field in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., is home to about 8,000 active duty special operations personnel, according to base officials.

A spokesman for the Air Force Special Operations Command, Matt Durham, said Huriburt has been an excellent place for special operations, and the command is not looking to relocate. However, he said it is interested in increasing its mission capabilities.

“We are exploring a whole spectrum of possibilities,” he said. “We are looking at a lot of different installations.”

The independent Base Realignment and Closure Commission voted in August to move Cannon’s three F-16 fighter squadrons elsewhere, reducing the base to an enclave. If a new mission can’t be found by Dec. 31, 2009, Cannon will close, costing as many as 4,700 jobs on and off the base.

Kok said “multiple people from multiple areas” of the military have looked at Cannon since the ERAC decision.

The Air Force has said it plans to cut 40,000 people over the next several years, but the Defense Department announced Monday that special operations forces are among the few areas that will expand in the coming years.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld foresees a growing role for forces that can operate in small units, sometimes clandestinely, to hunt down and kill terrorists and to work with friendly foreign forces.

“Air Base Home to Fighters Again.”

Phyllis Jacobs Girekspoor,
Wichita (Ks) Eagle
February 10, 2006

The Kansas Air National Guard at
McCannell Air Force Base Will Trade KC-
135 Tankers for F-38 Jet Fighters.

The Kansas Air National Guard at
McCannell Air Force Base will return to the
business of training jet fighter pilots,
according to an announcement Thursday

from the offices of U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts
and Rep. Todd Tiahrt.

The Air Guard wing known as the “Flying Jayhawks of the 184th” has been operating KC-135 tankers, an assignment slated to move to Topeka under the latest round of Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations.

The new mission will involve the transfer of at least one 30-plane squadron of T-38 jet fighter training aircraft from Moody Air Force Base in Georgia, Tiahrt spokesman Chuck Krepp said Thursday. He said a formal announcement is expected in two to three weeks.

It is uncertain how many jobs the change entails or what the support structure for the mission will be, as aircraft maintenance, will be.

The announcement took the local Guard unit somewhat by surprise.

“We knew that there had been some discussion going on, but we didn’t get advance notice on this,” said Hans Niewardt, executive officer of the 184th.

The Guard had geared up for an expanded intelligence and munitions handling mission and had begun planning for an air support operations squadron to work with troops from Fort Riley training at the Smoky Hill bomb range.

Niewardt said it is uncertain how the latest decision might affect these missions.

The Flying Jayhawks have a history of fighter training. The unit was assigned fighters from 7 am September 1946 when it became the 127th Fighter Squadron to July

1994 when it received the B-1B bomber mission.

In spite of that history, one of the first challenges of the new mission will be finding and training fighter pilot instructors, said wing vice-commander Randy "Sears" Roebuck.

Because the unit hasn't flown fighters for 12 years, its care of fighter pilots is long gone, he said. Many of the unit's current members do have experience as instructor pilots in the B-1B or the KC-135, however.

And reductions elsewhere have left fighter pilots looking for new slots, he said.

"The Kansas Air National Guard has a rich tradition in flying missions critical to our national security," Roberts said in a statement. "This decision by the Air Force illustrates what Todd and I already know * that the men and women of the Kansas Air National Guard are some of the best airmen in the force."

There are more than 2,250 airmen in the Kansas Air National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard, said the decision was part of routine Air Force program adjustments and not related to the base reductions and closing process.

"We're definitely going back to the training days with lots of airplanes flying around the state," Bunting said.

Roberts said the next focus will be trying to make sure that McConnell gets as many planes as possible.

The active duty 12th Air Refueling Wing at McConnell is expected to expand by 24

tankers to a total of 48, making it the largest tanker base in the United States.

Kansas was expected to gain more than 3,500 military and civilian jobs statewide as a result of the BRAC announcement, including several thousand soldiers at Fort Riley with the return of the headquarters of the 1st Infantry Division from Germany.

Contributing: Associated Press

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"LaHood Named to Subcommittee."

Copley News Service.

The State Journal-Register (Springfield, IL)
February 9, 2005

Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Peoria, was named Wednesday to the House defense appropriations subcommittee.

He replaces former Rep. Duke Cunningham, R-Calif., who pleaded guilty last fall to accepting bribes from defense contractors.

LaHood was named to the subcommittee by chairman Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., following recommendations by the Republican Steering Committee. The full House is expected to accept those recommendations.

LaHood will give up his seats on the homeland security subcommittee and the science-state-justice-commerce subcommittee. He will stay on the agriculture subcommittee.

"I plan to be an advocate for all our military men and women in Illinois," said LaHood, pledging to use the seat to advocate for Illinois military and National Guard bases.

While the 183rd Fighter Wing in Springfield had its fighter jets taken away during the recently concluded defense base closing rounds, LaHood said he hoped to find alternative missions and uses for the base.

“Officials Say Little about Jet Unit Cut.”

Chris Vaughn. 2006.

Fort Worth (TX) Star-Telegram

February 9, 2006

Top service officials chose to eliminate the only Navy F/A-18 unit from Naval Air Station Fort Worth next year to spread around the pain of a shrinking reserve force, according to a Navy spokesman.

Three days of phone calls to Navy officials in New Orleans, the Pentagon, and San Diego shed little light on the Navy's decision-making, except to indicate that equality was the primary reason that Strike Fighter Squadron 201 will be axed. The move will leave only one Navy squadron at the Navy base in west Fort Worth.

In a statement e-mailed late Wednesday afternoon, Craig Jack Hanzlik, spokesman for Navy Reserve air forces, said officials had previously selected a P-3 squadron based in New Orleans for decommissioning.

Because both the Fort Worth base and Naval Air Station New Orleans are slated in the coming years to gain a different squadron through a base closure, neither installation would suffer, he indicated.

“In each case, the disestablishment of one squadron will be offset by another squadron moving onto the base, and by moving only one squadron at each of these two ... locations, the impact to each was minimized,” he wrote.

The Navy's decision to eliminate a unit that flew hundreds of combat missions over Iraq was made public Monday in the defense budget request sent to Congress.

Unless Congress intercedes, the F/A-18 squadron, known militarily as VFA 201, will shut down sometime in the spring of 2007, emptying the hangar the squadron has occupied since moving to Fort Worth in 1997.

The squadron's 11 airplanes are bound for active-duty squadrons on the coasts, and its people will either be moved to other installations or offered the chance to leave the service early.

Texas Sens. Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn and Rep. Kay Granger, R-Fort Worth, have said they will contest the move, and the base's former commander, Paul Palmer, called it a “political move to satisfy Louisiana.”

Some experts have said that worsening budget pressures on the Navy and Marine reserves mean other units on base are likely to come under increasing scrutiny.

Established in 1970 and given F-8 Crusaders to fly, the squadron moved from Naval Air Station Dallas when that installation was eliminated during the 1993 round of base closures.

Of the 130 sailors and officers in VFA 201, about 100 are traditional reservists who work part time for the Navy. The rest are full-time sailors and officers.

“But folks are looking at changing” their reserve jobs, Hanzlik said. “What I think you'll see is a majority of folks are enthusiastic and dedicated and will probably

look for new positions with a reserve center closest and most convenient to them.”

The air side of the Navy Reserve continues to shrink, leaving just a handful of tactical squadrons, none of which will be based at NAS Fort Worth.

“There is no end to this picture,” said retired Navy Reserve Capt. Ike Puzon, director of legislation for the Naval Reserve Association in Alexandria, Va.

Unlike the Air Force or Army, the Navy has relied much less on its reserve component over the years, creating a culture of mistrust.

“It's purely a budget issue,” Puzon said. “It's not a capabilities issue. The Navy needs money to buy things it wants, and it looks for it first by making cuts in the reserves. It's always been that way.”

The Navy's aging F/A-18 fleet is not being replaced fast enough by next-generation fighters, and the aircraft are quickly reaching the end of their lives for sea deployments.

Each aircraft has a limit on the number of carrier takeoffs and landings, and the reserves' aircraft have far fewer and are therefore an attractive target, experts said.

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“Naval Base at Risk, Say Manchester Home Foes.”

Kirk Moore,

Asbury Park (NJ) Press

February 7, 2006

Manchester.” The Planning Board has approved master plan changes that would allow a 400-home project on Ridgeway Boulevard, despite objections from Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station supporters who warned that new development could force the base to close and lose its 3,000 jobs.

“If you vote yes tonight, I think you are taking the first step toward closing Navy Lakehurst,” said Leroy A. Farr, a former base commander who now heads the Navy production and testing division that builds aircraft carrier equipment.

The board Monday night deadlocked in a tie vote on a request for a four-week delay from Emil Kaunitz, chairman of the Friends of Navy Lakehurst group, who asked for the time to seek a compromise. Planning Board Attorney Edward F. Liston Jr. told Kaunitz he was too late, because Manchester officials are bound by a court settlement reached last November that ended 13 years of complicated legal struggle between the township and builders.

The settlement approved by Superior Court Assignment Judge Eugene D. Serpentelli in Toms River stipulates Manchester will rezone several parcels in the township's Ridgeway section east of the Navy base, including part of a longtime light-industrial use zone where builder Pulte Homes could put up about 400 restricted-age retirement homes.

Liston said Navy officials knew two years ago that Pulte could one day build more homes, in addition to 500 now under construction, but the federal Department of Defense refused to get involved in an effort by Manchester officials to buy the property for open space.

"It's over. It's done," Liston said of the court settlement. "Let's just finish it. If the Navy is that aggrieved ... they can go in and file a motion with Judge Serpentelli."

Opponents' Economic Case

After the vote, Kaunitz said base supporters must determine their next move. The Township Council still needs to adopt the a master plan change ordinance, said township planner Tora Thomas.

Kaunitz urged the planners to consider Lakehurst's economic value to Ocean County. With its engineering and industrial jobs, the Navy's \$60 million payroll averages out to \$67,500 per worker annually, while "50 percent of the salaries for jobs in Ocean County are \$22,500 or less," he said.

Meanwhile, the recent decision to close the Army's Fort Monmouth means the eventual loss of payroll for county residents now working there, Kaunitz said. "That's \$151 million, every year, that we won't see any more."

The Pulte project is the most immediate concern for base supporters. They helped Lakehurst escape the 2005 round of military base closings by persuading defense planners that the 7,400-acre facility is relatively free of encroachment * the military's term for crowding by civilian construction outside base fences.

Navy Lakehurst backers say they worry the development won't stop there. They look at the nearby Reade Manufacturing site, an aged metals processing plant, and see another remaining possibility down the road.

More residential development close to the base will be "fundamentally incompatible

with present and planned military activities," said Capt. Bret Gordon, the base commander.

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closing Commission called for a merger of missions between Lakehurst and neighboring Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base, and that means "the mission of this base is going to grow," Gordon said.

The Air Force plans to build a training airport at Lakehurst for new C-17 Globemaster III transport jets.

"I'm tired of Lake Park and these planes are already going over my house, and they're loud. But I've learned to accept it," said Barbara J. Hanley, whose husband William works at the base.

Virginia Example Cited

While Lakehurst has survived five rounds of base closings, encroaching development could one day change the Navy's mind, Gordon said. He pointed to Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia, where the BRAC commission gave Virginia Beach city leaders and state government an order to halt development and even condemn some civilian property or lose the base and its 12,000 jobs.

"I grew up in Virginia Beach and I saw it happen," Gordon said. "The government is threatening to leave that place because they can't deal with all the citizens coming in with their noise complaints, with their safety concerns."

Local and township officials tried to help the Navy get a buffer around Lakehurst, but never get any financial commitment.

“You can't expect citizens to sit on their property and pay taxes,” he said. “If the federal government thought it was important enough, they'd buy it for a buffer.”

Kirk Moore: (732) 557-5728

“Base Backers Fighting Rezoning.”

Kirk Moore.
Asbury Park (NJ) Press
February 6, 2006

Manchester * Civilian supporters of Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station say they will ask township officials to postpone a rezoning request that could clear the way for an additional 400 homes east of the base.

The group Friends of Navy Lakehurst this weekend said its members will ask for the postponement at tonight's Planning Board meeting, to gain time for an analysis of how the development could affect the base and its more than 3,000 jobs.

Group chairman Emil Kaunitz said base supporters are worried about the future implications of residential growth close to the 7,400-acre Navy facility, which manufactures and tests aircraft launch and recovery equipment and hosts a number of other military and federal missions.

One development across Route 547 from the base main gate has already been approved for 503 retirement homes, and builders recently cleared the site for construction. During the review for that project, Navy officials and friends of Navy Lakehurst warned the base could be at risk from encroachment, the military's term for civilian land uses growing close to its installations.

Local officials were especially concerned with the 2005 round of military base closings, a process that Lakehurst narrowly escaped during the 1990s. The relative lack of encroachment around three bases * Lakehurst, Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base * helped New Jersey officials convince defense planners to save all three as a “megabase,” protected from future development by nearby state forest land and strict Pinelands controls on development.

Manchester and the state Pinelands Commission are reviewing a complex set of zoning changes that they say will actually lower the future potential for home construction on the northeast side of the base, an area designated for growth under the Pinelands regional land-use plan.

But the proposal for residential development on the east side of Ridgeway Boulevard has base supporters worried again that future home buyers might have problems with noise, air traffic and other effects of living near the base. The Air Force increasingly uses Lakehurst as a training site for its C-17 heavy aircraft jets, and there are plans to base more military helicopters at the station.

Kaunitz said ongoing debate over the future of Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia is a cautionary tale for the Ocean County community to consider. New home development up to the airfield fence has prompted the Navy to think about transferring Oceana aircraft to other states.

“They're the biggest employer in Virginia Beach, with 12,000 jobs that are at risk,” he said.

In a statement, the Friends of Navy Lakehurst warned that local governments

need to think far ahead in their planning decisions.

"The military has recognized over time that the inconveniencing of the community will cause residents to request the military to leave, at significant taxpayer expense," the group wrote. "Therefore, current military thinking is to curtail mission growth and investment in bases as soon as encroachment is recognized. ... Unfortunately, encroachment often occurs in communities unaware of the resulting economic impact until it is too late."

Kirk Moore, (752) 557-5728

"N.O. Military Jobs Get an Early Exit."

Paul Purpura,

Times-Picayune (New Orleans, LA)

February 11, 2006

Storm Speeds Move of Reassigned Staff

About 600 full-time Navy and Marine Corps jobs slated to be moved outside the New Orleans area after last year's congressionally approved downsizing are not returning to Louisiana from their Hurricane Katrina evacuation sites, officials said.

Almost half of the jobs, based at the Naval Support Activity, were held by civilians, and the operations had a combined annual payroll of about \$23 million, according to the 2004 Shareholder's Report of the region's military operations. The workers evacuated the base's Bywater and Algiers sites days before the Aug. 29 storm.

The Navy's Enlisted Placement Management Center, the Naval Reserve Recruiting Command and the Naval Reserve Personnel Center remain in Millington, Tenn., their

ultimate destination after last year's base realignment and closure process, or BRAC. The 8th Marine Corps District headquarters has been re-established in Fort Worth, Texas.

Military officials said Katrina sped up the decisions resulting from BRAC.

"There is some logic that it was better for the Navy and better for the economy" of the Defense Department, said retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen.

David Mize, chairman of the Mayor's Military Advisory Committee of Greater New Orleans.

"There was at least a plausible argument, and the Navy made it well" for not returning, he said.

Still, members of Louisiana's congressional delegation "made a maximum effort to get everybody back that they could," including the Naval Reserve Forces Command headquarters, Mize said.

U.S. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., said he met with Adm. Mike Mullen, chief of naval operations, and other Navy officials about the moves.

Only Naval Reserve Forces Command, scheduled to go to Norfolk, Va., has returned to New Orleans. "The majority is coming back," Vitter said of 460 personnel assigned to that command.

Not Coming Back

Of the outfits that aren't returning, the 8th Marine Corps District headquarters, the operational center of a recruiting region, had the biggest roost in New Orleans, having moved to the Customs House in 1951.

The headquarters moved to Naval Support Activity in Algiers in 1972.

But in October 2001, the Marine Corps redrew district lines, and New Orleans became part of the 6th Marine Corps District. Yet the 8th District headquarters remained in Algiers.

"After that, a lot of dollars were spent traveling to our area of operations," said Capt. John Niemann, a spokesman for the 8th District.

The 8th District employs about 70 Marines and civilians, although 10 civilians have decided not to relocate to the Dallas area, Niemann said.

"We're sad to leave under the circumstance," Niemann said of post-Katrina New Orleans.

The Naval Reserve Recruiting Command in July completed its consolidation with its active duty counterpart in Millington, which has served as the center of Navy human resource operations since the 1990s, said Steve Hendrickson, a spokesman for the Navy Recruiting Command.

He said the Reserve Recruiting Command had 44 personnel, including nine civilians. Some workers were still in New Orleans and would have left in the spring anyway.

"Here comes the hurricane, boom, it sped it up a little bit," he said.

The Enlisted Placement Management Center and the Naval Reserve Personnel Center were the largest in terms of personnel, having more than 500 workers, the Shareholder's Report said.

Federal city 'on track'

Katrina has also gotten the blame for the earlier-than-expected end of the Air Force Reserve's 9th Fighter Wing at the Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Belle Chasse.

The wing, with more than 1,000 personnel, including 312 full-time employees, is to be decommissioned. That process was moved up a year, and the wing's A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft are expected to leave the area next month, officials said.

The departures come as New Orleans and state officials continue to work on the federal city plan for Naval Support Activity in Algiers. Later this month, Mize said, officials will meet with the Department of the Navy to discuss leasing options associated with federal city.

"Federal city is absolutely on track," Vitter said.

Last year, the Defense Department recommended that Naval Support Activity be closed. However, the week before Katrina came ashore, a federal panel rejected the closure recommendation and approved the federal city plan.

The project calls for state and city officials to solicit a developer who will build the campus in Algiers and lease space back to military commands. The state has pledged financial support, although that pledge looks more shaky after Katrina strained the state's economy.

Mize said that while the state's funding piece is still being developed, Katrina recovery programs could be tapped to help provide financing.

Construction must begin by September 2008.

"The news is actually getting better in terms of what the state would have to come up with," Mize said.

Paul Purpura can be reached at ppurpura@timespicayune.com or (504) 826-3791.

"Texas City Eyeing Jets from Oceana."

Jon W. Glass,
The Virginian-Pilot
February 11, 2006

Officials in Kingsville, Texas, are making a public bid to snare some of Oceana Naval Air Station's fighter jets.

At a time when Oceana's future is uncertain, Kingsville wants to get a squadron whose role is training pilots to fly F/A-18 Hornets and Super Hornets.

Known as Oceana's fleet replacement squadron, the unit has about 55 of the base's estimated 258 fighter and attack jets.

Kingsville, a city of 25,000 in south Texas near the Gulf Coast, is home to a naval air station that trains Navy and Marine pilots.

The city's quest for more jets got a boost last year from the federal Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

The BRAC panel demanded that Virginia Beach halt and roll back development in high-risk areas around Oceana. It also urged the Navy to begin immediately to address noise and safety issues by moving high-density training operations to other bases. The final BRAC report cited Kingsville and Whitehouse Outlying Landing Field, near Jacksonville, Fla., as two possibilities. Whitehouse was once used by pilots at the

Navy's former Cecil Field to simulate aircraft carrier landings.

The Navy is not required to move training operations under the BRAC finding, but the report bolstered Kingsville's case, said Dick Messbarger, executive director of the Greater Kingsville Economic Development Council.

A delegation from Kingsville met late last month in Washington with BRAC's chief of staff to discuss the commission's findings.

"It's pretty apparent that there is concern about high-intensity air traffic in and around Virginia Beach," Messbarger said. "Shame on us if we don't do our due diligence in this kind of environment."

An air odyssey now surrounds the fate of Oceana.

In August, the BRAC panel voted to move Oceana's jets to the former Cecil Field in Florida if Virginia Beach and Virginia failed to comply with its demands by March 31.

Two months later, however, Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton dropped his city's bid for Oceana's jets.

In December, the Virginia Beach City Council adopted a plan to protect Oceana. It did not, however, include one of BRAC's key demands: a program to condemn and buy homes and businesses in the high-risk Accident Potential Zone 1 around the base.

Beach officials say their plan, which bans all new homes and most new businesses in APZ-1, meets the BRAC demands. But in a recent letter, the Pentagon warned that the city's plan may not go far enough.

No one is sure what will happen if the Defense Department's inspector general rules that Virginia Beach did not comply with BRAC's demands. The inspector general has until June 1 to decide.

Charles Battaglia, executive director of the BRAC staff, said it's possible Florida will resurrect the Cecil Field option if Virginia Beach's plan does not pass muster.

"My sense is that they're going to wait until it's determined whether Virginia Beach is found to be in compliance," Battaglia said. "The governor did make a strong push there."

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has expressed disappointment over the Jacksonville mayors decision. He has not publicly ruled out the possibility of bringing Oceana's jets to Florida. The state has until Dec. 31 to meet BRAC's conditions for moving the jets to Cecil Field.

"At this point," said Lt. Cmdr. Kathy Sandoz, a Navy spokeswoman, "Florida's offer for Oceana's jets is not considered off the table."

As for Kingsville's bid, she said, splitting Oceana's fleet replacement squadron from the other units would not be ideal.

"If neither Virginia Beach nor Florida complies with BRAC's demand," Sandoz said, "the jets are expected to stay at Oceana." The Navy's assessment that Oceana remains the most suitable option for the East Coast master jet base has not changed, she said.

Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera E. Oberndorf said she was not surprised that Texas and perhaps other states might be vying for jets from Oceana.

Last year, several states including Texas, Florida, and North Carolina competed for the base's jets. U.S. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., compared the jockeying to a public auction.

Oberndorf said the City Council will stick by its pledge not to condemn homes and businesses, and she noted that the federal government has the power of condemnation. If they feel it's that critical, perhaps they should exercise that option.

Reach Jon W. Glass at (757) 222-5119 or jon.glass@aol.com.

* * * * *

"Delegate Says Politics Killed Ft. Monroe Bill."

John W.R. Bull,

Daily Press (Newport News, VA)

February 11, 2006

Hampton Democrat Jeion Ward wants to transfer the deed to the fort to the city.

Del. Jeion Ward is furious that one of her bills died at the hands of only three other lawmakers.

The Hampton Democrat blames new rule changes and petty politics.

"I'm angry," she said. "Three people can kill a bill without anyone else having a say. This isn't right."

Her bill would have deeded the state's portion of Fort Monroe to Hampton, so the city could take the lead in redeveloping the base when it closes in a few years. There's no rush, but it would help Hampton know for sure that it will handle base developing efforts.

But Ward's bill ran into a buzz saw in a House subcommittee. Some Republicans said they were confused by the bill's provisions, and three voted to kill the measure, violating a tradition that local lawmakers are deferred to on matters involving their legislative districts. In subcommittees, the names of voters are not recorded.

Ward said Del. Tom Gear, R-Hampton, sat in the front row of the audience as the bill was debated and said nothing to support its passage. For the past few years, subcommittees could only make recommendations on bills and send them to full committees for a vote. New rules adopted for this session now permit subcommittees to kill measures directly.

Lawmakers were assured that, under the new rules, any bill that dies in subcommittee could be brought up to the full committee at the request of the bill's patron, in the hopes that the full committee would reverse the decision.

Ward said she attempted to do just that Friday, but was rebuffed by the committee chairman, Del. Riley Ingram, R-Hopewell.

She said he refused to allow the bill to be brought up for discussion or a vote by the full committee. Ward said it was petty politics that killed her bill, and she suspects that Gear orchestrated the effort because he doesn't want Hampton to make base-redevelopment decisions.

Gear denied having anything to do with the bill's demise. "A lot of people had concerns about it," he said. While her bill now is dead in the House, a major bill has cleared the Senate and will go to Ingram's committee.

Ward said she intends to fight there for its passage and full House approval. If she wins, the state's portion of Fort Monroe will be devoted to Hampton. If not, Ward said she'll try again next year. *

Kaine Transportation Forum Set for Monday

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine holds the first of five town hall meetings on his transportation proposal Thursday evening in Norfolk. This is the first of four forums scheduled.

The meeting, which is open to the public, is at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Nauticus theater. The governor will discuss his proposal, which calls for raising money for transportation projects through a higher sales tax on vehicles and insurance policies as well as higher registration fees.

* continued *

"BRAC Opens IT Opportunities for Army."

Rosanne Gerni,
Newsbytes News Network
(February 9, 2006)

The Army's chief information officer has launched four initiatives to change the structure of the service's IT environment and help accelerate some moves under the Base Realignment and Closure program.

The Army wants to consolidate IT services, develop a single directorate of information management concept, move to a thin-client architecture and adopt wireless technologies, said Gary Winkler, principal director for government acquisition and the chief knowledge officer of the Army CIO.

Speaking Jan. 19 at a Washington conference sponsored by the Information Technology Association of America, Winkler discussed the numerous base

closings around the country and talked with industry and government executives about how the closings will affect IT.

"Our objective with BRAC is to take advantage of the moves to recapitalize on IT and synchronize it with the rest of the services in the Defense Department," he said.

Lt. Gen. Steven Boutelle, the Army's CIO, has discussed the initiatives with the Secretary of the Army, Winkler said. The objective is to "provide equal or better IT services at the lowest cost," he said.

For the first initiative, the Army is reducing the 200 exit and entry points to its network to six continental U. S. exit and entry points. It also wants to trim e-mail servers from between 3,000 and 10,000 to 800.

Second, the Army will implement a single directorate of information management initiative at each installation, by consolidating desktop support services under one organization and putting one person in charge of IT operations, Winkler said.

Third, the Army will implement a thin-client architecture in which computers in a network will depend on a central server instead of an internal hard drive for processing. The bulk of the data processing occurs on the server.

The Army budget office is "not going to let people spend operations mission money or IT money on buying more computers," Winkler said. "It's becoming commoditized."

For the wireless initiative, the Army first will have to ensure that the necessary security is in place, Winkler said.

Also, users must have the necessary bandwidth to perform major Army operations in a wireless environment, Winkler said.

"We've got to have uninterrupted service during the BRAC moves, and we've got to support the network: storage, applications processing, e-mail accounts," Winkler said. "We must have the same or better services than we have today."

Staff writer Roscann Gerin can be reached at rgerin@the-newswave.com.

Reported by Washington Technology, <http://www.washingtontechnology.com>

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"Rents Rise With Falling Vacancies."

Dana Hedgpeth,

The Washington Post

February 17, 2006

Just in case you miss Office Demand

Office vacancy rates fell and rents rose in the Washington area last year, as law firms gobble up space in the District's downtown, government contractors added jobs in Northern Virginia and federal agencies signed some of the largest deals for space in Maryland.

For the region, the vacancy rate was 9.1 percent at the end of last year, down from 10.4 percent at the end of 2004, according to CoStar Group Inc., a Bethesda research firm. The average asking price for office rentals rose to \$30.49 per square foot from \$29.60.

The area benefited from continued strong job growth, as total space leased grew by 2.4 million square feet last year, double the increase in 2004. The region remains one of the strongest in the country. For example,

vacancy rates for the year ended at 13.8 percent in Atlanta and 16.1 percent in Chicago.

In the District, the vacancy rate was at 7.6 percent at the end of last year compared with 8.1 percent in 2004. Asking rental rates edged up to \$40.89 per square foot from \$40.05.

“We’ve seen just a slow steady edging up of rental rates and a slow edging down of vacancy rates.” Gregg Offen, an assistant research manager at CoStar, said of the District’s real estate market. “There’s nothing jumping off the page making you scratch your chin.”

Among the biggest leases signed last year in the city: Chemonics International, a development consulting firm, took 250,000 square feet at 1717 H St. NW; and LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae LLP agreed to take roughly 115,000 square feet at 1101 New York Ave. NW, which is under construction and expected to be completed in 2007. The Department of Homeland Security leased more than 700,000 square feet of space last year in the District alone.

In Southwest and Southeast Washington, the vacancy rate jumped to 9.6 percent from 5.2 percent a year earlier, according to commercial services firm Cassidy & Pinkard. About 750,000 square feet of new space, about the size of 13 football fields, sat empty.

Some developers and brokers said they are worried that there is close to 7.1 million square feet of space – only half of it pre-leased – under construction in the District, mainly in Southwest, Southeast and the East End. The space is coming on the market at a time when some tenants are looking to the

Maryland and Virginia suburbs for cheaper rents.

There is also concern among developers and brokers that the recent move by the federal government’s real estate arm – the General Services Administration – to postpone action on roughly 1 million square feet of space it was planning to lease could leave other buildings that were counting on a federal tenant empty-handed.

“GSA is the primary driver in the market, and obviously its slowdown in demand is something you’re going to feel in the market,” said Sigrid Zialcita, research director at real estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield Inc.

The price of buildings in the District continues to be among the highest per square foot in the country. Overseas investors, pension funds and real estate investment trusts flush with cash to spend are buying D.C. property.

The average price for an office building in the District was \$428 per square foot last year – a 30 percent increase from 2004, according to Cushman & Wakefield. The average price for office space in New York and San Francisco – two of the most expensive real estate markets in the country – was \$400 and \$314 per square foot, respectively.

But brokers said sales activity is slowing slightly throughout the Washington area.

“Sales cycles are getting a little bit longer,” said John M. Germano, senior managing director for the Washington region at CB Richard Ellis Group Inc., a real estate services firm. “It’s not dramatically longer, but you’re starting to see it stretch out from two weeks to a month. You may have had

15 really qualified offers – for example. Now you have eight.”

In Maryland, the vacancy rate dropped to 9.7 percent for the year from 10.9 percent in 2004, according to CoStar. Asking rental rates were up to \$24.09 from \$23.44.

Maryland benefited as tenants relocated from higher-priced space in the District. World Space Inc., a provider of international satellite radio, for example, moved from Georgetown to Silver Spring.

Last year, there was little new construction in Maryland, and 60 percent of the construction that is now underway has already been pre-leased, according to Cushman & Wakefield – a sign, brokers and developers say, that market supply and demand are in balance.

Some developers say there could be an increase in construction on speculation – without tenants lined up – because the Pentagon’s plan for military base closures and reassignments is expected to channel 11,000 military and civilian workers, plus their contractors, into Maryland.

The downside in Maryland remains the bioscience industry, which has not “fueled the growth like we had hoped,” Germano said.

In Northern Virginia, the vacancy rate fell to 10.1 percent at the end of the year from 12.2 percent in 2004. Rental rates were up to \$28.18 per square foot from \$26.55 a year earlier. One of the strongest submarkets in Northern Virginia was the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor, where the vacancy rate was 6.1 percent last year, down from 9.1 percent at the end of 2004, according to CoStar. Much of the space was leased to the federal government and its contractors, associations

and service-related firms that employ lawyers and accountants.

Tysons Corner has one of the highest prices among Northern Virginia submarkets at \$28.52 a square foot, a 15 percent increase from 2004.

Typical office tenants at Tysons Corner include mid-to-small size accounting firms that are leasing more space as they take over more work that was once done by the Big Four accounting firms. The vacancy rate in Tysons Corner dropped to 11 percent at the end of this year, compared with 18.4 percent in 2004.

There is an uptick of new construction in Northern Virginia. Last year, almost 2 million square feet of new space was built on speculation, and 60 percent of it was leased by the time it was finished, Cushman & Wakefield said. Almost 4 million square feet of new space was underway at the end of last year, with roughly 80 percent of it under way without tenants signed up.

Much of the space that’s being completed is in Reston and Herndon. Another hot spot for new construction is Chantilly, where six buildings, totaling more than 700,000 square feet and offering high-security requirements, are being built without tenants pre-signed.

In Crystal City, developer Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty – a division of Vornado Realty Trust – has filled more than half of the nearly 2 million square feet of space that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office vacated after building a new headquarters in Arlington.

But in the next six to 10 years, Crystal City and neighboring Pentagon City will have to fill an estimated 5 million square feet of space – 30 percent of its office space – as

the military closes bases and pulls out of leased office space there, according to Zialcita. Brokers said they expect the space to be filled by associations and nonprofit organizations looking for cheaper alternatives to office space in the District.

“Business Agenda.”

The Wilkes-Barre (PA)

Times Leader

February 12, 2006

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE will meet on Feb. 22, at 3 p.m. at the Victoria Inns, Rt. 315, Pittston. Several items will be discussed in the aftermath of the BRAC 2005 process, including ongoing initiatives, future BRAC processes, and the future of the BRTF. Contact Donna Romiski at 655-5581 ext. 228 or e-mail to: dromiski@nepa-alliance.org regarding attendance.

“Texas City Wants to Net a Few Oceana Hornets.”

Daily Press (Newport News, VA)

February 12, 2006

Kingsville, home to a naval air station, thinks that it could benefit from Virginia Beach's BRAC woes.

Officials in Kingsville, Texas, are making a public bid to snare some of Oceana Naval Air Station's fighter jets.

Oceana's future is uncertain, so Kingsville wants to get a squadron whose role is training pilots to fly F/A-18 Hornets and Super Hornets.

Known as Oceana's fleet replacement squadron, the unit has about 55 of the base's estimated 258 fighter and attack jets.

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The city's quest for more jets got a boost last year from the federal Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

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The navy is not required to move training operations under the BRAC finding. But the report bolstered Kingsville's case, said Dick Messbarger, executive director of the Greater Kingsville Economic Development Council.

A delegation from Kingsville met late last month in Washington with BRAC's chief of staff to discuss the commission's findings.

“It's pretty apparent that there is concern about high-intensity air traffic in and around Virginia Beach,” Messbarger said. “Shame on us if we don't do our due diligence in this kind of environment.”

In De Soto, the Virginia Beach City Council already has a plan to protect Oceana.

It did not, however, include one of BRAC's primary demands: a program to condemn and relocate homes and businesses in the high-

risk Accident Potential Zone 1 around the base.

Beach officials say their plan, which bans all new homes and most new businesses in APZ-1, meets the BRAC demands. But in a recent letter, the Pentagon warned that the city's plan might not go far enough.

No one is sure what will happen if the Defense Department's inspector general rules that Virginia Beach did not comply with BRAC's demands.

The inspector general has until June 1 to decide.

“Subs to Undergo \$175M Modernization.”
Peter Dujardin
Daily Press (Newport News, VA)
February 12, 2006

Work on the USS Toledo is Northrop Grumman's largest sub maintenance contract in years. Will that kind of work keep coming?

The contract Northrop Grumman Newport News won last week for work on the USS Toledo is the largest submarine maintenance job the shipyard has received in at least 20 years.

The \$175 million modernization contract, which will employ up to 900 workers at the busiest point of the boat's 13-month yard visit, is far bigger than the three other sub repair deals the shipyard has gotten since it embarked on a major effort to get back into the business three years ago.

Comes the key question: Will the Toledo work represent the last big hurrah for the yard's recent sub maintenance surge, or is it a hint of many such jobs to come?

The Newport News shipyard hopes it's the latter, vowing to perform well on the contract and to help convince the Navy to keep sending such work to the Peninsula.

“We truly believe that having the right skills and the right facility available will be beneficial to the Navy, as well as to the community over the long haul,” said Irwin F. Edgerton, the shipyard's vice president of technology development and fleet support.

But there's one catch.

Admiral Mike Mullen, the chief of Naval operations, said last year that after 2008, all submarine maintenance work is set to be performed at Navy-owned shipyards, such as Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, not private yards such as Newport News and General Dynamics Electric Boat.

That decision came soon after the Base Realignment and Closure commission decided to keep a Navy yard in Maine open against the Navy's wishes. With declining sub repair work expected, the Navy yards can't handle the work, Mullen said.

“In public shipyards will once again have the capacity to perform all scheduled maintenance,” he said in a letter to New England's congressional delegation last fall.

But Edgerton pointed out that what seems clear today could shift tomorrow, and he was prepared to concede that Newport News will have to leave the sub repair business in 2008 or soon after.

“I would tell you that the Navy is going to have a lot of work to do over the next number of years, and things change,” he said. “I still think there is a very good opportunity for Newport News to support the Navy's maintenance activities.”

Changes on the world scene, for example, could lead to changes in submarine deployment schedules that could alter ship-repair schedules and necessitate the yard's involvement, Edenzon said.

The Toledo, a Los Angeles-class boat that was built in Newport News and began service 11 years ago, will arrive at the shipyard in September.

The job will last 13 months, including 10 months out of the water in a dry-dock. In addition to normal maintenance work, the Toledo job also includes a heavy modernization component, Edenzon said.

“We’ll be working closely with the Navy to incorporate their lessons learned and best practices as we plan and execute this work,” he said.

Northrop Grumman Newport News won the Toledo contract over General Dynamics Electric Boat, a Groton, Conn., company that’s now in the middle of a wide-scale downsizing that’s blamed at least in part on declining submarine repair work.

The Toledo work is the fourth submarine maintenance job Newport News has received since 2003. The yard has performed two repair jobs on the USS Minneapolis-St. Paul and one on the USS Hyman G. Rickover.

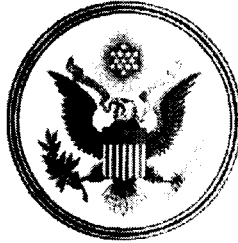
Those roughly six-month contracts have employed about 200 people. The yard is also getting ready to perform similar maintenance work on the USS Oklahoma City.

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Super Hornets begin flying over proposed OLF location

February 14, 2006

Sue Book

SUN JOURNAL STAFF

Washington-Beaufort County site is studied to find impact on birds

PLYMOUTH — The Navy began Super Hornet flights Monday at the proposed Washington-Beaufort County Outlying Landing Field site to measure the planes' impact on birds.

The flights, scheduled to continue through Wednesday, are designed to collect data on aircraft noise. They also will record the response of birds from a nearby wildlife refuge to the flight and noise from the planes, according to the Navy U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Va.

Two squadrons of Navy Super Hornets are slated for assignment to Cherry Point in 2007 and 2008. A northeastern section of Craven County is one of five sites under consideration as an OLF for the planes.

Data gathered during the flights will be analyzed and combined with other data, including work already done in Craven, for a supplemental environmental impact statement expected to be completed in August.

Environmental and local government groups are fighting the more-than-30,000-acre OLF in Washington and Beaufort counties near the Pocosin National Wildlife Refuge and in the historically rural area.

They effectively lost their court battle when the federal appellate court in Richmond removed all restrictions on the Navy building the OLF there. However, the ruling required the Navy to conduct more environmental studies, including a Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard report.

The Navy maintains it needs the isolated area without the lights of more populated areas to simulate night aircraft carrier landings. The site also was selected because of its proximity to bases in Virginia Beach, Va., Cherry Point and Beaufort, S.C.

The future of Oceana in Virginia Beach remains clouded after last year's Base Realignment and Closure Commission required steps be taken to reduce encroachment near the base. That has sparked efforts from communities to obtain military assets from the base.

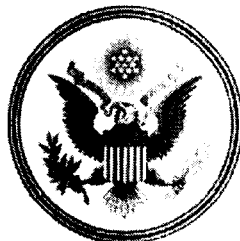
Sue Book can be reached at 635-5666 or sbook@freedomenc.com

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**“There’s No Defense for This
Quadrennial Review.”**

Lawrence Korb.

Newsday (Nassau, NY)

February 14, 2006

Lawrence Korb served as assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration and is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress.

The Pentagon has released its Quadrennial Defense Review, as required every four years by Congress, and to say that it’s a disappointment would be an understatement.

This is the first review since Sept. 11, 2001, and the first since the release of the Bush administration’s National Security strategy, yet it does nothing to face the real problems confronting the armed forces.

Four years after 9/11 and five years into the Bush administration, our overstretched ground forces are reaching the breaking point. The Pentagon’s weapons systems are not tailored to existing threats, the armed forces have more weapons on the drawing board than they can afford, our nuclear posture is outdated, and the administration has yet to define an appropriate role for the military in homeland defense.

But rather than increasing the size of the Army to relieve the strain on the soldiers, the administration proposes reducing the active Army by 20,000, returning it to pre-9/11 force levels. Since what the Bush administration calls the long war on terrorism is being waged primarily by the ground forces, this is a step in the wrong direction. It only increases the chances that the all-volunteer Army will break.

The Pentagon's review does not recommend canceling a single major weapons program, even though some programs, such as the \$300-million F/A-22 stealth aircraft, deal with threats from a bygone era and others, such as the \$100-million V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor helicopter, have severe technical problems. Others, such as the Navy's \$7-billion DD(X) destroyer, are experiencing tremendous cost growth. Nor does the review recommend halting deployment of the national missile defense system, although it has not been successfully tested in three years.

If the Pentagon gets all the money it requests – an unlikely prospect given the burgeoning federal deficit and the escalating costs of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – it simply cannot afford all the weapons systems on the drawing board. This is true even if there is no further cost growth in the weapons systems, which is unlikely given that in the past four years the top five weapons systems under development have increased in cost by 85 percent.

The review calls for making only token reductions in the 7,000 strategic and tactical nuclear weapons in the American arsenal, including several hundred in Europe. This leaves far more weapons than the United States needs for deterrence or war fighting and at nearly \$20 billion to maintain, this is not money well spent.

Finally, the Pentagon review provides only small increases in funding for homeland defense, with no increase in the size of the Army National Guard, the service that has the primary responsibility for providing that defense. This is an unforgivable oversight.

A meaningful and realistic Quadrennial Defense Review would have added 86,000 troops to the Army and doubled spending on homeland defense from \$10 billion to \$20 billion. It would have paid for these additions by canceling production of outdated and poorly performing weapons programs, slashing nuclear weapons to 1,000, keeping national missile defense in a research mode and stopping the weaponization of space.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Bush administration have squandered the opportunity to fix the Pentagon's problems. If Congress does not set things straight, these problems will only get worse and our security will be jeopardized. We cannot afford to wait until the next Quadrennial Defense Review in 2010.

‘A Residents’ Group Plans a Wednesday Night Meeting.’

The Associated Press.

Associated Press Newswires

February 14, 2006

Horsham, Pa. (AP) – A residents’ group plans a Wednesday night meeting to try to build opposition to civilian or commercial use of the runway at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base.

John Miller, leader of the nonprofit, nonpartisan group Residents Against a

Civilian Airport, which has about 20 core members, said he expects a few hundred people to attend. "Residents in surrounding communities must let it be known: We will never accept an airport in our community!" said fliers announcing the meeting.

Under final Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations, Navy and Marine personnel are scheduled to leave by September 2011 and the fate of Air Force personnel is unclear.

Gov. Ed Rendell has proposed that more Army National Guard units and federal Homeland Security agencies be brought in and general aviation or corporate planes use the facility if necessary to keep it operating.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission suggested a corporate jetport, though its aviation expert has said it's unlikely scheduled air carrier service or commercial freight operations would be licensed.

"Clients' Rewards Keep K Street Lobbyists Thriving."

Jeffrey H. Bambaum.

The Washington Post
February 14, 2006

A few years ago, a coalition of 60 corporations – including Pfizer, Hewlett-Packard and Alina – made an expensive wager. They spent \$1.6 million in lobbying fees – a hefty amount even by recent K Street standards – to persuade Congress to create a special low tax rate that they could apply to earnings from their foreign operations for one year.

The effort faltered at first, but eventually the bet paid off big. In late 2004, President Bush signed into law a bill that reduced the rate to 5 percent, 30 percentage points below the existing levy. More than \$300 billion in foreign earnings has since poured into the United States, saving the companies roughly \$100 billion in taxes.

Although not every political battle yields \$100 billion, the return on investment in lobbying is often so substantial that experts and insiders agree that Washington's influence industry will continue to thrive no matter how lawmakers decide to rein it in.

Congress is crafting restrictions on lobbyists this year after the Jack Abramoff political corruption scandal. The initial revisions from both Republicans and Democrats would reduce the amount of travel and dining that lobbyists could cover for lawmakers and require more disclosure of their activities. Other proposals would decrease the number of narrowly targeted appropriations, called earmarks.

But the new House majority leader, John A. Boehner (R-Ohio), has said he preferred more disclosure without the travel and meal restrictions. And the legislation under discussion would not eliminate earmarks entirely.

No one on Capitol Hill is suggesting a ban on lobbying, a change that would run counter to the First Amendment to the Constitution.

As a result, "lobbying will continue to grow," said Stephen J. Wayne, a political scientist at Georgetown University. The

principal reason, said James A. Thurber, a lobbying expert at American University, is that "the investment in lobbying is minimal compared to the outcomes."

The Carmen Group Inc., a mid-size lobbying firm, is so proud of its performance that it annually publicizes its clients' costs and compares them with the benefits they receive. In 2004, the latest year available, Carmen said, it collected \$11 million in fees and delivered \$1.2 billion in assistance to its clients – a ratio of less than 1 to 100. The payoff is large but fairly typical of modern-day lobbying, said David Carmen, the firm's president.

Take Carmen Group's experience with the General Contractors Association of New York. The association paid Carmen \$500,000 to persuade the federal government to cover its members' insurance premiums for cleanup work at Ground Zero after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. After three years of lobbying, the government agreed to pay \$1 billion.

Congressional critics complain that average voters are left out when private lobbyists rush in. And some lobbying campaigns fail. The most recent and high-profile example was the oil companies' attempt to open part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas drilling.

But from a business perspective, the rewards that come from lobbying are significant.

Such outside returns are made possible by the immensity of the federal government – with its nearly \$2.8 trillion annual budget – and the willingness of Congress and the Bush administration to dispense that money widely. The ability of lobbyists to operate effectively in such a climate has made their work "a relative bargain," said Joel

Jankowski, the longtime head of the government relations practice at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Field LLP.

Kansas paid Akin Gump \$240,000 to prevent the Defense Department from closing the state's four military bases. The law firm's efforts helped persuade the base-closing commission to spare the facilities last year. As a result, about \$190 million in new investment will go to Kansas. Further, bases that were already spinning off \$1.7 billion in income to its residents are still open, according to the state's figures.

Akin Gump scored a similar coup for Hanson Building Materials America Inc. Over 18 months starting in 2004, the producer of crushed stone, sand and gravel paid the law firm \$450,000 to keep federal highway money flowing. Passage of the highway bill in 2005, which Akin Gump pushed, means the company will receive hundreds of millions of dollars in sales and tens of millions in profit over the next six years, an industry executive familiar with Hanson's situation said.

Lobbying helped keep Northwest Airlines Corp. out of bankruptcy court in 2004. The Pension Funding Equity Act that year allowed Northwest to delay paying an estimated tens of millions of dollars into its pension fund – enough to allow the airline to put off filing for bankruptcy protection, according to Andrea Fischer Newman, a Northwest executive. Northwest's total spending on federal lobbying in 2003 and 2004 was \$4.8 million, and only part of that went to influence the pension proposal.

The costs and benefits of lobbying can sometimes be difficult to quantify. A coalition of technology firms recently spent \$500,000 to persuade Congress to set a

deadline for the transition to digital television and the accompanying auction of airwave spectrum rights. At the same time, several individual companies spent untold thousands on their own. It is also unknowable what the value of the legislation will be to the wireless communications providers and to makers of wireless devices that will benefit most from the auction.

Yet the companies are anticipating that the payback will be huge compared with the lobbying expenses. New product sales generated by the new law "will be well into the billions of dollars," said Ralph Hellmann, senior vice president of the Information Technology Industry Council.

Sometimes lobbying doesn't succeed at all, of course. "Sure, lobbying can mean millions of dollars, but only if you win, and not everybody wins," said R. Bruce Josten, executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "For every lobbyist on one side, there's a counterforce on the other."

Watchdog groups also worry that the broad public loses out to the corporations, labor unions and interest groups that can afford lobbying fees. "Lobbying is cost-effective only for those who can pay for lobbyists," said Melanie Sloan, executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington. "Those with an opposing view won't be heard as well as those with lots of money."

Nonetheless, well-heeled interests continue to risk significant amounts of money on Washington's influence industry in anticipation of large returns. The current debate on asbestos legislation is an example. After years of dispute, companies seeking

legislation that would end asbestos lawsuits by creating a trust fund have spent \$130 million on lobbying, according to Democratic calculations. Opponents have spent a like sum and a final resolution hasn't yet occurred.

But neither side shows any sign of relenting. "This is a critical issue, so if that means continuing to hire lobbyists and consultants on Capitol Hill, so be it," said Timothy J. Keating, senior vice president of Honeywell International Inc., a leader among the asbestos bill's many advocates.

Congress is considering several plans to crack down on lobbying. But the growth of lobbying was not slowed by the most recent changes in the law, a decade ago, which increased disclosure and limited what lobbyists could buy for lawmakers.

Annual fees paid to registered lobbyists reached \$2.1 billion in 2004 – the latest full year for which figures are available – a 40 percent increase from 1999. For 2005, lobbying revenue is on pace to rise by at least \$300 million.

The \$100 billion tax bonanza that companies saved on foreign earnings helps explain the surge. Former representative Bill Archer, a Republican from Texas, championed the idea of bringing the earnings home tax-free when he chaired the House Ways and Means Committee in the 1990s. But it wasn't until he retired and became a lobbyist in 2001 that the effort finally got some legs. He was asked to lead the coalition and pressed the case for two years before the tax holiday became law.

Some of the provision's backers say \$100 billion overstates the savings because some of the money wouldn't have come back without the lower rate. But for the

companies involved, it's still a very good deal. "Even if the actual tax benefits are less than the estimate, they clearly dwarf the lobbying expenses," said Donald G. Carlson, a partner of Archer's at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, which led the coalition.

"Modularity Funding Helps Push Army Topline Request to \$111.8 Billion."

Jen DiMascio and Ashley Roque,

Inside the Army
February 13, 2006

The Army's budget request for fiscal year 2007 increased by \$11.8 billion over the prior fiscal year, with much of the additional funding allocated to the service's plan to move from a division-based force to one that is brigade-based.

The service will ask Congress for \$6.6 billion to fund modularity. Most of that amount – \$5.9 billion worth – is allocated for procurement. Maj. Gen. Edgar Stanton, director of the Army budget, told reporters during a Feb. 6 briefing.

This is the first time the service has included such a large amount of money in its base budget for modularity. According to a Defense Department budget document issued in December 2004, called program budget decision 755, the service would see a \$5 billion increase in its topline for modularity starting in FY-07. In FY-05 and FY-06, the service was directed to seek the same amount of money using emergency wartime funding requests.

The service resides at a "strategic crossroads." Implementing a plan to transform its force structure and modernize its equipment while fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. David Melcher, the chief of programs (G-8), said last week. The Army has and will continue to take advantage of increased budgets to implement its plan, he said.

"The momentum of this effort is irreversible; there's no turning back on where we've gone with respect to modularity, but also with respect to resources," Melcher said during a Feb. 9 luncheon for an Air Warfare breakfast, adding that he expects to see continued base budget increases (see related story).

In addition to modularity, another first-time expense for the Army is funding implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure Act. The budget requests \$3.9 billion for that endeavor.

Research and development accounts increased to \$10.9 billion in the Army's request. That amount includes three line items for the service's largest acquisition program – the Future Combat System. The service is requesting \$3.3 billion for system development and demonstration; \$435 million to support "Future Non-Line-of-Sight Fires"; and \$112 million for the Non-Line-of-Sight Cannon, the first Manned Ground Vehicle variant scheduled for production.

The Army budget request also asks for \$832 million to fund the restructuring of the Joint Tactical Radio System – the software-defined radio designed to assist tactical voice, video, and data communications for FCS.

The boost to the Army's procurement request – up \$5 billion to \$16.8 billion in FY-07 – includes money to drastically increase funding to equip the National Guard over the next five years, Melcher said at the Feb. 9 event.

“If you were to ask me two years ago how much money the Army has in the Army National Guard between the years ‘06 to ‘11 for equipment, my answer would be \$5.6 billion,” he said. “Today, how much money does the Army have for that same period of time? The answer is \$2.1 billion.”

Despite the increase over past Army plans, the amount won't cover all of the Guard's needs. After sustained deployments in Iraq, the component's requirements call for \$28 billion over fiscal years 2007 through 2011, Brig. Gen. Frank Grass, the deputy director of the Army National Guard, said during a Dec. 7, 2005, National Guard Association of the United States conference (Inside the Army, Dec. 12, 2005, p15).

The boost in procurement funding also includes money to buy tactical and support vehicles, communications and electronics, aircraft and combat vehicles. Accounts for ammunition and missiles will receive less dramatic increases.

An "other procurement" account for tactical and support vehicles is slated to grow by \$1.8 billion, to \$3.8 billion. The account includes \$584 million earmarked for 3,091 up-armored humvees. The Army also will ask for \$695 billion to purchase 4,119 Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles trucks.

Communications and electronics programs, together, are slated for \$3.9 billion. The Army seeks \$340 million to fund the Bridge to Future Networks, a new name for what previously was called the Joint Network

Node initiative, according to an Army budget official. That program is supposed to provide soldiers with tactical communications down to the battalion level. The budget request also includes \$321 million for night vision devices and \$100 million for unmanned aerial systems.

In the Army aviation arena, the president is requesting \$3.6 billion to fund aircraft procurement – up \$800 million from the Army's FY-06 request.

More specifically, the budget provides \$141 million to buy eight Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters; \$199 million for 39 Light Utility Helicopters; \$620 million for two new and 21 remanufactured CH-47F-models; \$730 million to buy 38 Black Hawk; \$795 million to fund AH-64 Apache upgrades and 36 conversions; and \$306 million for aircraft survivability infrared countermeasures components.

Alternatively, the service is requesting \$109 million in FY-07 to purchase three Future Cargo Aircraft under a forthcoming low-rate initial production contract award.

The service allocated \$600 million in the FY-07 request for combat vehicles, including \$296 million to add newly developed Stryker variants to the sixth and seventh Stryker brigades. If accepted by Congress, the two items would buy 65 Medium Gun Systems – Strykers topped with 105 millimeter cannons; 13 Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicles; and 22 commanders' vehicles. The service also requests \$33 million to buy 115 sets of reactive armor tiles to protect Stryker vehicles.

The budget request adds \$537 for Abrams tanks, which includes money to buy 23 M1A2 SEPv3 enhancement package tanks,

320 power packs and other modifications. The account adds \$283 million for Bradley Fighting Vehicles and \$187 million to purchase 852 lightweight 155 mm Howitzers.

Ammunition coffers receive only a slight boost in this year's budget request. The service wants to fund training ammunition accounts at 77 percent, accepting some risk in tank ammunition but fully funding small arms ammunition, Stanton said. The request for ammunition is \$1.4 billion. The service would sustain the war reserve with \$304 million and fund the production base at \$221 million, according to briefing slides detailing the request.

As for Army missile procurement, the Pentagon is requesting nearly \$1.4 billion in FY-07 funding. The largest dollar amount, \$489 million, is allocated to purchase 108 Patriot PAC-3 missiles. Other missile investments proposed for FY-07 include: \$227 million to buy 50 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System Launchers, \$148 million to buy 702 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System rockets; \$105 million to buy 300 Javelin; and \$64 million to purchase 949 FGM-108 missiles.

"Accounting Support Services."

FedBizOpps
Unattributed.
February 13, 2006

NOTICE TYPE: Presolicitation Notice

DATE POSTED: 10-FEB-06

AGENCY: Department of the Navy

OFFICE ADDRESS: Department of the Navy, Military Sealift Command, MSC HQ – Washington, 914 Charles Morris Court, SE Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20396-5540

SUBJECT: R – Accounting Support Services

CLASSIFICATION CODE: R – Personnel, administrative, and management support services

SOLICITATION NUMBER: N00033-06-Q-9333

CONTACT: Danielle Lloyd, Contract Specialist, Phone 202-685-5938, Fax 202-685-5965, Email danielle.lloyd@navy.mil – Randee Whittier, Contracting Officer, Phone 202-685-5951, Fax 202-685-5965, Email rande.whittier@navy.mil

SIDESIDE: Total Small Business

PLACE OF PERFORMANCE ADDRESS: Military Sealift Command
Headquarters Washington Navy Yard, DC

PLACE OF PERFORMANCE ZIPCODE: 20396

PLACE OF PERFORMANCE COUNTRY: USA

NOTICE TEXT: Department of the Navy

Military Sealift Command

MSC HQ – Washington

The Military Sealift Command (MSC) requires the services of one Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to support the MSC Headquarters Accounting Office (N82).

Procurement will be a total small business set-aside. Contract period is award thru 30 Sep 2006 with a one-year option.

Work will be performed at MSC Headquarters in the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC. Individual must have expertise with Oracle Applications. Preference will be given to person with knowledge of MSC business and MSC Financial Management System (FMS). Tasks involve researching old fuel liabilities/obligations within the MSC FMS and taking action with the supplier (Defense Energy Supply Center) and DFAS Cleveland to determine final billing status. Provide assistance in developing, implementing, and documenting new processes used by the N8 staff under the recent reorganization. Review, provide advice, and document the MSC Cash reconciliation process performed by DFAS Omaha to ensure a successful transfer of this function to DFAS Limestone under the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure).

The solicitation (RFQ) resulting from this notice will be available about February 17.

Only written (fax or email) requests for the RFQ will be accepted. Fax to 202-685-5965 or e-mail to Danielle.Lloyd@navy.mil. All faxed requests must include an email address. Prospective contractors must register in CCR, information available at <http://www.ccr.gov/>.

INTERNET ADDRESS:
<http://www.fbo.gov/spg/DON/MSC/MSCHQ/N00033-06-Q-9036/listing.html>

Provided by Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. (FIND) 202-429-5944

Danielle Lloyd, Contract Specialist, Phone 202-685-5938, Fax 202-685-5965, Email danielle.lloyd@navy.mil

Randall Whittier, Contracting Officer, Phone 202-685-5951, Fax 202-685-5965, Email randy.whittier@navy.mil

* * * * *

Experts Search for Centers of 'Innovative Thinking'.

Timothy R. Gaffney,
Dayton (OH) Daily News
February 12, 2006

Getting a handle on just what this region has in terms of science and technology isn't easy, local experts say.

Outside of technical circles, the engine that drives most science and technology here might not be obvious. To a degree, that's by design: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base sits behind a fence, and security forces control access.

But it's home to the Air Force Materiel Command's headquarters and several of its major units, including the Air Force Research Laboratory. AFRL controls a \$3.5 billion science and technology budget, and five of its 10 technical directorates are located on the base.

Together, the five directorates employ 1,449 government scientists and engineers, according to AFRL. That figure doesn't count government scientists and engineers who work here but report to other AFRL units, or to on-base contractors working for AFRL.

But AFRL's on-site brainpower is just the tip of the iceberg. AFRL contracts out most of its research, and Dayton Development Coalition executives say a hefty chunk stays in the Dayton region, supporting research at local universities and myriad small companies doing cutting-edge research.

One of its biggest local contractors is the University of Dayton Research Institute, a nonprofit research center with 370 researchers and support staff and \$65 million in funded research. A UDRI fact sheet said its military contracts have made UD the top university in Ohio for Defense Department-funded research.

"AFRL drives a lot of research in the (Dayton) area," UDRI Director John Leland said. But he thinks the true scale of its influence is hard to grasp.

"It's so diffuse. It's hard to point to a large aerospace company like you could in the Los Angeles area or a large electronics company like you could in the San Francisco-San Jose area" that supports the local science and technology base, he said.

Here, he said, "There's a lot of smaller companies doing the same types of things."

What makes it even harder to get a clear picture, he said, is how Ohio and the federal government categorize industry sectors.

"The way the government likes to keep data forces companies to define themselves in

one way," Leland said. "Are you an (information technology) company, are you an aerospace company, are you an electronics company?"

Other units on Wright-Patterson are also part of the science and technology base. Among the biggest are the Aeronautical Systems Center, the Air Force's product arm for airborne weapons systems; the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, and the Air Force Institute of Technology, the Air Force's graduate school for scientists and engineers.

More is on the way. As the Defense Department follows through on last year's Base Realignment and Closure Process, more than 1,100 jobs are expected to come to Wright-Patterson from bases outside Ohio over the next five years. The coalition projects more than 5,000 jobs will move here when contractors are counted.

The new jobs will be heavy in scientists, engineers and technicians. AFRL will see growth as sensors and human effectiveness work moves here. And the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, along with other medical and health units and work already here, will make Dayton the nation's center for aerospace-related human sciences.

Measuring its strengths in science and technology will help the region take advantage of them, said Jim Leftwich, coalition vice president for aerospace, defense and technology.

"We go beyond just inventing it here. What we want to do is put in place the rest of the infrastructure we need to commercialize it," he said.

Coalition Spokesman Evan Scott said it also will help the region understand itself.

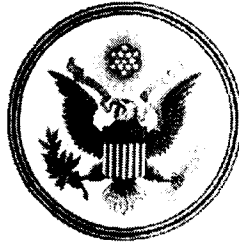
“Wright-Patterson made it up being here because the Dayton region already possessed the intellectual capacity and the work ethic it needed. This region has always been and still is today a center for innovative thinking,” he said.
“It is who we are.”

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News in brief from the Philadelphia area

"OK SB 1675, 2005-2006, Pass."

"Government Reform Act Introduced in House by Rep. Royce"

"March Base Barracks Could Shelter Women, Children"

"Kyrgyzstan Wants U.S. to Pay More for Military Base."

"Camp Shelby to Train Thousands from Dozens of States."

"Romanian Lawmakers Approve Agreement Allowing U.S. Military to Use Its Bases."

"No Croats Killed in Iraq, Says Foreign Ministry."

"Air Force Secretary Coming to Hancock Field."

"Committee Drops North County from Airport Search List"

"Rep. Saxton: McGuire Sees Quartet of Grand Openings?"
Double Standard on Tax Politics."

"City's Prospects Turn from Sky-High to Turbulent."

"Moving day for tule elk herd forced out by development"

Weapons station animals helped subspecies recover"

"Shelby: Area's job future is good"

"FORT LEE - Fort Lee is on its way to becoming the Army Logistics Center of Excellence as a result of the recent Base Realignment and Closure process, but the hard work isn't over yet."

"Civic leader says exploits result of strong support"

"Military spouses deserve a clear right to vote in their community"

"New initiative projects a cause to celebrate"

Construction at bases will drop sharply"

"Sessions Set to Help Fill Jobs."

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“OK SB 1675, 2005-2006, Bass.”

Unattributed. LegAlert
February 15, 2006

An Act Relating to Public Finance; Enacting the Oklahoma Military Base Protection Grant Program; Stating Legislative Intent; Making Appropriation to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce; Stating Purpose of Appropriation; Authorizing Certain Transfer; Providing for Noncodification; and Declaring an Emergency.

20060121 -- (S) PREFILED

20060206 -- (S) FIRST READING

20060206 -- (S) AUTHORED BY SENATOR BASS

20060207 -- (S) SECOND READING REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS

20060207 -- (S) PENDING AUTHORSHIP REPRESENTATIVE(S) ARMES

20060207 -- (S) REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS/SUB-NATURAL RESOURCES AND REGULATORY SERVICES

20060213 -- (S) RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL COMMITTEE; DO PASS AS AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS/SUB-NATURAL RESOURCES AND REGULATORY SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

“Government Reform Act Introduced in House by Rep. Royce.”

US Fed News
February 15, 2006

Washington, Feb. 15 -- Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif., has introduced the Government Reform Act of 2005 (H.R. 4735), legislation that would “create a national commission, modeled after the successful Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, to establish a timely, independent, and fair process for realigning or closing outdated, ineffective, or inefficient executive agencies.”

The bill, introduced on Feb. 8, was referred to the House Government Reform Committee.

“March Base Barracks Could Shelter Women, Children.”

Sarahannah Roseblatt
Los Angeles (CA) Times
February 15, 2006

Joint Powers Panel Is Expected to Approve Today a New 66-Room Facility for the Homeless.

Just over a week ago, Zuiwon Hicks was living under interstate 215 in San Bernardino after her Ford Taurus was impounded. But the 20-year-old single mother ended up in an unlikely place: March Air Reserve Base near Riverside.

The base is home to Amelia's Light, a transitional shelter for women and children run by Lutheran Social Services. Now, another one of the downsized base's vacant barracks is poised to open for some of

Riverside County's most vulnerable residents.

The March Joint Powers Commission is expected today to approve plans for a 66-room homeless shelter for women and children on an unused portion of the former Air Force base.

Riverside County has nearly 5,000 homeless people on any given day, according to a recent study by the Institute for Urban Research and Development in Los Angeles. About half are women and children.

Increased rental rates have pushed many people with low incomes to the fringes of homelessness, said Anne Unmacht, 41, a Realtor and local housing advocate.

The region's growth is "great economically," Unmacht said, "but there's a downside. This huge tidal wave of homeless or near-homeless people just barely hanging on is getting astronomical."

The profile of those living on the county's streets is changing too.

"It's more families, single moms struggling to make ends meet," said Raul Diaz, whose Path of Life Ministries runs three shelters with roughly 226 beds in Riverside.

The county has just 377 emergency or seasonal beds available for homeless people and 495 more permanent-housing options, said Ronald Stewart, interim administrative manager of homeless programs for Riverside County's Department of Public Social Services.

The new shelter at March would initially provide 10 to 12 rooms for single mothers, said Lori Stone, director of operations with March Joint Powers Authority. A larger

transitional shelter, scheduled to open next winter, would accommodate about 200 people and provide women with vocational counseling, financial education, mental health services and other assistance.

In a county as vast as Riverside, homeless people congregate in the population centers: Riverside in the west, and the Coachella Valley in the east, Stewart said. The new shelter will be situated to help those across western Riverside County, said Diaz, who is working with Riverside city officials to establish transportation to the facility.

"The shelters in Riverside are pretty much filled up to capacity," he said.

A third of the 6,600-acre base is still used by the Air Force Reserves. After the 1993 decision that the base would be realigned, federal requirements mandated that it offer homeless services, said Phil Rizzo, executive director of the joint powers authority.

Similar social services are offered – at times amid local opposition – at defunct military installations in Merced, Monterey County and Sacramento, according to a recent report by Washington's National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty.

Plans for the shelter at March show that Riverside County officials are willing "to deal with an issue, as opposed to hoping or maybe kind of wishing it wasn't there," Diaz said.

At least 15 local churches and organizations have pledged more than \$200,000 in the next year to help get the shelter running, and officials anticipate more to come from federal grants.

The facility will join a shelter for more than 100 homeless veterans and Amelia's Light, which caters to single mothers living on the streets.

Hicks, who became homeless last fall, now lives in a spotless one-bedroom unit crammed with donated furniture. She knows firsthand what such base-conversion projects can accomplish: She'll finally get her 23-month-old son, Mykhyl, back from Child Protective Services this week.

Moving into the modest building that once housed military families was "the best thing that happened to me this year," Hicks said.

"Kyrgyzstan Wants U.S. to Pay More for Military Base."

Reuters News
February 15, 2006

Almaty, Feb. 15 (Reuters) — Kyrgyzstan wants the United States to pay 100 times more for the use of a military base in the Central Asian country, President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

U.S. forces moved into Central Asia, traditionally a Russian sphere of influence, when they started the hunt for Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan in 2001, establishing bases in Kyrgyzstan and neighbouring Uzbekistan.

But Washington has faced suspicions from leaders across the region that it is out to unseat some governments. Uzbekistan evicted U.S. troops last year after Washington criticised Tashkent over the suppression of a rebellion in the eastern town of Andizhan.

Now Kyrgyzstan wants more money.

"Until today, the rent has been just over \$2 million. According to our new calculations they will be paying \$207 million." Bakiyev told Russia's Kommersant newspaper.

"We are not such a rich country as to offer facilities for free. The American side has shown understanding in this regard. But to be honest, I don't know what their response will be."

Bakiyev said the new figure was in line with international practice and said the Americans could stay until neighbouring Afghanistan was entirely stable.

Russia, keen to boost its presence in Central Asia, also set up an airbase in Kyrgyzstan after U.S. troops arrived, a move seen by some Western diplomats as a symbolic gesture.

Kyrgyzstan does not officially charge Moscow anything for using its base, and Bakiyev ruled out changing that policy.

"Rent is out of question," he told Kommersant, saying that the Russian base existed within the framework of an ex-Soviet security pact and was therefore offered for free.

"Romanian Lawmakers Approve Agreement Allowing U.S. Military to Use Its Bases."

Associated Press Newswires
February 14, 2006

Bucharest, Romania (AP) — The lower house of parliament approved an agreement on Tuesday allowing the United States to use several military bases in Romania.

The agreement was signed Dec. 6 in Bucharest by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Romania's Foreign Minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu. Lawmakers voted 210-8 to approve the ten-year agreement.

The U.S. military will use facilities including the Mihail Kogalniceanu air base near the Black Sea, which was used heavily during the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Other installations in the agreement include Babadag, in the Black Sea inland region; Cincu in the mountains of central Romania and Smardan in eastern Romania, which will be used for all types of weapons training.

Allegation that the CIA hid and interrogated key al-Qaida fell on the Kogalniceanu air base arose in November after Human Rights Watch said that Romania flight records indicating that an craft with links to the CIA landed there repeatedly in 2001-2004.

President Traian Basescu conceded last week that CIA flights may have passed through Romania, but said it was impossible to determine which American agency was piloting U.S. planes. He insisted neither Romania or the U.S. abused human rights.

The bases will be small, with up to 1,500 rotational troops will use the base at any one time.

Romania, which shook off communism in 1989 after decades of repression under late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, developed close ties to the United States in its quest for membership in NATO, which it joined in 2003.

Critics expressed unease at the agreement, saying it granted the U.S. too many exemptions from local laws.

"There are exemptions from searching U.S. aircraft and ships," said Victor Ponta, a lawmaker with the opposition Social Democratic Party. He also cited the CIA field allegations and the increased exposure of Romania to terrorist attacks on its soil as his reasons for voting against the agreement.

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"George Shelby to Train Thousands from Dozens of States"

10/17/06, Alcorn

Associated Press, Newswires

February 14, 2006

Jackson, Miss. (AP) — Graduation day is rapidly approaching for thousands of Iraq-bound troops from Minnesota, and military trainers at Camp Shelby are already preparing for their next class of soldiers from more than a dozen states.

The 4,000 members 34th Brigade Combat Team, made up primarily of Minnesota National Guard soldiers, is at Fort Polk in Louisiana now but will return to Camp Shelby for a send-off ceremony in March before heading to Iraq.

Camp Shelby, an expansive, 156,000-acre National Guard base south of Hattiesburg, has played a pivotal role training soldiers for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

When the 41st Brigade Combat Team, primarily Oregon soldiers, arrives this month it will push beyond 20,000 the number of troops to train at the base since June 2004, said Lt. Col. Doril Sanders, a base spokesman.

The soldiers are subjected to a highly specialized training regimen at Camp Shelby that is tailored to the mission they will face overseas.

While the Minnesota soldiers have trained for the perils in Iraq, the 41st Brigade Combat Team's main mission will be to train Afghan security forces, Sanders said.

Kay Fristad, spokeswoman for the Oregon National Guard, said 900 soldiers in the 41st are from Oregon, 400 are from Oklahoma, and 18 other states will each contribute a 16-person team to the brigade.

The soldiers will train Afghan National Army soldiers in remote areas, help rebuild infrastructure and provide security patrols, Fristad said.

"They also have great plans to work with children in the area," she said. "They are taking large amounts of school supplies and shoes with them to donate."

Before they get to Afghanistan, the soldiers will spend four months at Camp Shelby in what the military calls "theater immersion." The training includes Arabic role players who stage protests and hold uprisings in a mock Middle Eastern city cut out of the south Mississippi forest. The goal is to try to mirror conditions the soldiers will face in the Middle East.

Sanders said theater immersion is a constantly evolving training program that is updated to better prepare soldiers for emerging threats cropping up on the battlefield.

The deployment will be the largest overseas mobilization since World War II for both Oregon and Minnesota, officials said.

Sanders said plans for the 34th Brigade's deployment ceremony are incomplete but it likely will be held around March 14. Past sendoffs for other large brigades have

included concerts and a formal ceremony on the main's parade field.

"No Croatians Killed in Iraq, Says Foreign Ministry."

Unattributed.

HINA – Croatian News Agency (February 14).

Zagreb, Washington, Feb. 14 (Hina) – There were no Croatian casualties in recent attacks on truck convoys in Iraq, the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration said on Tuesday.

Spokeswoman Brana Crnic said that all information received had been checked through diplomatic channels.

Minister Katerina Grabar-Kitarovic, who is visiting Washington, told Hina her team had asked the Americans to verify information about Croatian drivers alleged to have been killed.

Crnic said she could confirm that two attacks on convoys had occurred in Iraq on Monday and that there were indications that Croatian drivers had been in them. She added, however, that they had not been killed.

The first convoy was attacked near Samarra despite being escorted by multinational troops, while the second was attacked near the US military base Anaconda north of Baghdad.

Croatia's Jutarnji List and Vecernji List dailies say in Wednesday's issues that according to unofficial and unconfirmed reports, one Croatian driver was killed.

Croatian Road Hauliers CEO Marijan Banelli told Hina earlier tonight he had no information that any of the Croatian drivers had been killed in the attacks.

“Sessions Set to Help Fill Jobs.”

Nadia Alvarado.

The Post Standard Herald-Journal (Utica, NY)

February 14, 2006

Those Attending Will Get Tips on Applying for Positions at the Former Griffiss Site.

Information workshops for 400 federal job openings at the former Griffiss Air Force Base are being held in Madison and Oneida counties this week.

The workshops will cover the application process for new jobs at Defense Finance and Accounting services in Rome. Available positions are accounts maintenance clerks, accounting technicians and accountants, said Lorraine Schmidtka, director for Working Solutions, a job placement center. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, must be able to use a computer and the Internet, and must have no felony convictions.

“The jobs are entry-level, federal jobs with benefits in the \$25,000-to-\$53,000 range,” said Alice Savino, executive director for Workforce Investment Board, which oversees Working Solutions.

At the workshops, job applicants will get tips on filling out the online application, which will take about two hours to complete, Schmidtka said.

“What we want to do is give people tools to go through the application process,” Schmidtka said.

Nearly a year ago, it looked as if DFAS would lose 1,800 military and civilian jobs at its Rome headquarters as the government sought to scale back military operations. Instead, the base realignment and closing commission recommended adding 400 jobs to DFAS.

Each workshop will accommodate about 20 people, and more workshops will be scheduled if there is enough interest, Savino said. Other workshops are also scheduled for this month in Rome, Utica and Herkimer County.

Nadia Alvarado can be reached at nalvarado@syracuse.com or 470-3253.

Interested in attending?

In Madison County, job workshops will be 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday and 2 to 3:30 p.m. Friday at the Working Solutions Center, 1000 Oneida Plaza Drive, Oneida. There are also workshops in Rome, Utica and Herkimer County. For more information or to register, call 363-2400.

“Air Force Secretary Coming to Hancock Field.”

The Post Standard Herald-Journal (Utica, NY)

February 14, 2006

Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne is scheduled to visit the Air National Guard Base at Hancock Field Feb. 24.

Rep. James Walsh, R-Onondaga, hopes to show off the Mattydale base, for which he has helped direct \$63 million for improvements since 1996. The base was

spared in last year's round of military base closings.

Last year, the Air Force named Hancock as the new home of a Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle squadron.

“Committee: Drop North County from Airport Search.”

Mark Walker,

North County Times (Escondido, CA)

February 14, 2006

North County likely will be scratched as a site for a supplemental airport to San Diego's Lindbergh Field if an advisory committee gets its way.

A four-member panel of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority voted unanimously Monday to recommend dropping North County from further consideration.

The recommendation will go to the full, nine-member authority board later this month. At that session, board member Robert Maxwell of Oceanside said he will try to revive the idea.

The authority is studying whether to expand Lindbergh, the nation's busiest single-runway metropolitan airport, or build a new airport. Lindbergh is projected to be out of room to handle increased demand within about 15 years.

Airport officials will take that discussion to Washington this week. On Thursday, a contingent from the authority is slated to meet with an assistant secretary of the Navy in Washington to review the status of talks with the military on the potential airport sites on three county bases.

In examining North County for a possible supplemental airport, the authority looked at two 1,000-acre sites: one on the eastern edge of the 25,000-acre Rancho Guejito property east of Escondido, the second about three miles east of Interstate 15 on a plateau above the West Resort.

Monday's vote came after a consultant said that supplemental airport costs are virtually equal to those demanded by a full-size airport and that those now in a handful in metropolitan areas around the country take decades to become financially viable.

The consultant, Bob Hazel of the airport planning firm Bolat Consulting, concluded that even with forecast population growth and increased airline passenger demand, a supplemental airport anywhere in the county would not be viable.

“Secondary airports take years to become successful,” Hazel said during the planning committee meeting in San Diego. “You’re competing in a world economy with expectations that there will be an airport close to the major business and population center.”

Hazel also pointed out that 54 percent of passengers that fly into San Diego are tourists, with the majority staying in the city, another concern for airlines and passengers.

Building a supplemental airport would be resisted by the airlines and could cost as much as \$4 billion, he said. A supplemental airport also would only generate about 2 million passengers a year, compared with the more than 17 million that passed through Lindbergh last year, he said.

The authority is studying sites in Imperial County or in Carpinteria in southeastern San

Diego County. It also is studying three county military bases – Camp Pendleton, North Island Naval Air Station and Miramar Marine Corps Air Station – for shared use or new airport construction.

A fourth military site, the Marine Corps Recruit Depot immediately adjacent to Lindbergh, was added to the mix Monday at the request of authority board member Mary Sessom. The authority staff was directed to report on how acquisition of the 388-acre depot could answer the airport's expansion needs.

Last year, a nationwide base closure commission looked at the depot for possible closure but opted to leave it open after listening to arguments from Marine Corps brass. The depot is the West Coast training center for Marine Corps recruits.

After having studied more than 30 potential new airport sites, a Lindbergh expansion appears to be gaining momentum with some authority board members as increasing doubts are expressed about the viability of shared use on a base. It also would be cheaper than the estimated \$17 billion to \$19 billion costs and distances of an airport in Imperial County or at Campo.

Board member William Lynch summed up that sentiment.

“Downtown is a vital center for this region,” Lynch said. “People want convenience.”

But while he and Sessom are making more public statements in support of a Lindbergh expansion, board member Paul Nieto said he does not believe Lindbergh expansion can ever meet the estimated 35 million-passenger demand San Diego is forecast to have by the year 2030.

Thursday's meeting in Washington came about after U.S. Rep. Susan Davis, D-San Diego, sent a letter late last month to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld asking for the Pentagon's view of shared use. Davis is a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Her letter also asks for the Defense Department's view on the value of Camp Pendleton, North Island and Miramar to the nation's defense. The letter was passed down to the assistant secretary for the Navy, who is expected to prepare a report for Rumsfeld.

The authority is bound by state law to come up with a recommendation to expand Lindbergh or build a new airport this year. The state legislature created the agency in 2006 to take over operation of Lindbergh from the United Port District of San Diego and plan for the region's future airline travel and cargo needs.

Whatever it decides this spring will go before county voters in the form of a nonbinding advisory vote in November in what will be one of the most important votes in decades, according to authority board Chairman Joe Craver.

“It will be one of this generation's greatest public policy decisions,” Craver said during his “state of the authority” address following Monday's committee meeting. Craver's speech outlined what the authority has done in the last year, heaping particular praise on its staff.

A new airport would be built with a combination of federal grants and authority-issued bonds raised through airport revenues.

The site selection issue next lands in North County. On Wednesday, the authority is sponsoring a business luncheon airport forum from 11:30 a.m. until 1:45 p.m. at the Lake San Marcos Resort at Country Club, 1025 La Bonita Drive.

Registration for that event moderated by North County Times editor Kent Davy costs \$20 for non-North County Chamber of Commerce members. For more information, call (619) 406-2869.

"Rep. Saxton: McGuire Sees Quartet of Grand Openings."

Unattributed
US Fed News
February 13, 2006

Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J. (3rd CD), issued the following press release: Rep. Jim Saxton (NJ-3rd) toured a series of ribbon-cuttings for projects that have helped McGuire Air Force Base become the most modern Air Mobility Base on the East Coast.

"I've been to McGuire for ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings many times," said Saxton, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee. "This is probably the first time I've seen four ribbon cuttings in a single day. I plan to return to Washington and make sure we have lots more."

Saxton said these projects, funded by Congress over the past five years, played a key role in securing McGuire's future through the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

"McGuire has a significant amount of new infrastructure that helped ensure its future as part of the new megabase," Saxton said.

"There has been more than three-quarters of a billion dollars in new construction in the past decade. These four projects played a critical role during BRAC. They have modernized the flightline and enabled the C-17 mission to come to McGuire a year ahead of BRAC. The main gate improves security, allows the gate sentries a shelter from the elements, and is friendly to the community."

The past several years have been critical years for preparing the base for the future. Four projects were officially opened today:

* Air freight terminal and base supply. Phase 1 was approved in FY2001 for \$10 million, with Phase 2 FY2002 for \$12 million, approved the following year. The building was outfitted with a \$7 million material handling system. This project completely modernized McGuire's 50-year-old loading system by combining air freight and flightline support functions. The 118,000 square foot building meets the modern, high-speed, high-volume shipping requirements at McGuire. Total cost of project is \$27.2 million.

* C-17 hangar and maintenance shops. This 100,000 square-foot building can house an entire C-17 or KC-10 indoors, and is more efficient by putting shops in the hangar. Congress approved this project in FY2002. Total cost is \$27.5 million.

* Main gate improvements. Canopy and gatehouse for security forces, entry screening points for visitors and contractors, and an under-vehicle inspection will allow traffic to move six times faster during high-security operations. Approved in FY2002 supplementary spending bill for war on terrorism. Total cost is \$3.5 million.

* C-17 consolidated maintenance operations facility. This will merge and streamline

active duty Air Force and Air Reserve functions. By putting mission planning, aircraft maintainers and other critical functions under one roof, this project will speed up movement of cargo and personnel. Budgeted in FY2003. Total cost is estimated at over \$16.9 million.

"The future holds more promise for McGuire," Saxton said. "I hope to see other days like today. As we see the new joint base take shape, I think we will."

Jeff Sagnip-Hollendonner, 609/261-5801.

"Double Standard on Tax Politics."

The Virginia-Pilot (Norfolk, VA)
February 18, 2006

Virginia shouldn't raise taxes for transportation when a hefty \$1 billion-plus surplus blooms the state treasury.

So say anti-tax lawmakers in the House of Delegates.

But suggesting that the excess will fund roads hasn't stopped prominent members of the no-tax crowd from introducing scores of budget amendments that, if enacted, would gobble up a hefty chunk if not all of the extra cash.

Some examples in the two-year budget:

Dels. Johnny Joannou, D-Portsmouth, and John Cosgrove, R-Chesapeake, want to up the mileage reimbursement rate for state employees, including legislators. That would cost \$3.2 million.

Del. Scott Linghamfelter, R-Woodbridge, wants an \$11 million performance review of state agencies, as well as \$250 million to

help insulate Virginia from recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure commission.

Del. Steve Landes, R-Weyers Cave, wants to dedicate \$700,000 in state funds to help cover operational costs of the Museum of the Confederacy and the White House of the Confederacy. He'd also spend \$16 million to improve Medicaid reimbursement rates to physicians who serve children and \$58 million to bolster home-care nursing services by Medicaid providers.

House Majority Leader Morgan Griffith recommends spending \$20 million to attract bioscience and related technology companies to the state. Del. Watt Abbitt, I-Appomattox, wants to improve salaries for sheriff's deputies and regional jail officers by more than \$100 million.

In all, Linghamfelter's proposals total more than \$350 million; Landes, some \$240 million; Abbitt, \$141 million; Griffiths, \$97 million; Joannou, about \$14 million; and Cosgrove, over \$4.5 million. Plenty of other delegates who oppose extra taxes for roads and transit have budget amendments as well.

Many of these recommendations aren't frivolous. And that's precisely the point.

The anti-taxers can't have it both ways. Those who claim current taxes will cover transportation shouldn't be dropping new spending proposals in the hopper, no matter how legitimate, without recommending dramatic dollar reductions somewhere else.

Del. Landes is one of the few who take that serious step. He'd eliminate the state Human Rights Commission for a two-year savings of \$500,000 and would slash \$12 million from the Governor's Opportunity Fund, which is

used to help lure businesses to the state. But those cuts, questionable at best, don't nearly offset his recommended increases.

Nor does Del. Lee Wardrup, who'd dedicate over \$1 billion a year from sales taxes, recreation taxes and insurance license taxes to transportation recommend cuts in other services to offset the loss to the general fund.

Those who claim Virginia can solve its transportation problems within the current budget are free to make their case. But they don't have the luxury of double-spending those same dollars for Medicaid reimbursements, bio-science jobs, and Confederate museums.

"City's Prospects Turn from Sky-High to Turbulent."

Al Bern,
Montgomery (A1) Advertiser
February 13, 2006

It's been nearly three decades since the Air Force pulled up stakes and vamoosed after closing a facility that had trained fighter pilots during three wars. Craig Air Force Base closed in 1977. Little cities like Selma don't easily recover from losing a business thatumped \$30 million a year into the local economy. Industries have come and gone with regularity since that time as local officials have worked to compensate for the lost income that Craig generated. Some businesses, such as Beechcraft, were huge successes. Unfortunately, the aircraft manufacturer didn't hang around long because high liability insurance costs and other factors drove it out after only a few years. Others, such as Meadowcroft, remain good tenants in the sprawling property that housed the base. A manufacturer of patio

furniture, the plant employs hundreds of workers.

Filling something to fill the gap is what working officials who have formed a group called "Team Selma" to present a united front as they look for industrial development possibilities. The most recent negative news came last week when the Air Force chose a site in Colorado for a pilot training center. Many Selmians thought "hanging" that business was a lock. Most saw a site in Texarkana, Selma's only competitor, and were shocked to learn the town in Colorado was chosen. "I wouldn't say we failed," said Mark Dinkels, executive director of the Craig Field Airport and Industrial Authority that oversees tenants at the former base. "Lockheed Martin picked us, but the Air Force picked another company, another town." "We made it to the Super Bowl, but lost," Selma Mayor James Perkins Jr. said phlegmatically a few hours after the announcement. People in Buffalo don't have to be reminded that losing the Super Bowl can be a stigma, especially if it happens more than once. The Buffalo Bills have lost four times, causing the big town in western New York to become a toothball laughing stock.

Selma was on the drawing board for Porters, Dallas County Probate Judge James Jones, and other leaders who now must look elsewhere for an industry that might employ a few hundred people and generate tax revenue for the area.

I've watched them come and go for a quarter of a century. Some were not much more than industrial trial balloons sent aloft to see if they could get a lift in the form of federal or state grants, loans or incentives.

It still is well reported that the Navy was thinking of using Craig -- which has a

runway long enough to accommodate jumbo jets — as a site for pilots learning how to take off and land on aircraft carriers. That idea sank fast.

Another proposal involved a \$3 million river port facility. It went the way of the carrier idea.

Craig has been used to make at least two movies. One was "Blue Sky," a film that won an Oscar for actress Jessica Lange. The other was the third in a series of "Body Snatchers" movies.

The sequels to "Snatchers" have fallen far short of the 1956 original, but those who made a few bucks as extras weren't complaining just because the films weren't classics. And the city once again profited in a smart way from Craig Air Force Base.

Alvin Benn writes about people and places in central and south Alabama. If you have suggestions for a story, contact him at (334) 875-3249 or e-mail him at benn8071@belisouth.net.

"News in brief from the Philadelphia area"

Associated Press Levittown, Pa. —
Associated Press
February 14, 2006

Mold resulting from roof leaks was removed from Buchanan Elementary School, readying the school for students to return on Tuesday, though some may feel a chill. The school's leaky roof was repaired last spring, but water had gotten into the walls and mold was discovered behind heating units in four classrooms. The mold was removed, and air quality tests were successful. But the heaters were removed until new heaters are installed; those rooms will not have heat, Bristol

Township schools Superintendent Regina Cesario said Monday.

The school was ready for students Monday, but all Bristol Township schools were closed Monday because of snow.

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HOBBSVILLE, Pa. (AP) — A residents' group plans a Wednesday night meeting to try to build opposition to civilian or commercial use of the runway at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base. John Miller, leader of the nonprofit, non-partisan group Residents Against a Civilian Jetport, which has about 20 core members, said he expects a few hundred people to attend. "Residents in surrounding communities must let it be known: We will not accept an airport in our community!" said Miller in announcing the meeting. Under that base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations, Navy and Marine personnel are scheduled to leave by September 2011 and the fate of Air Force personnel is unclear.

Governor Rendell has proposed that more Army National Guard units and federal Homeland Security agencies be brought in and general aviation or corporate planes use the facility, if necessary to keep it operating. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission suggested a corporate jetport, though its aviation expert has said it's unlikely scheduled air carrier service or commercial flight operations would be licensed.

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Measuring up for tule elk herd forced out by development

Wetland station animals helped subspecies recover

Greg Young, Chronicle Environment Writer
Tuesday, February 14, 2006

State Fish and Game staffers and citizen volunteers began removing tule elk from the Concord Naval Weapons Station on Monday. Immobilizing the huge lumbering ungulates with "net guns" fired from helicopters.

The herd of 39 elk, surrounded by fencing, pressed by encroaching development and hampered by inadequate feed and water, were finding it impossible to do what elk do best -- run free, wild and far.

And their days in Concord are numbered anyway. Most of the base was shuttered under the 2005 military base realignment and closure process, and the city hopes to build housing and offices on the grassy, rolling terrain -- interspersed with ammo bunkers -- where the elk once grazed.

"The weapons station basically has outlived its usefulness as far as tule elk are concerned," said Terry Pamisano, a senior wildlife biologist with the state agency.

The elk will be moved to three different reserves around the state: the Cache Creek Natural Area in Lake and Colusa counties, the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area in Solano County and the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge in Merced County.

The elk were introduced into the weapons station in 1976. At that time, tule elk -- one of three subspecies of wapiti, or North American elk -- were slowly climbing back from the brink of extinction. The Concord herd was used as a seed group to establish other herds around the state.

But biologists say the Bay Area has become too congested for tule elk, which do poorly when confronted with barbed-wire fences, backyard gardens, freeways and other accoutrements of suburban life.

By Monday afternoon, 14 of the elk had begun to mope. After each elk was entangled in a net launched from the helicopter, it was fitted with a blindfold and hobbles, loaded into a trailer and transported to a staging area.

All the elk received examinations and antibiotic injections from a veterinarian, and some of the cows destined for the San Luis refuge -- which has relatively limited range -- were implanted with contraceptive devices to prevent them from reproducing.

The blindfolds and hobbles were then removed and the animals were loaded into livestock trailers and trucked to their new homes.

Pamisano said biologists wanted to use the net guns -- devices that employ an explosive charge to fire a net, entangling the animals -- as much as possible this week during the four days scheduled for the project.

Tule elk top out at about 900 pounds and are the smallest of the three elk subspecies -- Roosevelt and Rocky Mountain elk are considerably larger. Before Euro-American control, about 500,000 tule elk roamed the Central Valley, Sierra foothills and coastal ranges. Always a preferred game animal, they suffered wholesale depredations from hunters during the Gold Rush.

By the 1870s fewer than 10 tule elk were thought to remain. But in 1874, San Joaquin Valley rancher Henry Miller discovered two of the animals on his land and initiated a movement devoted to the recovery of the subspecies.

Progress was slow for almost 100 years, but state and federal initiatives in the 1970s provided the regulations and the funding requisite for establishing herds on public

lands throughout the state. Today, there are almost 4,000 tule elk living in 22 herds.

"It's one of the great conservation success stories," Palmisano said.

But Fish and Game biologists say there may not be much more room for tule elk to expand. The agency has specific criteria for establishing new herds, Palmisano said. Top of the list: Any candidate site must have ample room and must be part of the tule elk's historic range.

Unfortunately, said Palmisano, tule elk prefer country now favored by humans: the lush grasslands of the Central Valley, the delightful glens and forested slopes of the Coast Range, and Sierra foothills.

"Elk and human conflicts are very real, and they have to be considered in any new location program," said Richard Golightly, a professor with Humboldt State University's department of wildlife biology. "If you put tule elk into places where they could tear up fencing or destroy crops, you're putting them into automatic conflicts that usually aren't resolved in favor of the elk."

In addition, Golightly said, tule elk constitute very real road hazards. Vehicle collisions with elk, he said, often result in fatal injuries for all parties involved.

"And elk-proof fencing is astronomically expensive," he said. "If you asked Fish and Game to install elk fencing along highway 20 on the borders of the Cache Creek Wildlife Area, they'd laugh -- it'd probably amount to their entire budget for the year. Economics and liability play a real role in this issue."

But other people think there are opportunities for California's emblematic elk to expand its range in the state.

"We're planning a tule elk initiative this year, focusing on conservation easements for private land," said Chet Lutz, the Northern California volunteer chairman for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, a group devoted to preserving habitat for the continent's elk.

"It's true that most of the public land opportunities for tule elk already have been exploited," said Lutz, who is participating in the elk roundup at the weapons station. "But there are a lot of private ranches out there with tremendous potential, ranches with excellent habitat."

Shelby: Area's job future is good

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

By Wayne Pittman

Tanner Business Editor wayne@htimes.com

Senator Shelby is to meet with a general about NDA cuts.

U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby told an audience of about 1,000 Huntsville business leaders Monday that the Tennessee Valley must retool itself for the largest influx of jobs the area has seen in years.

Shelby was referring to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision to move about 4,700 jobs to Redstone Arsenal over the next several years.

"The future is here," Shelby said during his Washington Update breakfast at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Madison County and divisions will profit greatly from BRAC. "The area has got to be ready."

That doesn't mean the area "won't get bad news every now and then," he said, referring to last week's reports of job cuts at Redstone.

A reorganization of the ground-based missile defense program will eliminate 415 jobs at the arsenal. Lt. Gen. Henry A. Obering III, the director of the Missile Defense Agency, said last week that the reorganization comes at a time when the missile defense program is going through a transition phase, from building the system to operating it.

Shelby said Monday he plans to do everything he can to prevent the job cuts. "We're going to do what we can to save jobs," Shelby said. "We're going to meet with General Obering and find out why those jobs need to be cut."

Other topics Shelby talked about included:

Energy: Shelby said that the U.S. needs a workable energy policy. "If we (had an energy policy), we would be pumping oil from Alaska." He said if the nation doesn't come up with alternative sources for fuel, "we will continue to export our wealth to Venezuela, Angola, Russia and the Persian Gulf." Shelby also said he would like to see the process started toward building more nuclear power plants as an alternative energy source.

Patriot Act: Shelby said he would support the renewal of the Patriot Act, and would err on the side of security when it comes to electronic surveillance. "I believe the security of this nation is the No. 1 thing," said Shelby, a former chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. "It's paramount."

Patriot Parkway: Shelby said the parkway, also known as the southern bypass, can be built. "The money is there; it's just a question of priorities" in the state. The \$500 million bypass is a 13-mile shortcut from Research Park Boulevard through Redstone Arsenal to South Memorial Parkway near the Tennessee River.

Iraq and the war on terror: Shelby said the U.S. can't "just cut and run" from Iraq, but instead must decide in a measured way when to leave. "We're doing everything we can to fight the battle there and not here," he said. "The war on terror could go on for 100 years or more because there's such a religious divide."

Rebuilding New Orleans: As chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Shelby will hold hearings this week on a bill to advance humane recovery efforts in New Orleans. He said he wants to see New Orleans rebuilt, "but I don't want to see it rebuilt in areas that will continue to be flooded."

FORT LEE - Fort Lee is on its way to becoming the Army Logistics Center of Excellence as a result of the recent Base Realignment and Closure process, but the hard work isn't over yet.

Publishing Progress Index - Petersburg, VA, USA

February 15, 2006

Some would say it's just beginning. In December 2001, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act which authorized the Department of Defense to conduct the Base Realignment and Closure process in 2005. New selection criteria to evaluate military bases were developed in December 2003 and two years later in March 2005. President George W. Bush

nominated nine citizen commissioners to the BRAC Commission. Just two months later the Secretary of Defense's recommendations for realignment and closure were forwarded to the BRAC Commission and to Congress. The list revealed that Fort Lee had made the largest military gain in the state of Virginia. "The Pentagon recognizes the military value of Fort Lee and what it can do for the military and the protection of this country," said Dr. James E. McNeer, chairman of the regional BRAC working group created by Rep. J. Randy Forbes in January 2002. Over the next five years, the installation will gain 6,531 military personnel, 1,151 civilians and 56 contractors, increasing the post population by 124 percent. The realignment will also bring approximately 12,000 jobs to the area, both on and off post.

"We came so close to disaster in the first round [BRAC 1995] that we were all sort of bracing for the worst and the strategy of Congressman Forbes was to go on the offensive and we were all sort of surprised at the result," said Peter Clements, a member of the BRAC working group and chief executive officer of the Bank of Southside Virginia. "We put in a lot of hours and there were a lot of meetings and everyone worked very hard to make the case for the excellence at Fort Lee."

In August 2005, officials learned that the BRAC Commission was going to follow BRAC Commission recommendations 100 percent with regard to Fort Lee. The president approved the recommendations on Sept. 15, 2005 and passed them on to Congress. Congress then had 45 legislative days to motion disapproval or the recommendations would become law. A motion was made to defer BRAC for one year, but it didn't receive support. On Nov. 9, 2005 the BRAC recommendations were passed into law and Fort Lee was given until September 2011 to implement them in full.

The Civil Service Center and Schools from Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland; the Memphis, Electronics and Maintenance Center from Redstone Arsenal in Alabama; the Defense Contract Management Agency from Alexandria; the Transportation School from Fort Busby in Newport News; and the Avionics Training Center and Air Force Culinary Training Center from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, will all relocate to Fort Lee as a result of BRAC.

"This was one of the few areas where all aspects of the community came together for a common purpose. It enabled us to present a unified effort for Fort Lee that was in turn recognized by the BRAC commission and the government and that's why we ended up on top I think," said McNeer, president of Richard Eliana College.

Some of the main concerns regarding BRAC are education and housing. Officials estimate that 75 percent of the families who will be moving to Fort Lee will have children between the ages of 5 and 18. When those families relocate, officials estimate that the number of school children in the 14-15 cities will increase by as many as 2,000 students.

Officials at Fort Lee are currently in the process of developing an environmental impact statement. Once that statement is approved, the \$600 million worth of construction needed to accommodate the realignment has just started.

Between 2006 and 2009, post officials and community officials will be visiting communities that will be moving to Fort Lee. They will also be meeting with school superintendents to formulate a plan in order to accommodate the increased number of school children.

A Residential Community Initiative is also under way to rehabilitate and construct housing on Fort Lee. Contractors will coordinate the renovation and construction and will take responsibility for the homes in

order to prioritize housing on post. Meetings with local contracting agencies will be held starting in March to help them learn what they need to know in order to secure on-post contracting jobs.

Area officials anticipate unprecedented growth and change as a result of the BRAC expansion at Fort Lee.

"A decade from now if all the recommendations are carried out I think it's really going to transform the Tri-Cities," said Dennis K. Morris, a member of the BRAC working group and executive director of the Crater Planning District Commission. "It's going to be a great shot in the arm for the entire region."

Civic leader says exploits result of strong support

By Janet Taylor-Barkey
 Mach Meter staff
 February 15, 2006



Clovis businessman and community leader Ernest Cannon has spent the last 50 years of his life working to help the Air Force and the new community that has grown up around it. Cannon, 75, has spent the last 50 years of his life working to help the Air Force and the new community that has grown up around it.

Local businessman Ernest Cannon, 75, is retired.

But in 30 years old, he debunks the myth that retirement means you quit working.

"I don't retire, you go to work. (You) do the things you felt like you should've done when you were working," he said.

A tireless supporter of Cannon Air Force Base for 50 years, Stewart is a recent recipient of the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award. The award is the highest civilian award granted by the Air Force and recognizes someone and humanitarian contributions in support of the military and their families.

Stewart said he had plenty of help along the way.

"None of these things I've accomplished would not have been accomplished without a strong support group and our Committee of Fifty," Stewart said. "Without the help of none of this caliber, it wouldn't have taken place."

Such joining the Committee of Fifty shortly after arriving in Clovis in 1955, Stewart worked with senators and congressman to get money for funding and equipment, according to longtime secretary Majorie Tyson.

"He loved the military and wanted to keep Cannon active," Tyson said. "It wasn't a hobby but a true love. The time and money out of his own pocket that he spent were a labor of love."

Stewart believes Cannon being placed on "watch" status during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process is only a temporary setback.

"This is a proud moment for me," said Stewart. "I'm glad that they are so quick to do what they can to help us. I do believe that we have a lot of potential. We found one day and I can't hardly wait to get back to good for Cleveland."

Not only is his work on behalf of the Air Force rewarding, Stewart also sees his efforts as a way to say thank you for having his oldest son first deployed on overseas duty during the Vietnam War.

At the moment, the troops under his command Stewart's were surprised by the young. The Air Force commander with his own delivered the troops from a sure duty, said Bobby Jack Stewart. Doc's third son.

Stewart is not the only military veteran. A park artist, Captain, and a retired rear his name.

CN's staff writer and staff reporter reported to this report.

Military spouses deserve a clear right to vote in their community

Wednesday, February 15, 2006
Starline News Staff
February 15, 2006



Bill would allow military spouses and dependents to vote in their community.

VI. Bill would allow military spouses and dependents to vote in their community and

communities ranging from the Pentagon to Fort A. P. Hill to Norfolk, the country's wealth is home to the most financial centers per capita of any area in the United States.

With the implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure report, an estimated 3,000 positions will move to Marine Corps Base, Quantico--and Fort Belvoir will see an estimated 14,000 additional positions.

The demographics of Stafford and surrounding counties are bound to change with the influx of military personnel.

According to Expansion Management Institute, a resource for small- and medium-business owners, gone are the days of an "easy" find: living in base housing located from the surrounding civilian community. The Hollywood-esque vision of single mothers residing in barracks and the military family living on base has been relegated to history and movies.

The needs of the military, and in particular families, integrate into the surrounding civilian communities located near the duty stations.

Military veterans share the same concerns as civilian residents--housing costs, good schools, traffic congestion, taxes and crime rates. A eBay and rent homes, shop with local merchants, volunteer at schools and for community projects, and add to the diversity and richness of the areas in which we live.

We can bring you into the everyday life of a town and, for the most part, become an integral part of the community for the very long we are here.

While Stafford County does not track military in a separate category (another indication of being part of the community), a conservative estimate of property and sales taxes paid by military families may be significantly over \$1 million a year.

Additionally, if a military spouse is employed in the commonwealth, we pay state taxes, and file Virginia returns to report those taxes.

With anticipated growth due to BRAC, the revenue streams for the county and the state will be even higher.

The main difference between military spouses and their civilian counterparts is not measured in concern for the issues of everyday life; it is how we can voice our concern. Currently, under commonwealth statute, those registering to vote must swear that they are residents--that is, that they intend to reside in the commonwealth for an indefinite or unlimited amount of time, an unlikely scenario for a family with a highly mobile military career.

This antiquated verbiage, as interpreted by some registrars, renders military spouses and dependents without a voice in elections. While the active duty service member's registration and voting rights are protected under the Service Members Civil Relief Act, the voting right of the spouse is not.

We contribute to the economy and the community; yet, according to interpretation of commonwealth law, have no say in the matters that impact our lives, our children's education, or our pocketbooks.

The irony of the declaration of unlimited amount of time for residency is that this requirement is often not evenly applied to the general population. It is estimated that in

our mobile society, 42 million citizens across the United States move.

If we were to deny 11 percent of the population the right to vote, the outcry would be loud and long.

The commonwealth has protected the voting registration rights of the homeless, college students, and migrant workers by law--but until recently, regardless of the number of military bases, the registration rights of the military spouse and dependent have been largely overlooked.

Del. Mark Cole, R-88th, has stepped up to the plate and introduced House Bill 138, "Voter Registration; Spouse or Dependent of Military Member, Exceptions." This will give the military spouse or dependent the choice of where their ballots are cast.

HB 138 has passed the house with a vote of 87-11 and is now in Senate Privileges and Elections Committee. Passing through that committee is the next key step. After that, the legislation will move on to the Senate floor.

Military spouses and dependents are not looking for special treatment in this measure. We are only looking for the right to cast our ballots in the communities in which we live and raise our families.

Virginia welcomes the military base and service members, saluting their service and celebrating their return from deployments. It is now time for the commonwealth to acknowledge the spouse's home.

The passage of HB 138 into law will provide the legal voting voice for the military spouse--and dependent--residents of Virginia.

DANIELLE DAVIS has been a resident of Stafford County for nearly nine years and is married to a commander in the U.S. Navy.

Date published: 2/15/2006

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New McGuire projects a cause to celebrate

Construction at bases will drop sharply

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

BY Wayne Woolley
Star-Ledger Staff

Members of Congress go to a lot of ribbon-cutting ceremonies. But Rep. Jim Saxton (R-3rd. Dist.) had a big day Monday, even by congressional standards.

The veteran Burlington County lawmaker hit four events at McGuire Air Force Base for separate construction projects totaling more than \$75 million.

"I'd have to say four in one day has to be the all-time high," Saxton said yesterday.

Funding for all of the projects came to fruition since 2001 when the state's seven major military installations were lavished with upgrades to boost their "military value" and avoid being included on a list of bases Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld recommended last May be closed.

All but Fort Monmouth dodged the Pentagon downsizing. The Army communications center in Monmouth County is scheduled to close in 2010, and its 5,000 high-paying civilian jobs are slated to move to Aberdeen Proving Ground in

Maryland. The threat of further cuts of domestic installations in the next several years is remote.

The amount of new spending proposed for New Jersey's military bases has fallen steeply, from \$110 million in fiscal 2006 to \$35 million next year, in the \$439 billion defense budget President Bush announced last week.

New Jersey Democratic Sens. Robert Menendez and Frank Lautenberg issued a statement saying the president's budget shortchanged the state with the drop-off in proposed military construction.

But lawmakers who represent districts with military installations say the president's proposal merely illustrates the normal ebb and flow of the yearly military budget.

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R- 11th Dist.), whose district includes Picatinny Arsenal, said yesterday that the money was allocated to New Jersey's military installations when it was needed most -- in advance of the Pentagon's base reassignment and closure process that began in May 2005.

"We fought for the appropriations to build places like Picatinny up before the BRAC," Frelinghuysen said. "We wanted to make sure it was seen as a valuable asset."

Although no construction projects were proposed for Picatinny Arsenal in the fiscal 2007 budget year, which begins on Oct. 1, the Army installation in Rockaway Township was awarded more than \$40 million to fund new laboratories for munitions and pyrotechnics research over the past five years.

The past spending, Frelinghuysen said, helped enhance Picatinny Arsenal in the

eyes of Pentagon budget planners, who recommended in May that its mission expand to include developing weapons for the Navy as well as the Army.

He chided Lautenberg and Menendez for trying to "politicize" the president's current budget proposal, which may be amended by Congress.

"New Jersey has done pretty well in the face of possible cuts. We got where we are with a unity of purpose," Frelinghuysen said. "We ought to be working together to prepare for next time, not criticizing a single budget proposal."

Even the leaner budget for 2007 calls for two major projects in New Jersey, \$20 million for a National Guard logistics and training facility at Naval Engineering Station Lakehurst in Ocean County and \$15.5 million for an "assault" landing zone at McGuire, which will allow C-17 pilots to practice the short takeoffs and steep landings needed in combat zones.

Saxton, who is the third-ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee, said the spending project for the C-17s is just the latest in a series of large-scale projects that should secure the future of McGuire for years to come. The other projects already begun at the base include a \$27 million cargo terminal, a \$17 million maintenance facility for the C-17s and \$3.5 million in security upgrades for the front gate.

He said the additional money for Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, which adjoins McGuire and Fort Dix, shows that the Pentagon has embraced a concept he and Rep. Chris Smith (R-4th Dist.) pushed as a way to enhance their military value.

"We wanted the Department of Defense to think of the three installations as one 'megabase,'" Saxton said. "This budget shows that they have."

Wayne Woolley covers the military. He can be reached at wwoolley@starledger.com or 973-392-1559.

Jones proud of what his administration has accomplished

By Halsea Franklin, staff writer
February 15, 2006

At Monday night's council meeting, Linton Mayor Tom Jones presented his state of the city address.

"After two years as the elected mayor of the city of Linton, it has been an honor to serve you," he said. "It is fitting that we observe the many accomplishments this administration has had in its short tenure."

Love of community and its citizens, Jones said, has guided the administration to change how business is conducted on the local, state and federal levels.

"While giving untold dedication to the community's needs, this administration has dedicated its service to other organizations such as the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, IMPA (Indiana Municipal Power Association), WorkOne, Southern Indiana Rural Development, Greene County Economic Development and Indiana Conference of Mayors," Jones said. "It is important that the chief elected official network our community with others, to use a knowledge base, on issues that affect local government on a state and regional level."

Jones said his administration works with **and** through others to make Linton a better place to live, work and raise a family.

He said it's evident that the city is building a consensus with the Chamber of Commerce to explore possible business interests and investments in the community.

“Civic, benevolent and philanthropic organizations, along with the city administration, work together for the betterment of our community,” he said. “We are committed to continue to build upon the foundation that what we do must be for the betterment of the entire city.”

He said the administration has maintained an effective working relationship with other elected and appointed officials in all levels of government.

“We have an open line of communication between our local government and others in the county, state and federal level. These relationships have afforded us opportunities in regard to grants and awareness to other financial opportunities for our citizens,” he said. “Linton has been successful for a number of years funding many projects associated with these relationships.”

When assuming the post of mayor, Jones said, the city's finances were in fair condition; however, some attention to detail was needed.

“We inherited a financially strapped water department, a gas department who was about to lose nearly \$500,000 from a defunct company, a sanitation department that was not going to survive after the closing of the Greene County landfill with the increased cost of tipping fees and transportation,” Jones said. “We had two major projects unfunded and revenue bonds that we are

retiring on schedule. We believe that attention to detail should never stop to the point where goods and services are reduced or eliminated.”

As mayor, Jones said, he's had the opportunity to be involved with and oversee projects for the city and its employees.

“The Fourth Street project will be completed this year and is an added infrastructure transportation piece to the city. The project was started by the former administration, but final design and funding was made during this administration,” Jones said.

He said construction of the Fourth Street project began in June 2005 with the objective to have the school area open for traffic by Aug. 15.

“We, in fact, made our deadline and added significant work to the school entrance,” Jones said. “The entire project is scheduled for completion in May 2006. With the help of United Consulting Engineers, INDOT, and federal transportation money, the project is a beautiful addition to the city.

“The Fifth Street project, which has been put on suspension, was unfunded for design, and we hope to resume funding and design work in 2007.”

He said the project is currently on hold.

“Funding for design and right-of-way acquisition must be appropriated by the city council,” he said. “Although the street rebuild is needed to improve transportation and drainage, this project must make fiscal sense.”

He said some grant money has been awarded with a 20-percent local match;

however, all design costs must be paid by the city.

Jones said a bad situation was turned into a good one with the sale and operation of the former Winalta facility.

"While the banks returned much of their money, we absorbed a significant operating loss to our assets," he said. "Advanced Building Concepts is operating and doing well as they attempt to gain market share."

Jones said they're in the construction phase of a new public safety building.

"After a year of public discussion, we are now on the way to adding another piece of infrastructure that will help us attract business to Linton," he said. "The police department will relocate in the now Ross's Floor Store, and grants have been obtained to buy new equipment needed for the facility."

In November 2005, Jones said, the city was blessed with an aerial ladder truck from the city of Greendale.

"This gift along with advanced training has made our fire department one of the best in the state," he said.

The Linton Police Department was recently recognized by Sen. Evan Bayh's office.

"We are proud of the fact that our police have been recognized by Sen. Evan Bayh's office," he said. "We entered into this administration with the idea to make Linton drug free. Our efforts have produced results."

Jones said it's been an honor and privilege to negotiate the first organized contracts with the fire and police departments.

He said the parks needed some attention.

"Humphreys Park has been a focus for this administration," he said. "With the addition of new rest rooms and signage, the park is being utilized at a much higher level."

Joint participation between the Chamber of Commerce, park board and city on July 4, has led to many different projects and donations.

"The sand shell project stage extension for the Van Dells concert demonstrated community sharing and service," he said.

"The Linton Music Festival was a brain child of this mayor and one young man."

The festival, which had music, a chili/Coney cock-off and car show, brought people to Linton.

"The festival awarded us with a person - Don Borders - who reconstructed the log cabin and made it useable to the public," he said. "We can only thank the volunteers and others who donated time and money to make the cabin an added attraction for the park."

He said they're looking forward to applying for grants that will continually help improve the parks systems.

The A.M. Risher Swimming Pool, under the direction of Nigel Lehman and the pool board, has kept the pool self-sustaining.

"In 2005, the pool underwent construction and maintenance in the baby pool area to repair leaks and reduce costs," he said. "The pool enjoyed one of its best seasons ever."

Jones said the pool is important to area youth as well as adults.

“Water aerobics and fitness programs have begun, and the Linton Stingrays swim team call the pool their home,” he said.

Jones said the Phil Harris Golf Course is one of the most valued facilities used by citizens whether they play golf or not.

“With the Phil Harris Foundation Scholarship Golf Tournament and others, the golf course has captured the interest of many people, not only in Indiana, but nationally,” he said.

In 2005, Jones said, the city made a move to purchase the existing amenities at the course, and renovations were made to the old clubhouse.

“After years of struggling with revenue, the golf course is headed for a bright and prosperous future,” Jones said.

He said the former General Electric building is on everyone's minds.

“We now have an open line of communication with the company and hope to have right-to-entry soon,” he said. “This building is vital to economic growth to the city and surrounding area.”

With the development of a quality broadband system - Miner Broadband - Linton has now positioned itself to invite businesses and industry that compete globally.

“The system is an addition to our already reliable utility system that includes electric, water, gas, sewage, and sanitation,” he said.

Linton is unique because it has control of six utilities.

“These utilities make us attractive to the outside world,” he said. “We believe that we are one of the low-cost, customer-friendly utilities in the state.”

Jones said he is in awe of the people in the community.

“We are resilient people who have tremendous attitudes and community awareness,” he said. “I would like to thank you for your continued support as we look to a bright future for Linton. We have many obstacles to overcome as we embark on the mission of employment and wealth creation in the county.”

Jones said the West Gate @ Crane Technology Park and growth at Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane division will have a major impact on the local economy.

“We must support efforts in the West Gate area,” he said. “I-69 is a tremendous opportunity for the Greene County economy. The road is a major piece of state, local and federal infrastructure and could be the deciding factor in future rounds of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure).”

This administration supports I-69, he said.

The area also has opportunities with the development of Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area.

“During the late fall of 2005, there was increased traffic in the city, and the unemployment rate fell,” he said. “Hunting and fishing are huge businesses in the U.S., and if we make good plans we could capitalize on the tourism from the wetlands that will benefit the citizens of Greene County and Linton.”

Jones said his administration is proud to serve the citizens.

“The mayor, clerk-treasurer, city council and staff hold you in the highest regard. We will work together to make Linton a wonderful place to work, live and raise a family,” he said. “We have goals. The main goal is to work collectively to bring good-paying jobs to our community. It takes more than a few to make a community, and it takes a loving, caring community to make a difference.

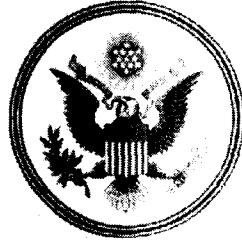
“We ask that you become involved in the affairs of the city of Linton and help us with growth and employment opportunities for your friends and neighbors. Thank you, and may God’s blessings shine upon us all.”

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Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

EARLY



BIRD

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“NATO in Talks on Anti-Missile Defence System with Poland.”

Agence France Presse
February 16, 2006

Warsaw, Feb 16, 2006 (AFP) – Poland is playing an important role in NATO talks on the development of an anti-missile defence

system, the military alliance’s chief said in Poland on Thursday.

“Poland plays an important role in discussions with the alliance on missile defence.” NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said after holding talks with Polish Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz in Warsaw. De Hoop Scheffer gave no further details.

The Gazeta Wyborcza newspaper reported in November that Poland has held talks with the United States about stationing part of its anti-missile defence system on Polish soil.

In November, a senior US defence official said America was discussing with Poland and other countries possible sites in Europe for a missile interceptor base capable of protecting the continent against long-range missile attack.

Such a site in central Europe would provide both the United States and Europe protection against long-range missiles fired from the Middle East or North Africa, the official said.

“Iran Seeks to Use Media to Attack U.S. Influence in Afghanistan.”

Kathy Gannon,
Associated Press Newswires
February 16, 2006

Herat, Afghanistan (AP) – Reporters and writers in Afghanistan say Iran has tried to recruit them to craft reports painting the

U.S. presence in the worst light and threatened some who have criticized Iran.

A journalist with Afghanistan's first commercial television station, Tolo TV, Mohammed Reza Shirmohmadi said Iran tried to recruit him to get inside U.S. military bases to report on the activity of the military personnel.

"They said we can make you the boss of a filmmaking company that we will set up in Herat. They told me you can make a reality film from the American base, from any foreign base and show what they are doing in this area and what they are doing in other areas," Shirmohmadi said.

"I said to them, 'It is right (what you say) that our country right now is in the hands of foreigners, but we are getting benefits from them,' and then they left me alone."

Iranian television, which disparages the United States and its policies, is widely watched in western Afghanistan, where people speak Persian, the language of Iran.

"Iranian television programs say Afghanistan is being controlled by America and it shows programs about the mistakes that Americans are making with people, searching women. Iranian television says that the constitution you made was an American constitution and against the Quran," Shirmohmadi said.

"The programs tell us that if Iranian soldiers were in Afghanistan they would not behave like American soldiers. They say you can't go on the same roads as American soldiers and you can't talk to them because they will attack Afghans who approach them."

Nasser Ahmed Raha, head of Enlightened Youth of Afghanistan, a small group of young people in Herat dedicated to building a civil society, said he received death threats after writing editorials warning of Iranian interference in western Afghanistan.

In early January the phone rang at his home in Herat, and on the other end of the line was a senior Afghan intelligence official, Raha said. "He warned me: 'Don't go against Iran. They will kill you.'"

The threat came after two editorials were published in his organization's newsletter.

One editorial, written last June, warned that the election of conservative Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as Iran's new president could reverberate in the region and particularly in Afghanistan in the form of increased interference.

"Because of Iran's politics today other countries, particularly Afghanistan, its neighbor, should be particularly cautious about Iran's concentration in Afghan politics," Raha wrote.

Raha's second editorial, published in December, accused Ahmadinejad of stirring international unrest with his statements against Israel.

"Calling for a country, recognized by others, to be wiped off the map is the kind of talk that comes from a general or a government at war with another. It should not come from the mouth of a president when the world is trying to put an end to these old enmities," Raha wrote.

Shirmohmadi said he was harassed by telephone calls from Shiite Muslim clerics following a round-table discussion on Tolo

Television that debated Ahmadinejad's comments on Israel.

"I got some telephone calls from mullahs who said this was part of a secret agenda against Iran. The mullahs called me directly and said Tolo Television was working for America," he said.

"Russian Air Force to Triple Deployments at Base in Kyrgyzstan."
Interfax – Military News Agency,
Interfax News Service
February 15, 2006.

Kant, Kyrgyzstan (Feb 15 (Interfax) – Russian Air Force Commander-in-Chief Gen. Vladimir Mikhailov told the press at Kant, the Russian base in Kyrgyzstan, that the number of aircraft deployed there will be tripled.

"There are plans to boost the number of officers at the base to approximately 260. Soldiers will also be doing their service," Mikhailov said adding that presently 135 Russian officers and ensigns are working at Kant.

He disclosed plans for large-scale construction, adding that the Russian Air Force expects to remain in Kyrgyzstan long-term. "This is our base forever," he said.

For details, see the Interfax – Military News Agency news wire.

"Possible U.S. Strikes on Iran Raise Fears in Kyrgyzstan."

Interfax Central Asia News
February 15, 2006

Bishkek, Feb 15 (Interfax) – Possible U.S. military strikes against Iran might trigger destabilization in Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyz political expert Nur Omarov said.

"The risk from such a conflict is it may activate crowds of Islamist radicals who may get to the Central Asia through Afghanistan," he said in an interview published by the local Delo newspaper on Wednesday.

"All military actions in Iran will definitely require enlarging the antiterrorist coalition's military base at Manas airport in Bishkek," he said. "This may engender negative sentiments toward Kyrgyzstan on behalf of Islamic countries-partners that will support Iran in the conflict," Omarov said.

Moreover, "enlargement of the U.S. military base may result in attacks by Islamist radicals and terrorist groups," the expert said.

"The majority of experts say that the issue of U.S. military campaign in Iran in March – April has almost been decided," he said.

"Russia Plans to Open Military Base in Belarus, Top General Says."

Associated Press Newswires
February 15, 2006

Kant Air Base, Kyrgyzstan (AF) – Russia plans on setting up a permanent military air base in Belarus, a senior military official said Tuesday, in a move that would further expand military ties between the two ex-Soviet nations.

Moscow has no immediate plans to further expand its military presence in Central Asia, but wants to set up a base in Belarus, Russian air force chief Gen. Vladimir Mikhailov said during a visit to a Russian air base in the form of Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan.

“We have a serious intention to have it in Belarus,” Mikhailov said.

Earlier this month, Russia’s President Vladimir Putin ordered four units of S-300PS air defense missiles moved to Belarus’ western border. Officials said the missiles would be deployed in late March.

Belarus’ authoritarian president, Alexander Lukashenko, has built close ties with Russia, even as he has become a pariah in the West for his crackdown on opposition and independent media.

The two nations signed a union agreement in 1996 paving the way for close political, economic and military ties and their armed forces have held frequent joint drills.

“Russia May Deploy Airbase in Belarus.”
RIA Novosti

Unsubstantiated.
February 15, 2006

Kant (Kyrgyzstan), February 15 (RIA Novosti) – Russia’s Air Force commander said Wednesday that the country’s military activities were contemplating the deployment of an airbase in Belarus.

General Vladimir Mikhailov said, “We intend to leave a base in Belarus as a standby option.” However, he stopped short of saying whether this possibility had been discussed with Belarusian authorities.

Mikhailov is currently visiting the ex-Soviet Central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan. On Tuesday, he is scheduled to meet with the Kyrgyz defense minister for talks on the status of the Russian airbase at Kant.

The Kant base, set up in the fall of 2003, will be expanded by two-and-a-half times before the end of the year, both in terms of personnel and hardware, Mikhailov said.

Even a high-ranking Defense Ministry official said the servicemen stationed at the Kant base enjoy the same status as Russian embassies’ technical personnel do, with immunity against arrest and prosecution.

The Associated Press, 2006, “Kyrgyz President Says U.S. Should Pay US\$207 Million for Use of Military Base.”
Associated Press Newswires (February 15, 2006)

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (AP) – The United States should pay U.S.\$207 million (euro173 million) for the use of a military base in this ex-Soviet republic, Kyrgyzstan’s president said in an interview published Wednesday.

Kurmanbek Bakiyev told the Russian daily Kommersant that the U.S. had been paying a little over a U.S.\$2 million (euro1.67 million) for the use of the base at the main airport, near Bishkek.

“According to our new estimates, (the U.S.) will now pay U.S.\$207 million,” Bakiyev was quoted as saying.

It was unclear what period of time Bakiyev was referring to, and a Bakiyev spokesman could not provide further details.

Since December 2001, Kyrgyzstan has hosted U.S.-led forces supporting combat operations in nearby Afghanistan.

The administration that came to power during a March 2005 uprising has sought to increase revenues from the U.S.-led base. It was not clear, however, when the negotiations over the new terms for the base would be completed.

The ex-Soviet Central Asian nation also hosts a Russian air base, just 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of Bishkek.

On a visit to the Kant base Wednesday, Russian air force commander Gen. Vladimir Mikhailov told reporters that base troops would be doubled to around 600 this year and the number of aircraft tripled.

Currently, five Su-25 fighter bombers, two Mi-8 helicopters and four L-39 jets are stationed there.

“Fargo Air Guard Unit Looks for Increase in Membership.”

David Melpack,

Associated Press Newswires

February 13, 2006

Fargo, N.D. (AP) – The move to unmanned aerial vehicles could lead to an increase in Air National Guard members here, the state’s top military official says.

The 11th Fighter Wing, known as the Happy Falcons, will be losing its F-16 jets within the next couple of years. The base has started training pilots to fly the Predator drones, which should be ready for combat missions by the end of the year.

Maj. Gen. Mike Haugen, the state’s National Guard commander, told a base support group Wednesday that the Fargo unit could increase beyond its current roster of about 1,000 members, including 375 full-time airmen.

“There’s some good stuff coming here,” Haugen said. “I think the need is going to grow.”

The base unit is slated to receive new light cargo planes in the next several years. Haugen said the unit needs another flying mission between the time when the F-

16s are retired and the cargo planes are ready.

“They are not ready to tell us which aircraft is coming after the F-16s depart,” Haugen said. “This is not a process like going down to the car lot and saying, ‘I want the red one.’”

Gov. John Hoeven said National Guard officials favor an interim mission for Fargo, but the Air Force has not yet committed to the plan.

“The latest conversations we’ve had are encouraging,” Haugen said. “But it’s still a work in process.”

Dick Walstad, the leader of a local group that worked to save the unit during the recent base closure round, said he originally feared the new mission would lead to personnel cuts.

“That’s kind of what we were out to do, to preserve the jobs that are here,” Walstad said after the meeting. “Looking now at the Predator, it may be a whole lot better for the Happy Hooligans than other aircraft in the region.

“It makes our future look pretty bright,” he said.

Col. Bob Becklund, the unit commander, said it makes sense to combine UAVs with a regular flying mission.

“The best Predator pilots are fighter pilots,” Becklund said after the meeting. “The second best Predator pilot is any kind of

pilot, whether he came from a B-52 or tanker or something like that.”

The Predator is used for surveillance and reconnaissance, and can be equipped to fire missiles. Several of the Hooligans are currently being trained to fly UAVs at a base in Nevada. They eventually will be operating combat missions in Iraq and Afghanistan from the Fargo control center.

A gap between flying missions could hurt the training program for UAVs, Becklund said.

“Other installations have endured long time frames without aircraft on the ramp, but it wouldn’t be optimal,” he said.

‘Brave McGuire Projects a Cause to Celebrate.’

The Star-Ledger (Newark, NJ)
Wayne Weidley
(February 15, 2006)

Construction at Bases Will Drop Sharply

Members of Congress go to a lot of ribbon-cutting ceremonies. But Rep. Jim Saxton (R-3rd, Dist.) had a big day Monday, even by congressional standards.

The veteran Burlington County lawmaker hit four events at McGuire Air Force Base

for separate construction projects totaling more than \$75 million.

"I'd have to say four in one day has to be the all-time high," Saxton said yesterday. Funding for all of the projects came to fruition since 2001 when the state's seven major military installations were lavished with upgrades to boost their "military value" and avoid being included on a list of bases Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld recommended last May be closed.

All but Fort Monmouth dodged the Pentagon downsizing. The Army communications center in Monmouth County is scheduled to close in 2016, and its 5,000 high-paying civilian jobs are slated to move to Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. The threat of further cuts of domestic installations in the next several years is remote.

The amount of new spending proposed for New Jersey's military bases has fallen steeply, from \$116 million in fiscal 2006 to \$35 million next year, in the \$439 billion defense budget President Bush announced last week.

New Jersey Democratic Sens. Robert Menendez and Frank Lautenberg issued a statement saying the president's budget shortchanged the state with the drop-off in proposed military construction.

But lawmakers who represent districts with military installations say the president's proposal merely illustrates the normal ebb and flow of the yearly military budget.

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th Dist.), whose district includes Picatinny Arsenal, said yesterday that the money was allocated to New Jersey's military installations when it was needed most -- in advance of the Pentagon's base realignment and closure process that began in May 2005.

"The fight for the appropriations to build Picatinny up before the BRAC," Frelinghuysen said. "We wanted to make sure it was seen as a valuable asset."

Although no construction projects were proposed for Picatinny Arsenal in the fiscal 2007 budget year, which begins on Oct. 1, the Army installation in Rockaway Township was awarded more than \$40 million to fund new laboratories for munitions and pyrotechnics research over the past five years.

The past spending, Frelinghuysen said, helped enhance Picatinny Arsenal in the eyes of Pentagon budget planners, who recommended in May that its mission expand to include developing weapons for the Navy as well as the Army.

He criticized Lautenberg and Menendez for trying to "politicize" the president's current budget proposal, which may be amended by Congress.

"New Jersey has done pretty well in the face of possible cuts. We got where we are with a unity of purpose," Frelinghuysen said. "We cannot be working together to prepare for next time, not criticizing a single budget proposal."

Even the leaner budget for 2007 calls for two major projects in New Jersey, \$20 million for a National Guard logistics and training facility at Naval Engineering

Station Lakehurst in Ocean County and \$15.5 million for an "assault" landing zone at McGuire, which will allow C-17 pilots to practice the short takeoffs and steep landings needed in combat zones.

Saxton, who is the third-ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee, said the spending project for the C-17s is just the latest in a series of large-scale projects that should secure the future of McGuire for years to come. The other projects already begun at the base include a \$27 million cargo terminal, a \$17 million maintenance facility for the C-17s and \$3.5 million in security upgrades for the front gate.

He said the additional money for Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, which adjoins McGuire and Fort Dix, shows that the Pentagon has embraced a concept he and Rep. Chris Smith (R-4th Dist.) pushed as a way to enhance their military value.

"We wanted the Department of Defense to think of the three installations as one 'megabase,'" Saxton said. "This budget shows that they have."

Wayne Woolley covers the military. He can be reached at wwoolley@starledger.com or 973-392-1350.

"Istook Pushes for Tinker Upgrade."

The Daily Oklahoman
Chris Istook
February 15, 2006

Rep. Ernest Istook said Tuesday that he had directed \$400,000 to Tinker Air Force Base to begin work on upgrading the power supply.

Istook, R-Warr Acres, said the funding is the first installment of an \$8 million project to create a new substation. The project wasn't scheduled to begin until 2009 but has been moved up at Istook's request, a news release from his office stated.

"This is a critical upgrade for Tinker," Istook wrote in the release. "Right now the base cannot operate at full efficiency because it simply lacks enough steady power. The base often suffers rolling blackouts that temporarily shut down some essential departments. Our military's workforce needs and deserves every necessary tool so they can do their jobs without having to plan on possible power outages."

Istook said the \$400,000 had been redirected from funds he secured late last year to build a new hangar at the Air National Guard station at Wall Rogers Airport. The hangar was proposed to house transport planes that the Air Guard station is now scheduled to lose because of actions by the 2005 base closing commission.

"More Development in Oceana's Gray Zone."

The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, VA)
Joy M. Gillies
February 15, 2006

With little debate or fanfare, the City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to restrict development in the riskiest accident-potential zone around Oceana Naval Air Station.

The council banned new development that the Navy says is incompatible in Oceana's Clear Zone, including homes and businesses. The only uses the Navy considers compatible in the zones are farm crops. The Clear Zone extends 3,000 feet from the end of Oceana's four runways.

There are only 31 privately owned parcels in the Clear Zone.

"This has not really risen to any high-anxiety level," Councilman Richard Maddox said. "I've not gotten an e-mail, a phone call — nothing."

One homeowner in the zone on Potters Road objected at Tuesday's meeting, calling the restrictions "unnecessary."

In December, the council approved the same development restrictions in Accident Potential Zone 1 in response to demands by the federal Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

APZ-1 extends from the end of the Clear Zone to 8,000 feet. The risk of a jet crash is higher in the Clear Zone, but the BRAC Commission overlooked that zone when it asked the city to halt and roll back development around Oceana.

Most of the 30 houses in the Clear Zones were built in the 1940s and 1950s, before Oceana became a full-blown master jet base. About a half-dozen businesses operate in the

zones. The new rules do not affect existing buildings.

Before the meeting, Mayor Meyera Oberdorfer said expanding the development restrictions into the Clear Zone shows that Virginia Beach "is trying to do its level best to partner with, protect and nurture Oceana."

The city has until March 31 to submit its BRAC plan. The Defense Department's inspector general has until June to decide whether it complies with BRAC.

The city refused to condemn and buy existing homes and businesses in APZ-1, as BRAC had required.

Cherantri, however, said the plan addresses the Navy's concerns and does more than BRAC demanded.

Contact Jon W. Glass at (757) 222-5119 or jonglass@wmgtonline.com.

Alexander Babakin and Viktor Myasnikov. 2006. "Generals Take Notice of Another Military Base." WPS: What the Papers Say (February 17).

Possible Deployment of a Russian Aircraft Base in Belarus

Russia is obviously reinforcing its aircraft groupings beyond its own borders. The aircraft base in Belarus is the first significant threat to move in the direction of Western Europe for many years.

Russia will get an aircraft base in Belarus. This was announced by Russian Air Force Colonel and Lieut-Colonel Vladimir Mikhaylov on Wednesday during an inspection of the

Russian aircraft base in Kant (Kyrgyzstan). At the same time, he reported that during 2006 this base will be expanded by 250% in terms of both personnel and hardware." Russia is obviously reinforcing its aircraft groupings beyond its own borders.

The aircraft base in Belarus is the first significant threatening move in the direction of Western Europe for many years. Only a few days ago Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov declared about the partnership with NATO and cooperation, but in reality we see establishing of a new Russian military grouping aimed against the alliance.

Our question about possible deployment of a Russian aircraft base in Belarus was answered by former Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Federation Air Forces Colonel General Piotr Deynekin (1991-1994), "it is high time to use airfields of former Soviet republics for improving the air skills of the Russian air regiments. Such bases could be established on dozens of various airfields. But in the former soviet republics * Baltic states, Ukraine, Belarus * there is the most developed military aircraft infrastructure."

Colonel General, who used to take main chairs in the Headquarters of the Air Forces noted that he visits Belarus often and knows the present state of the airfield not perfectly. For instance, such aircraft base could be established near town Baranovichi. "There is a good airfield and aircraft repair plant No 558." Another major airfield is located near the town of Lida. In Mochulisnchi, during the Soviet times there was a regiment of fighters with strategic Tu-22 bombers. But Minsk is near, that is why the aircraft base could hardly be established there. Airfields in Orsha and Bobruisk are unfit for action. "If we pay attention to the geographical, military position," Colonel General noted during the talk, "airfield Baranovichi is

preferable. Apart from the repair base, there is a significant Belarus grouping of Air Defense. The Russian combat aviation would have a reliable shelter from the possible blows of NATO military groupings located in the Baltic states and Poland." Besides, the aircraft base in Baranovichi is located near magnificent polygon of Polisskiy, where one can perfect combat skills. Apart from that, this possible base would reliably cover the radar station of distant detecting the Russian notification system from missile attack, which is about 60 kilometers away.

At present, Moscow established military bases in three strategic directions. In Central Asia there are Kant and Dushanbe, in the South there are bases in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Crimea. In the Western direction, there are only two radio-location stations in Belarus. During Soviet times, the military groupings in these directions were the most powerful, since they resisted the main NATO powers. Today, Russia started increasing its military forces along this traditionally dangerous border.

After Poland and the Baltic states joined NATO, the buffer zone vanished, that used to separate Russia from NATO. In the former Soviet airfields there are planes of European allies and American radar stations. Poland invited the US to establish a missile defense base on its territory; there were talks about relocating four American military bases from Germany. However, though the terms of relocation and new base sites remain determined yet, Russia is taking no further steps.

First of all, there is strengthening the joint air defense system. Russia is giving four divisions of S-300 air defense systems to Estonia. The transfer started in January *

rather efficiently" by means of reserve planes.

Belarus already has two brigades of S-300 systems and several battalions of S-200 systems. Thanks to Russia's support it will be able to cover the western sector and protect its air base from sudden strikes.

Russian and Belarusian air defense units conduct joint exercises twice a year. Russian pilots land on the Baranovichi and Mochulishin fields. Mochulishin had been a reserve airfield of the strategic aviation in the USSR. At present the Tu-22M, Tu-95 and Tu-160 bombers land here. General Vladimir Mikhanov said that it's possible that it will become a base for fighters and strategic warplanes with cruise missiles.

The USSR deployed its vanguard units near the potential enemy. Russia is trying to do the same. This is why it deploys its bases in the post-Soviet republics.

Nezavisimaya Gazeta, February 17, 2006, p. 1

"DOD's Transformation Needs to Go Double Time."

Newsnotes, News Network
David Daley,
February 17, 2006

The Quadrennial Defense Review in 2001 embraced the department's future network-centric vision, but the problem was that there was no emphasis on a need to transform, according to one senior defense IT leader.

Priscilla Guthrie, Deputy Defense CIO, said the recently released 2006 QDR puts a quicker pace on implementation.

"In [DOD's] [Sept. 11, 2001] strategy we're going strategy, but the problem is the pace of implementation hasn't been adequate," Guthrie said today at the Federal Networks 2006 conference in McLean, Va., sponsored by Swan Consulting and T-10 strategies. "In this QDR, you see an emphasis on the pace of change."

DOD submitted the QDR to Congress earlier this week, along with the fiscal 2007 budget request.

Guthrie said a part of that change is an increased focus on network operations. She said the department continues to struggle with getting connectivity to troops on the battlefield.

Guthrie said the DOD needs industry's help in bringing attention to the mobile tactical user.

"It is a pesky problem. This is the 911 and 411 problem" someone is on the edge, someone is on the battlefield and something doesn't work," Guthrie said. "How do they call someone and get support? It's a big deal. I don't think we have good models."

One question will be a bigger emphasis on distributed technologies, such as enterprise wide managed services and service-oriented architectures, Guthrie said.

Reported By GCN Daily Updates.
<http://www.gcn.com>

"300 in the Region"
The Day, New London, CT
Arlene W. Smith,
February 17, 2006

An economic-development specialist told an executive committee of the diversification study that the Southeastern Connecticut region might consider a branding campaign to tout its various assets to potential employers.

"Find the asset. Establish the brand," said David C. Driver, managing director for regional development for the Berlin-based Northeast Utilities System. He told the executive committee that CUE's campaigns, ranging from Hartford-Springfield's "Knowledge Corridor" to the "Discover New England for Business" programs, are aimed at promoting assets ranging from high-tech businesses to public and private colleges to those employers and institutions that are considering locating in New England.

Doug Fisher, who also is an economic-development executive with Northeast Utilities and serves as the commission's chairman, said southeastern Connecticut has many similar assets that could be considered in such a campaign.

"There may be some opportunities for southeastern Connecticut to layer itself in with the state" to promote further economic development, he said. "There may be some niche reasons to promote the collective assets (of this region) regardless of borders. It's just something to think about."

Gov. M. Jodi Rell created the diversification commission last December to develop a comprehensive plan to expand the region's \$10.5 billion economy and to explore ways to enhance the State's Budget to Balance in Groton, Groton's debt, and the state's future deficits and backlogs. This past May, the Pennino proposal of closing the Groton base but the decision was overturned last summer by an independent federal panel reviewing

the language of a nationwide list of proposed base closures and consolidations.

Thursday's meeting at the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments' headquarters in Norwich involved the commissioner's 11-member executive committee, which includes four subcommittees.

Driver told the committee that the "Discover New England for Business" program has set an agenda for New England states thinking collectively about economic development within the region, rather than focus narrowly on discrete state-by-state programs. He said New England states can tout their skilled work force, high-tech employers and strong educational institutions to employers and institutions considering relocating.

Fisher also told the subcommittee members that fiscal realities in Hartford could make for some difficult decisions on proposed projects. He said some of the diversification proposals already floated by the subcommittees have proposed price tags of up to \$100 million over a 10-year period.

The defense and homeland security subcommittee has proposed a draft action plan that calls for a minimum of \$10 million in annual funding over a 10-year period for a variety of projects that would establish this region's defense and homeland security institutions as a "center of excellence."

In addition, the Council of Governments has endorsed both the 10-year funding plan and a nearly \$100 million plan for a sophisticated water treatment plant at the Groton base. The state legislature last year approved \$10 million in state bonding for improvements to the Groton base.

"This is premature," Fisher said. "We're not quite there yet. We're not prepared to make recommendations. I'm not raising on anyone's behalf. We've got to get behind the toughest environmental issues."

"There's going to be a lot of good ideas," he said. "Let's not them. Let's kick the tires hard."

The commission's four subcommittees * marketing and accessibility, defense and homeland security, infrastructure, utility and workforce and water bottle housing. I have been working to develop draft plans for an interim report that will be presented to the full diversification commission when it meets in late March.

End Page

"Hefley Leaving House 20-Year Run in Congress"

Anne C. Mulkeen
Denver (CO) Post
February 17, 2006

"A Hard Decision"

The Republican Will Retire When His Term Ends in June 2007. The Seat Could Draw a Rush of GOP Candidates.

Rep. Ed Hefley, Colorado's longest-serving current member of Congress, announced Thursday that he will retire next year after 20 years in the House, ending a political career that spanned four presidencies and oversaw the metamorphosis of U.S. House

First elected to Congress in 1986, when the county had half the population it's expected to have by the decade's end, the 70-year-old

conservative Republican helped guard the seat from being taken from closure.

A liberal and mild-mannered, he worked most of his life in the sciences but drew national attention as head of the House's ethics committee dealing high-profile scandals.

The long-announced announcement is expected to trigger a rush of Republicans vying for the seat this year. Hefley's 5th District has always voted GOP for Congress.

"I'm not sure I'm doing it for me because I really like the job," Hefley said. "I think I could have won reelection handily. But I guess I just can't face the 20 years that probably enough was enough."

Hefley made the decision after months of deliberation. Long talks with his wife, Lynn, a state representative, over dinner and during walks along the base of the mountains or on the snowy, volcanic beach where they have a vacation home.

Hefley wanted to stay in Congress through last year's round of base closures, which spared the Army's Fort Carson in his district.

Also, he said, he wants to explore professional opportunities. He declined to say what those possibilities were, saying he can't speculate for them while he's still in office, but said, "If I go ahead and serve, then they may not be available."

A scientist and painter, he also wants to get back to his artwork.

"Everything kind of fell into place so that it seemed like this was the right time," Hefley said. "I'm not a few-bit disgruntled about things or anything. Gosh, I want to get out of

here. The Ferguson can be. That's why it was so hard.'

Known for his lack of interest in the trappings of power and prestige, Hetley mostly worked on issues that drew little outside attention but won him the devotion of El Paso County voters.

'He was the ultimate quiet conservative,' said Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., who frequently called Hetley his best friend in Congress.

Hetley didn't seek headlines, said Sean Conway, chief of staff for Sen. Wayne Allard and active in Colorado politics for 30 years. 'We just quietly and skillfully protected the interests of his district, which is what a good congressman does.'

Hetley's most public moment came last year when the House ethics committee he headed scolded House Majority Leader Tom DeLay three times. Hetley later lost his chairmanship of the committee.

'In standing up to Tom DeLay, Joel probably did as much as anyone in fighting the 'culture of corruption' in Washington,' said Colorado House Republican Leader Joe Stengel of Littleton.

While he said he harbors no bitterness over the DeLay issue, Hetley said Thursday that he has been greatly frustrated by the transformation of congressional seats into what he described as fundraising positions for political parties.

'It's become a money-machine place where you're expected to raise lots of money and pour a lot of that money into the party if you want to be a (committee) chairman or you want to be in leadership,' Hetley said. 'I think that's scandalous. It's not just the

Republican side Democrats, too. That's very, very frustrating.'

Colorado Gov. Bill Owens, through a spokesman, said, 'I appreciate the great service that Rep. Hetley has provided to the state and to his constituents for many years.'

State GOP Chairman Bob Martinez called Hetley a role model that I think even other congressmen could look up to as a model.'

Martinez said Hetley has 'done a lot for the 5th Congressional District, as far as securing the defense funding for that district as well as upholding the integrity of Congress.'

Rep. Mark Udall, D-Colo., said that while Hetley was mostly a low-profile figure in Congress, he 'won't shied away from high-profile issues such as taking on DeLay for his ethical lapses.'

Udall called Hetley 'always a gentleman and a straight shooter (who has) worked tirelessly for Colorado.'

'For two decades, he protected Fort Carson and Peterson Air Force Base,' Allard said.

Hetley plans to stay in Colorado Springs for now - Colorado's home, and I look forward to spending a lot more time there,' he said.

The Oklahoma native moved to Colorado after a stint on ranches before becoming executive director of the Community Planning and Research Council in Colorado Springs in 1966. He was elected to the state legislature in 1976.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and a master's degree from Oklahoma State University.

Staff members Eric Emery, Chris Frantz, Jim Hughes and Mike Soraghan contributed to this report.

Joel Hefey Timeline

1935: Born in Ardmore, Okla.

1957: Graduates with a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University.

1961: Marries Lynn Christian.

1962: Earns a master's degree from Oklahoma State University.

1965: Moves to Colorado Springs, where he later serves as executive director of the Community Planning and Research Council.

1976: Elected to the Colorado House of Representatives when he defeats Democrat Bill Planery.

1978: Elected to the Colorado Senate when he defeats Democrat Bill Corrier.

1982: Runs unopposed and retains his state Senate seat.

1986: Elected to state U.S. House of Representatives, defeating Democrat William C. Story with 70 percent of the vote.

1988: After surviving a pre-primary challenge from fellow Republican Ken Kramer (who formerly held the seat), wins re-election with nearly 78 percent of the vote.

1990: Maintains his seat by defeating Democrat Cal Jenkinson with 69 percent of the vote.

1992: Defeats Democrat Charles Oriez with 74 percent of the vote.

1994: Runs unopposed to retain his seat.

Jan. 4, 1995: Named chair of the National Security Subcommittee on Military Installations.

1996: Re-elected with 72 percent of the vote against Democrat Mike Robinson.

1998: Coasts to a seventh House term in defeating Democrat Ken Alford.

2000: Wins 85 percent of the vote against Libertarian and unaffiliated candidates to maintain his seat in the House.

Jan. 4, 2001: Appointed chair the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, also known as the ethics committee.

2002: Elected to eighth term by gaining nearly 70 percent of the vote in defeating Democrat W. Curtis Innie and Libertarian Bill Baker.

Jan. 19, 2003: Wins the House Resources Committee chairmanship by bypassing the committee's chairmanship.

2004: Defeats Democrat Fred Hardee by more than a 2-to-1 ratio.

Feb. 2, 2006: After clashing with House leadership over ethical policies, is replaced as chairman of the ethics committee.

March 2, 2006: Is the only Republican to protest with Democrats on the House floor the handling of ethics rules.

July 16, 2006: Announces he won't seek an 11th term.

Compiled by Barry Osborne of the Denver Post Research Library.

Sources: The Associated Press and Denver Post archives.

“Hefley’s Legacy: Saving Carson.”

Mike Songhria,
Denver (CO) Post
February 17, 2006

The Military Base Was Threatened with Closure in the 1990s. Decisions Last Year Expanded It by Thousands of Soldiers.

What little fame Joel Hefley gained outside his Colorado district in recent years came from the job he hated most: policing the behavior of his fellow lawmakers.

But all of that took a back seat to his main mission in his 10 terms in Congress: saving Fort Carson.

‘The preservation of Fort Carson is certainly the center of his congressional legacy,’ said Sarah Sheldon, his longtime press secretary, now a public affairs executive in California. ‘Even going back to his time in the state legislature, Carson has been at the center.’

Colorado Springs got a scare a decade ago when Fort Carson * the sprawling Army post south of the city and the state’s second-largest employer * was threatened in a round of military base closures in the mid-1990s, and Hefley set out to make sure that it wouldn’t happen again.

He convinced generals to explain that Carson boasted wide-open spaces for tank

maneuvers and gun ranges. He pressed for legislation to protect its perimeter from encroaching development.

And as chairman of the military construction subcommittee, he pressed for new projects at Carson and several other military facilities in his district. Deteriorating base housing at Carson was seen as a particular weakness; Hefley developed a new program to privatize management of living quarters.

In this year’s base-closure round, Fort Carson was not only spared cuts, it grew by thousands of soldiers.

‘When you look at what Fort Carson is today, Fort Carson (Air Force Base), Northcom, and the growth of Colorado Springs and the importance of it, you can clearly see the success over the last two decades that his tenure has brought,’ said Sean Conway, chief of staff to Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo.

Hefley was raised in Oklahoma and came to Colorado seeking work as a cowboy.

He came to Congress in 1987 after serving in the statehouse, winning his first general election with 70 percent of the vote, and had been elected easily ever since to the most conservative district in Colorado and one of the most Republican in the nation.

Except for defense, he opposed federal spending to the point of irritating his colleagues.

He repeatedly voted against spending bills and became known for his ‘porker of the week’ prize for bringing misguided government outlays.

In recent years, Hefley chafed at a system in which success was measured by fundraising prowess.

He spoke more openly than most sitting members about the corrosive effects of the drive for campaign cash. That began an open clash with then-House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

Never one to enjoy holding a news conference, the low-profile congressman got his biggest publicity boost from a job he never wanted: House ethics chairman. Hefley compared the post to 'jury duty.'

In 2004, Hefley and his committee three times admonished DeLay for financial and political transgressions. DeLay has since been indicted on campaign finance violations in Texas.

Early in 2005, Hefley was pushed out as the House's top ethics cop.

Hefley said he'd been ready to leave the post, but his sudden departure turned him into an improbable martyr in the congressional corruption scandal.

Staff writer Anna C. Mulkern contributed to this report

"Quadrennial Defense Review

Resonance,"

The Washington (DC) Times

Michael O'Hanlon

February 17, 2006

Since its publication Feb. 9, the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review has been severely criticized by commentators ranging from The Washington Post's editorial board to former Bush administration officials and neocons to moderates and progressives.

The most frequent complaints are that the review fails to make tough decisions on curtailing weapons or increasing U.S. ground forces, facing the most severe strain since the all-volunteer military was created in the 1970s.

Hard to do, to these sentiments. Despite worthy initiatives to increase support for unmanned aerial vehicles, special operations forces, and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) response teams, the review fell short.

Even the nearly uniform and severe criticism of this QDR goes too far. In fact, it is a solid if somewhat uninspired document * not Mr. Rumsfeld's ideas work, but still a reasonable basis for future defense planning.

To assess a QDR fairly, one first needs to remember that in government, unlike in think-tank work or punditry, it is often better to promote boring but sound policies rather than flashy but poorly conceived proposals. In the writing world, we are scored for our creativity and our boldness, and being wrong either way is OK if every so often a really good idea comes along. In making our real government policy, the tables are turned * especially on national defense.

Indeed, for this reason I believe Mr. Rumsfeld's legacy on Iraq will be more bad than good. The boldness and creativity of his invasion plan was vindicated, but the poor preparation for the post-invasion operation cost the country dearly. In the Olympics, one brilliant success followed by a disaster might get you a gold medal. In military affairs, it does not.

But, fairness to Mr. Rumsfeld is to be evaluated first for his war plans, a similar logic would suggest he not be judged too

harshly for an over-cautious QDR. It is also only fair to remember the good flashy ideas he helped promote in the past * a new style of warfare in Afghanistan, a new global basing posture, major changes in how the Navy and Air Force deploy their forces, support for the Stennis/Schomaker modernization of the Army, a successful base closure process in 2005. They were already old news by the time this review came around and thus earned the defense secretary few compliments, but they should not be forgotten.

On insufficient ground forces, several points need to be made. I believe we have badly overstained the Army and Marine Corps, and should have increased their rank substantially. But this decision was needed in 2003 or 2004 at the latest.

It is getting very rare to introduce such a policy - at least on a major scale, for two reasons:

(1) There is good reason to hope the Iraq deployment will begin to wind down soon.

(2) Even if we started a crash effort now to expand the size of the ground forces, little could be accomplished before 2008, when the U.S. presence in Iraq will almost certainly have been dramatically scaled back.

Scoring Mr. Kaufstiel historically, the decision not to increase the ground forces back then may be judged a major mistake. But for this QDR, it is a less serious oversight. And in fairness, it must be said that due to the incredible patriotism and commitment of our men and women under arms, the ground forces * while enormously strained * are holding up better than most would have predicted. I still favor an increase in the Army and Marines, but the

decision will fundamentally relieve an overstretched force as harder and harder to sustain.

As for weapons systems, it is true virtually everything got canceled the review * the F22 and F35 (the DDN destroyer, V22 Osprey tilt rotor aircraft, Virginia Class submarine, and so on). This is regrettable: there is not enough money to fund them all. Again, two counterbalancing points need to be made:

(a) There is a serious military argument, even in today's world, for every weapon listed. For example, while the F22 is often marketed as a fighter designed to combat level combat aircraft and air defenses that no longer exist, it is insurance against a rapidly improving Chinese military that may someday wind up in conflict with Taiwan (and thus, quite likely, America). And the F35 provides stealthy attack options for carrier-based operations, as well as over-the-horizon long-based runways that may be damaged by accurate enemy missiles in future wars.

In my view, the latter program could still have been cut in half * but then something else, costing at least half as much (like new F-35s), would have had to be bought to replenishing fighter inventory, reducing the actual savings more than half.

(b) While it is no excuse, Mr. Rumsfeld's unwillingness to cancel more procurement programs fits within a long, proud tradition of U.S. defense planners. This QDR was the fifth major defense review since the Soviet Union collapsed. The last four were Dick Cheney's post-force concept of 1992, Les Aspin's ground-up review of 1993, William Cohen's ODR of 1997, and Mr. Rumsfeld's CDRL of 2001. None of these canceled any of the programs mentioned, with the

exception of Mr. Cheney's cancellation of the V22, which was later restored.

Indeed, Mr. Rumsfeld's overall legacy of canceling the Army's Crusader artillery system, Pentagon heli-copter, and Navy lower-tier missile defense program would probably rank him about average in cuts among modern Defense secretaries.

There is a probable tendency to protect too many programs, but it is bipartisan, time-tested and very hard to change.

Indeed, this last point is most striking of all. For all the talk of revolution and radical change for all the specific new initiatives under Mr. Rumsfeld and his predecessors, we have retained a certain degree of consensus and stability in post-Cold War defense policy reviews. The military that emerges from this QDR will be nearly identical in size and quite similar in structure to what Les Aspin conceived a dozen years ago. The two-war scenario underpinning it has been modified and described in terms of "capabilities based planning" rather than threat-based planning, but is not far from Mr. Cheney's 1992 proposal.

For Mr. Rumsfeld, a self-styled revolutionary, this may be damning with faint praise. But for a nation that could benefit from a degree of continuity and bipartisan consensus, at least on one aspect of its public policies, this may not be so bad.

Michael C. Harmon, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, is author of "Defense Strategy for the Post-Saddam Era."

"Congress Members Visit Air Logistics Centers"

Associated Press News wires
February 7, 2006.

Ocala, Fla. (AP) * Near members of Congress stood near a line of gleaming, striped-on KC-135 tanker aircraft Friday and raved about efficiency at Tinker Air Force Base and bases in Utah and Georgia where the nation's military air fleet is maintained.

Tinker has the largest of the remaining three Air Force air logistics centers. The others are located at Fort Bragg Base in Georgia and Hill Air Force Base in Utah. The number of centers was reduced from five during the 1995 round of base closings.

In fact, there "was a lot of fighting" among the centers, but that has changed and has led to making the installations more efficient, said Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., who accompanied congressional tour.

Sen. Jim Hatch, R-Utah, said the Air Force units are working together and as a result "we are doing things that never could have been done before."

The tour started at Robins and was to wind up at Hill Friday afternoon. Also making the trip were Sen. Robert Bennett, R-Utah, and Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. During the Tinker visit, the congressmen were briefed by Robert G. Conner, director of the air logistics center.

Conner said that his late father worked on the KC-135 and helped design some of its maintenance systems.

He said the tanker, which supports most of the nation's refueling capacity, has served the nation well, but "sooner or later we are going to have to grapple with the

question of giving them (Tinker personnel) a successful final "work on."

The KC-135s came on line during the Eisenhower administration and the planes have the longest average life of any line in the nation's combat fleet.

The Congress members were asked about a problem of rolling blackouts at Tinker and about delays in getting funds to build a new power plant.

Cole said defense funding is being increased but more funding is needed to catch up on maintenance needs.

Inhofe said that defense used to get funding equivalent to 5.7 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product, but that dropped to 2.9 percent in the 1990s and now is at 3.8 percent.

He said a lot of money has been drained because the conflict involving Kosovo and Bosnia and the current war in Iraq. He said spending on defense should equal 5 to 6 percent of the GDP to allow the military to make needed improvements.

End Pt II

"Engineer Battalion Reactivated As Part of Base Realignment"

The Associated Press Newswires
February 17, 2006

Ft. Knox, Ky. (AP) * A longtime engineer battalion is officially back in action as part of the base realignment affecting Fort Knox.

The 19th Engineer Battalion, formed in 1938, officially returned to service this week and will later be deactivated by

the U.S. Army. The unit was based at Fort Knox from 1975 until its deactivation in 1991.

"I think it's very appropriate that the 19th Engineer Battalion be first of the new groups to arrive because of its great history at Fort Knox," Maj. Gen. Robert Williams said during a reactivation ceremony on Thursday.

About 100 members of the battalion are already at Fort Knox, with another 500 soldiers expected to arrive by the summer.

The unit served in World War II, Vietnam and the Gulf War with Iraq. The battalion is scheduled to stay at Fort Knox only a short time before being deployed overseas.

The 19th Engineer Battalion is made up of five companies: Headquarters Support Company, Forward Support Company, the 1st Engineer Company, the 60th Engineer Company and the 76th Engineer Company.

Soldiers in the battalion include heavy construction equipment operators, general construction equipment officers and technical engineering specialists.

As part of the Army's base realignment, several units are slated to come to Fort Knox, including the U.S. Army Accessions Command and U.S. Army Cadet Command from Fort Belvoir, Va., and the Army Human Resources Command.

The Armor Center and School, which has long been the post's most high-profile command, is expected to leave for Fort Belvoir in the next three years.

"Defense Supporters Go on Defense As Base is Deactivated"

Dale Heman,
The Virginian-Pilot (Norfolk, VA)
February 17, 2009

With a critical deadline looming, Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, the Hampton Roads congressional delegation and Virginia Beach officials appear to be ratcheting up efforts to reassure the Pentagon about their plans to control commercial and residential growth near Oceana Naval Air Station.

A two-hour closed-door session Wednesday in Kaine's Richmond conference room marked the second time in a week that state and local leaders have lobbied acting Defense Department Inspector General Thomas F. Gimble, a key decision-maker on the base's future.

None of those involved was discussing the meeting in detail on Thursday. A spokesman for Gimble did not return phone messages, and Kaine's press secretary, Kevin Hall, described the session simply as "an informational get-together."

But one state lawmaker who took part suggested that state and local officials are concerned that the Pentagon has pre-judged as inadequate their efforts to meet conditions set by a federal base closing commission for Oceana's survival as the Navy's East Coast master jet base.

"We just don't want anyone to jump to conclusions," said state Sen. Kenneth W. Stolle, R-Virginia Beach. "Nobody has an appreciation of how far Virginia Beach has gone."

Federal officials "haven't seen the whole plan yet," said Tom Goaly, chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Thelma Drake, R-2nd District.

"They understand that we are working toward completion of a program and that at that time we hope the city will produce income for the State," says U.S. Rep. Thelma Drake.

The intensified state and local lobbying * U.S. Sens. John W. Warner and George Allen and Gov. Thelma Drake met with Gen. Jim Washington last week * comes in the wake of expressions of concern from the Pentagon about Virginia Beach's refusal to evict commercial and businesses in a high-risk "brown plume" zone near Oceana.

The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission ordered the city last August to spend at least \$15 million annually to clean up the property in the zone. Development along Oceana's flight paths endangers local residents and limits the Navy's ability to train pilots, the panel said.

The commission gave the city and state until March 2011 to establish the condemnation program and take other steps to control growth near the base or risk the transfer of Oceana's jets to other Navy facilities.

Gimble was tapped to judge the city's compliance. But even if he decides Virginia Beach has met its share of the commission's order, Oceana is likely to remain a major part of the realignment for years.

Adm. Michael G. Mullen, the chief of naval operations, acknowledged last week that building a replacement base would cost up to \$1 billion, that's not in his budget. And other service branches, like the Air Force, have some of a few Navy bases that some BRAC commissions wanted to reactivate as an alternative. Congress has withdrawn an offer to return that facility to the service.

“We think the collective actions that we’re taking comply with the BRAC order,” Stolle insists. Thursday Mayor Meyer Obama said. Meanwhile, called herself cautiously optimistic about Oceana’s future, “with very great emphasis on the ‘cautious.’”

“We are not going back on anything we worked out with the public,” Oberndorf said Thursday, alluding to hearings last fall in which angry residents promised to retaliate at the polls against council members who might support condemnation of housing.

While refusing to evict landowners near the base, the city has moved to acquire some property from voluntary sellers and has taken other anti-growth steps that meet and in some cases go beyond the BRAC Commission’s requirements, local officials contend.

On Thursday, for example, Virginia Beach Planning Director Bob Scott said the city has nearly completed a priority list of land purchases to keep new homes out of a Navy flight corridor between Oceana and Pentress Field, a practice landing strip in Chesapeake.

As yet, however, no money has been set aside for those purchases. And an effort to secure federal aid apparently has been shelved.

Bobby Rountree, the civilian plans and policy chief at Oceana, told a gathering of local officials Thursday that Oceana had requested \$5 million to help buy land in the corridor under a new program to halt development around military bases.

DeSantis said he has worried that no money will be authorized until the BRAC issues involving Oceana are settled,” Rountree said.

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“Archaeologists’ Work Could Affect Barracks.”

Times Herald-Examiner
Staff Writer: Bob Powell
Date: 11/17/2001

Land at Jefferson Barracks May Someday Be Part of an Armed Forces Reserve and National Guard Center.

Archaeologists on Wednesday were digging for bits of history in a patch of ground in Jefferson Barracks. Their findings from a site about the size of a football field could have a major effect on the site's future.

The land someday may become part of an Armed Forces Reserve and Army National Guard Center, said Captain Tammy Spicer, public affairs officer of the Missouri National Guard. The establishment of the center would be part of the federal Base Realignment and Closure program. Congress has not yet provided money for the project.

Jefferson Barracks is on the National Register of Historic Places. That means the Missouri Historic Preservation Office must review plans to demolish or build there. The review includes environmental, cultural and historical studies and a public meeting. The archaeological work is part of the studies.

Thursday the archaeologists were studying one of the three brick homes. Workers built them in 1892 for noncommissioned officers.

They were demolished in 1995. Some debris was buried by the site. The ground is about one-half acre on the southwest corner site of a former Civil War hospital.

Grant L. Day, one of the archaeologists, said he and his colleagues first thought the dig might be rich in gold. Pictures showed dark spots in the earth. They hoped those spots would turn out to be prizes or perhaps debris from the hospital. Day said that people often used prizes as traps and their trash helped call their stocks.

But the dark spots turned out to be things such as stumps, sewer pipes and window ledges. Nevertheless, the archaeologists strained the dirt as if they were panning for gold. Among pieces of slate and flower pots, they found a piece no bigger than a fingernail of a coin as white as silver.

The barracks is full of history. In 1826, the village of Coronado sold 1,702 acres of its common ground for a \$5 gold piece to the federal government. That land became Jefferson Barracks. It was an active military post in the Mexican War, the Civil War, World War I and World War II.

Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate states, and Generals Robert E. Lee, William T. Sherman, Ulysses S. Grant and Dwight D. Eisenhower served there. The Army decommissioned it as a military post in 1946.

Today the barracks contains the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Park in St. Louis County, Jefferson Barracks and Sylvan Springs parks and the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

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Chris Everts, 2006. "Robins Draws Praise from GOP Lawmakers." Macon (GA) Telegraph, February 17.

A Republican congressional delegation praised Robins Air Base and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center late Thursday and issued strong support for additional production of the C-17 cargo aircraft and F-22 fighter.

Senators, Sen. Hatch and Robert Bennett, along with Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe and U.S. Rep. Tom Cole from Oklahoma's 4th District, visited the C-17 maintenance and assembly plants during a three-hour tour. The visit also included stops at the base's software center and the 116th Air Control Wing.

The delegation represents Air Force logistics centers at Hill Air Force Base in Utah and Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. Georgia Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss canceled part of the trip because of congressional hearings in Washington, D.C.

Hatch said Robins and the center were very important. "They're on top of things. They know what they're doing," he said during a brief news conference before the delegation departed. "The people here are doing their very best to make sure things run efficiently and smoothly."

But he recalled comments following BRAC '98 when some senators said the companies that build Air Force aircraft were better qualified to support them than "government bureaucrats" at the Air Force's three logistics centers. FEMA is a federal process for evaluating military bases for closure or redevelopment.

"What he is saying may give a lie to that kind of statement," he said. "As we've gone

through, and most of the people, they are clearly not government bureaucrats. They are the very best, and people in Georgia can be more than satisfied with the work they do."

Cole said most Americans do not realize how vital the three centers are. "They're in our communities, so they're important economic engines and wonderful employers," he said. "But the reality is that we could not wage and win wars and project power beyond our borders without these facilities. No other country can match them. They are a marvel."

Bennett said he believed the future of centers such as Robins is confirmed. "I don't see anything on the horizon that doesn't say the logistical centers are in the military structure for good," he said.

Hatch added that all three survived BRAC 2005 because they are "excellent installations" that do tremendous work.

"And one great thing is that all three have the ability to expand, to get more work, to adapt to new demand," he said.

Both Harts and Hatch believe F-17 production should extend beyond the currently planned 189 aircraft. The Pentagon, by its 2007 Quadrennial Defense Review and in the fiscal year 2007 budget request, has called for an end to production of the Boeing wide-bodied cargo aircraft.

"I don't support that," Harts said. "When we began to field the C-17 in the late 1980s, we never really said we'd have Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. That's a very strong potential. Finding that we should enhance the fleet. The C-17 is managed at Robins and components for the huge transport are assembled at Boeing Macon.

Hatch said the right number is about 220. "That's one of the best planes we have," he said. "It's overutilized today and doing things that we can't anticipate. That makes it very difficult to start its production. We need to revitalize the fleet and reach the 220 target."

Hatch also said the Air Force needs additional F-22A fighters, the successor to the F-15 aircraft managed and maintained at Robins.

"With our F-15s are coming in second to India, it's not like noticing what we should be doing," he said. Hatch was referring to recent air games with India in which U.S. aircraft were seriously challenged.

"We're not producing enough F-22s, and we need to put more in the budget," he said. "We need a full complement."

To contact the Director, call 923-3109, ext. 2012 or e-mail greg@hartsintel.com.

"Being Eligible for Support in Bid for Air Base"

By Greg Harts,
Formerly M&E Press Herald
February 11, 2006

The Chickasaw County Tribe Could Acquire the Brunswick Base at No Cost, but Others Have Expressed Interest.

Malinda Parris, chairman of the Chickasaw County Tribe urged local officials Wednesday to support its proposal to acquire ownership of the 3,200-acre Brunswick Naval Air Station, saying the transfer to the federal government would come at a cost that could benefit the town as well as tribal members. Members of the Brunswick Rural Redevelopment Authority

withheld judgment on the proposal, saying it is too early in the process of developing a reuse plan for the Navy base, which the Department of Defense is shutting down.

An endorsement from the authority would strengthen the tribe's bid, which is under review by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Authority officials said the Passamaquoddy Tribe is not the only entity interested in the property, noting that the Federal Aviation Administration will soon own ship of the base's tower and traffic control tower.

Several other organizations and businesses have expressed interest in reusing sections of the base though it could be many months before any development actually occurs.

Authority members said it would be inappropriate to back the tribe without first getting community input and approval from the Brunswick Town Council. Town officials stressed that they could take over the base at no cost, and they offered to form a partnership with the town that could benefit both sides.

"I think it's an intriguing idea, but one that is premature," said state Rep. John Richardson, D-Brunswick. Richardson, who is speaker of the house, is a member of the reuse authority.

Last month, members of the Brunswick Local Redevelopment Authority embarked on what is anticipated to be an 18-month process of developing a reuse plan. The air base is scheduled to close in 2011, though pieces of the installation could potentially be redeveloped earlier.

While authority members work on a plan, they continue to welcome inquiries from interested parties.

Under federal regulations, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Indian Nation are eligible to receive the property at no cost. For that to happen, however, the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs must submit a proposal on their behalf to the Department of Defense. Those proposals are due by March.

Craig Brackley, a spokesman for the Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Bill Dale, the Tribe's Portland-based attorney, said the ownership arrangement could benefit the Brunswick community because it could enter into a partnership with the tribe that would save the town the cost of acquiring some or all of the base.

"The biggest advantage would be economic. It would remove the economic pressures," Dale said.

But the tribes will have to wait while the Department of Defense and local officials sort through all the preliminary proposals.

The Navy has said it wants to sell the property at fair market value.

Franklin is affiliated with Summit Farms Corporation, a military contractor based at the Brunswick Naval Air Station, told the authority members that the New York-based Farm Research Center is looking to relocate to the Northeast. Chase said the company, which conducts agricultural research for the Department of Homeland Security, needs 30 acres for a new 500,000-square-foot facility.

Mark Weidner, the authority's interim director, said officials from the Maine Economic Development Corp. contacted him this week about local reuse opportunities.

There are already plans to bring members of Marine's Air and Army National Guard units onto the base * projects that potentially could use more than 40 acres

In other business, the authority announced the appointment of Steven H. Levesque of Farmingdale to the position of executive director

Levesque, who will receive a salary of \$110,000, is the former commissioner for the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. He will replace Eddy, who has been serving as acting director while the authority conducted a nationwide search

Staff writer Dennis Hooy can be contacted at 725-8795 or at dhooy@pro.burl.com

“Represented Kramer Advocates for North Alabama BRACed Funding.”
US Flat News
February 15, 2010

Rep. Robert H. “Bud” Cramer Jr., D-Ala. (5th CD), issued the following news release:

During a hearing of the House Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, Rep. Bud Cramer (D-Ala.) questioned Senior Defense Officials on BRAC military construction funding and efforts to help areas like North Alabama prepare for growth.

In today's hearing, Representative Cramer asked Chief of Staff Alvin D. Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment about the Department of Defense's plans to help communities prepare for the expected population growth from the Base Realignment and Closure

(BRAC) program. Rep. BRAC Commission report needed relocating significant parts of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA), the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), the United States Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC), and the Aviation Test and Test Center (ATTC) to Redstone Arsenal. Representative Cramer is working to ensure that North Alabama and other areas receive the funding and federal support they need to continue to meet the demands of their growing populations. This includes upgrading infrastructure, ensuring adequate support services are available, and strengthening education systems in North Alabama.

“North Alabama will be positively impacted by BRAC and we must be prepared for our area's expected growth,” said Cramer. “We need to make sure that our needs are met in the process and that the full scope of construction projects we will need, including dry run and freighter facilities, will get the right level of funding.”

In response to Representative Cramer's questions, Secretary Gryne said the Department of Defense will help local communities prepare through the Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC) Grant program. Rep. Cramer is requesting \$60 million for fiscal year 2017 to help communities with cost planning and adjustment. Secretary Gryne also said that, through the EAC, the Defense Department is putting an emphasis on high-growth communities.

Cramer thanked Secretary Gryne to ensure that the Department of Defense will help with military construction that will be needed as a result of BRAC. Secretary Cramer said the Defense Department would need to continue to plan and would support

projects that could be directly attributable to the bases' mission requirements. The Department of Defense estimates that it will require \$22.5 billion to fully implement BRAC.

Representative Lammert is a member of the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, which allocates funding for Military Construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The subcommittee also funds programs that help enhance the quality of life for service men and women. This includes the Defense Health Program, the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), and the sustainment, repair, and modernization of military facilities.

End A-11

"Homestead Air Reserve Base Opens First Air Force Reserve Training and Conference Center."

Dan Callahan
US End News
February 14, 2006

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command issued the following news release:

Air Force and community leaders gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the new training, flight training and Conference Center here on Jan. 27.

Former 482nd Fighter Wing Commander Maj. Gen. Charles E. Stanner Jr. and former U.S. Rep. Claude Meek attended the ceremony before a brief tour of the 52.6 million facility.

"This Homestead Air Force base was the center of the community and provided jobs,"

said Gen. Stanner, who helped obtain funding for the project in 1998 while she was a member of the House Appropriations Committee. "It was a privilege for me," she said.

It will be the only stand-alone Air Force Reserve base to have its own conference center.

"As the wings get out across the command, this center will begin to ring," said Jess Hester, the 482nd CWG's Chief of Services. "With all of the conference fees, it will bring high ranked personnel from all areas, making Homestead a very highly visible base. This will help to ensure a continued mission at Homestead and fight against future [base realignment and closures]."

Gen. Stanner is a former director of plans and programs for Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command at Robins AFB, Ga., commander of the base for the center while commanding the 482nd FW from December 1995 to May 2001.

"Your goal is to use the leverage you have," he said. "The leverage we've got is the location. The weather and area are attractive to many organizations, so we can use that to bring in outside investments."

"The facility is attractive to other units because it's a short distance from a major airport at Orlando. It's new, it has all the latest state-of-the-art audio visual equipment, and it has a services staff that can take care of catering needs," said Meek's deputy.

The 482nd Fighter Wing's conference center is already booked through completely booked for the month of February, which saw the Florida Instructor Commander's Conference on Feb. 10 with Gov. Jeb Bush.

More groups are tentatively scheduled to use the facility in April and May, too.

The focal point of the building is the main conference room, which can seat nearly 200 with a large conference table and stadium style seating. The room can support video teleconferencing and classified top secret briefings.

Located immediately adjacent to the Falcon's Nest Club and a short walk from base dining, the center is in a highly convenient location on the base airfield.

Contract construction started construction on Heritage Hill in April of last year. Since then, Services Squadron has added a patio between the Falcon's Nest Club and center, audio-visual equipment, replaced conference seating and installed a kitchen.

"Air Force Reserve Teams Visiting BRAC Units."

Lt. Col. Bob Thompson,

Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs
February 14, 2005

Teams from the Adjuncts Air Force Reserve Command here are visiting more than 10 bases to develop timeline and actions in accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure law.

Five bases received visits in January. The command's site activation task force teams are composed of experts from a variety of career fields who assist with the complicated issues of transitioning or losing people, aircraft and equipment.

"The final BRAC law tells us the overall changes that we have to accomplish," said Maj. Gen. Allen H. Beulin, AFRC vice

commander. "Our taskforce teams are tasked with helping our unit folks. Together, we will figure out what specific actions will take place, how to make and comply with the law."

According to the Department of Defense, the purpose of Base Realignment and Closure is to make the most efficient and effective use of all resources, improve operations and efficiency, save taxpayer dollars, and ensure the readiness and enhance the capability and effectiveness of U.S. military forces.

"The site activation task force is the first step in raising questions and identifying issues associated with the realignment of our mission," said Col. William Flanigan, 939th Air Refueling Wing commander whose Public Affairs office is scheduled for a visit in February. "It's important for people to understand that the answers may not be developed during the SARTAF. In those cases, issues will be identified and taken back to the subject matter experts at reserve command headquarters for action."

A primary issue for these teams is the movement of people. If affected by BRAC, employees have priority, and people will have to be moved to new positions wherever available. The main function of the command is working to ensure gaining units get the best people under BRAC first priority. In addition, the command is providing to BRAC civilians and reservists new Web-based job placement services. Called clearing houses, these virtual job fairs take into account personal career and lifestyle needs, professional work to match BRAC assignments, and life cycle and career needs.

Clearing house people displaced by BRAC can learn more about the job-placement clearing houses and other assistance by accessing the

guide from our library computer at <https://www.mil.af.mil/hq/afpbrac>.

Before the moves are considered permanent, the units receiving the BRAC additions must successfully complete environmental impact evaluations over the next few months.

Portland's 929th ARW is just one of many military units that will be affected by BRAC. In Air Force Reserve Command alone, BRAC will affect more than half the command in the next five years.

Lt. Col. Beecher, upon 2006, "BRAC Actions Affect Air Force Reserve Locations," Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs (January 14)

The U.S. Air Force Reserve Command issued the following news release:

Base Realignment and Closure actions affect the following Air Force Reserve Command locations:

Naval Air Station (NAS) Reserve Base New Orleans, La. * Twelve A-10 aircraft from the New Orleans Air Reserve Station's 326th Fighter Wing go to Whiteman AFB, Mo., and Barksdale AFB, La. Mission-support positions relocate to Buckley AFB, Colo., and the wing's headquarters and jobs go to Nellis AFB, Nev.

Barksdale AFB, Air Force Reserve Command establishes 24 primary assigned A-10 aircraft in the 3rd Wing by gaining some of New Orleans' aircraft.

Whiteman AFB * The Reserve establishes 24 primary assigned A-10 aircraft at the 442nd FW as part of some of New Orleans' aircraft.

Nellis AFB * By adding the headquarters staff from New Orleans, the Reserve will establish a new headquarters at Nellis to manage the existing number of units at this Reserve Air Force location.

Buckley AFB * The base gains a Reserve group and the wing by adding the mission-support positions from New Orleans. The Air Reserve Personnel Center relocates from Buckley Annex to Buckley AFB.

Fort Worth AFB * Twelve F-16 aircraft from the 442nd FW go to Reserve units at Fort Worth's Wichita Caswell Field, Texas, and consist of Air Reserve Base, Fort Worth, moving towards a Reserve assignment. Staff requests sharing the Regular Air Force equipment.

Fort Worth AFB * The Reserve establishes 24 primary assigned F-16 aircraft at the 442nd FW.

Casper AFB * The Reserve establishes 24 primary assigned F-16 aircraft at the 301st FW.

Fort Worth AFB * Twelve Reserve F-16s from the 442nd FW will be transferred and retained. Many of the wing jobs continue at the base, and the wing forms an associate unit to support the Regular Air Force wing.

Grant Field International Airport Air Reserve Station, Wis. * The Reserve moves the 47th Airlift Wing's operations, maintenance and mission support jobs as well as the 47th Airlift Wing's Pope Army AFB, N.C.

Pope Army AFB * The Reserve establishes 16 primary assigned F-30H aircraft as an active assignment at Pope AFB. The site receives the 47th Airlift Wing's maintenance

and mission-support job positions from Gen. Mitchell AFB.

Niagara Falls, N.Y. * The Air National Guard forms an associate wing with the AFRC's 914th AW at Niagara.

Portland International Airport, Ore. * The 939th ARW's KC-135 aircraft go to March AFB, Calif., and Tinker AFB, Okla. Many ops and maintenance jobs go to Tinker AFB and several hundred go along with mission-support positions to Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

Vandenberg AFB * The base receives the Portland mission-support positions.

Tinker AFB * The base receives a portion of the Air Force's operations and maintenance positions from the 137th AW at Will Rogers Air Care Station, and the Air Force changes AFRC's 207th ARW to an AFRC ANG associate wing. The Air Force establishes the wing with 12 primary assigned KC-135 aircraft, and the base receives aircraft from Portland's 939th ARW.

March AFB * The Air Force establishes 12 primary assigned KC-135R aircraft in the 452nd Air Mobility Wing.

Selfridge ANG Base, Mich. * All of the KC-135 aircraft of the Reserve's 927th ARW remain here and transferred to the ANG. All wing jobs move to support a Reserve associate unit with the Regular Air Force's 6th AMW at MacDill AFB, Fla.

MacDill AFB * The Air Force holds a Reserve associate unit with 16 primary assigned KC-135R aircraft and the maintenance staff from Selfridge AFB.

Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. * The Air Force establishes 16 primary assigned KC-

135 aircraft at the Reserve's 916th ARW and holds an active associate unit with Regular Air Force personnel.

Edwards AFB * All of the KC-135 aircraft in the Reserve's 940th ARW remain at the 940th ARW headquarters and maintenance elements remain. The 940th ARW remains on the Global Hawk mission.

Maxwell AFB * The Air Force relocates positions to follow the transfer of the flying mission to a new location to fighter F-16 aircraft to Columbus AFB, Miss.; Vought Aircraft Co. to Laughlin, Randolph and Meppan AFB in Texas.

Edwards AFB * The DOD is establishing a new center for a regional joint command center and current DOD service contractors authority.

Wurtsmith AFB, Mich. * The base hosts a new Air Force reserve maneuver enhancement brigade headquarters and an Army Reserve sustainment brigade headquarters.

Dobbins AFB, Ga. * AFRC accepts maintenance of one of its facilities from the Air Force, NCS-140.

Dayton, Ohio * The Air Reserve Personnel Center relocates to Buckley AFB.

* * * * *

"Partnership of Business Cooperation."

Mariposa County
Mariposa County (CA) Herald
Excerpted from

Local government relations are still going strong.

For the past decade, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors has brought together local business and government with the goal of

cren program will have a vision on course in the future.

The next for-profit corporation selected at The Port of San Luis Bay last week, which a gala attended by more than 260 people. Ten years has produced a string of accounting, engineering, and other projects and a number of identified concerns.

In the global strategy, the same, a most significant event concerning the economic vitality of the country," said President Mary Ann Giffen, and "to see the successful conclusion of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission process."

Since its inception, the alliance of business executives and professionals has provided leadership on a range of issues, from education reform to transportation and economic growth. Moreover, it is also a partner with other leading alliances within industries and between private and public interests, identifying key challenges and opportunities.

In conjunction with the Monterey County Office of Economic Development, the business community formed the CVI Competitive Clusters project in 2003, drawing together stakeholders in agriculture, tourism, and other economic sectors. The business development projects on resolving those industries' competitive and implementing action

Among the noteworthy strides of the local restaurant industry to promote locally grown produce, the health care sector of the nonprofit Monterey Bay & Healthcare Partners, a joint project between producers and health care providers, and the healthy environment, the novel concept of a hospitality program at the San-Monterey Bay Research, the council and Monterey-Salinas

There have been a two-point pilot, the Central Valley-Corporate Express, to shuttle passengers along the developing wine country.

Two such initiatives were recently awarded SERRA grant money and technology grants to fund the development. The Partnership Education Summit Forum, in partnership with the business community, was awarded \$25,000 for the Monterey County Entrepreneurial Summit, National and Knowledge Base Institute, and finally, a grant to develop a program, to be awarded a \$30,000 grant to produce and distribute electronically delivered nutrition/wellness education classes.

Under the leadership of executive director Ed Kerner, the organization has worked with the local business and Monterey Peninsula community to encourage to expand First Day of Science and First Day Festival programs, as well as sponsored a forum on educational reform for the local business and the Monterey Peninsula School District and Monterey State University. It has produced several local economic reports and partnered with the Monterey County Office of Economic Development on the local force investment program to identify ways to improve the local economic environment.

Table 1. The Monterey Business.

* 2000-2001

2000-2001 Speech for Directors of Monterey County Government
Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Monterey County Board of Supervisors

A reference research, *How to Use One Part of*
Part 1

Getting a handle on just what this region has in terms of science and technology, isn't easy," he says.

Outside of federal circles, the engine that drives most science and technology here might not be obvious. To a degree, that's by design. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base sits behind a fence, and security forces control access.

But it's hard to see Air Force Materiel Command's 100,000 users and arsenal of its major sites, including the Air Force Research Laboratory AFRL, which has a \$3.5 billion science and technology budget, and five of its 10 technical directorates are located on the base.

Together, the five directorates employ 1,449 government scientists and engineers, according to AFRL. That figure doesn't count government scientists and engineers who work here but report to other AFRL units, or to on-base contractors working for AFRL.

But AFRL's on-base manpower is just the tip of the iceberg. AFRL contracts out most of its research, and Dayton Development Coalition executives say a hefty chunk stays in the Dayton region, supporting research at local universities and myriad small contractors doing out-angled research.

One of its biggest local contractors is the University of Dayton Research Institute, a nonprofit research center with 270 researchers and support staff and \$65 million in funded research. A UD fact sheet said its 10 Phase I contracts have made UD the largest university in Ohio for defense Department-funded research.

"AFRL drives a lot of research in the (Dayton) area," UDRI Director John Leland

said, but he thinks the true scale of its influence is hard to grasp.

"It's harder to see. It's hard to point to a large aerospace company like you could in the Los Angeles area or a large electronics company like you could in the San Francisco Bay area" that supports the large research and technology base, he said.

But he said, "There's a lot of smaller companies doing the same types of things."

With a region that's harder to get a clear picture of, he said, is how Ohio and the federal government categorize industry sectors.

"I know the government likes to keep data for itself, but we do define ourselves in one way," Leland said. "Are you an (aeronautics technology) company, are you an aerospace company, are you an electronics company?"

Contractors on Wright-Patterson are also part of the science and technology base. Among the biggest are the Aeronautical Systems Center, which is Ford's production arm for advanced weapons systems; the National Air and Space Intelligence Center, and the Air Force Institute of Technology, the Air Force's graduate school for scientists and engineers.

Meanwhile, as the Defense Department follows through on last year's Base Realignment and Closure Process, more than 100 jobs are expected to come to Wright-Patterson from bases outside Ohio over the next five years. The coalition project says that 5,000 jobs will move here when contractors are counted.

The new jobs will be heavy in scientists, engineers and technicians. AFRL will see growth in sensors and human effectiveness

work comes from. And the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, along with other medical and health units and work already here, will make Dayton the nation's center for aerospace medicine and human sciences.

Measuring its strengths in science and technology will help the region take advantage of them, said Jim Leftwich, coalition vice president for aerospace defense and technology.

"Let's go beyond just inventing it," he said. "What do you want to do with it? Take the rest of the nation that has never seen it and commercialize it," he said.

Coalition spokesman Evan Scott said it also will help "the region understand itself."

"Wright-Patterson ended up being here because the Dayton region already possessed the intellectual capacity and the work ethic it needed. This region has always been an incubator, not only a center for innovative thinking," he said.

"It is who we are."

End Pt IV

Tom Isachen, 2/10/03 "Springs Area Braces for Storm of Soldiers," The Gazette (Colorado Springs, CO) (February 12); A1.

Expected Arrivals Spur Flurry of Building

This winter at Fort Carson is almost lonely.

Only one of the post's three major combat units is in garrison. There's hardly a vent in the food-court area of the post exchange.

Most of the soldiers sail through the gates with little fanfare.

But the rattling harmonies here and in command briefings surrounding the post are drumbeats marking time until Fort Carson fills up with more soldiers than it has had since World War II.

By the spring, work will start on 650 family homes. Planners are thinking big, with concepts including a privatized "town center" shopping area being explored.

That center in Carson will hold as many as 1,000 soldiers, with its biggest units home and settling in together for the first time since the Iraq war began in 2003.

In the weeks that follow, an additional 6,000 soldiers and their relatives will arrive in a military boom that eclipses what Fort Carson saw, even during the Vietnam War.

The Department of Defense price tag for expanding the post could ultimately top \$1 billion.

"It's a lot of work," said Lt. Col. Barrett Lewis, the post's director of public works. "We have to be flexible."

Outside Fort Carson's guarded gates, planners are also in a frenzy. Roads must be expanded, sewer lines connected and houses built.

Some of the newcomers have already settled in.

Fort Carson welcomed 2,600 soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team who were redeployed here last summer after going to Iraq for months in South Korea.

But the big boom lies ahead, said Mike Miles, assistant superintendent for curriculum at the Fountain-Fort Carson school district.

"Next, we have troops coming and going," Miles said, noting that deployments to Iraq cause growth and contraction in the 6,000-student district. "We think we will have much more substantial growth, but tracking down the timing is hard."

During the next few years, Miles expects district enrollment to reach 10,000 students.

And that's just a small piece of what some predict.

Twenty-five thousand to 40,000 people may migrate here as soldiers bring along their traditionally large military families, said Fred Crowley, a Colorado Springs economist.

The average military household contains 3.7 people, compared with the statewide average of 2.4. Most attribute large military families to the age range of those in the Army, who are in the prime child-rearing years of 18 to 45.

The incoming soldiers are also likely to add to the city's racial diversity.

Blacks, for example, made up 22.7 percent of active-duty Army soldiers in 2004, according to a report by the Office of Army Demographics. In El Paso County that year, blacks were 16.5 percent of the population, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates. The county figure includes black military personnel already here.

The new army could make this the fastest-growing decade that El Paso County has

seen, despite the even the booming 1990s, Crowley said.

"It's not only possible," he said. "It's three times over the long term."

Colorado Springs will get a share of those new residents, but Fountain may get more. The population of the town east of Fort Carson could grow from 20,000 to 30,000 residents in as little as three years, Crowley and city officials there say.

Fountain has already been growing because of a shortage of available, affordable housing. Since 2000, it has been adding about 400 new homes per year. That figure grew to about 600 last year.

The prospect of even faster growth has prompted the city to hire more employees and speed up road, sewer and water improvements.

"Our growth is being accelerated," said City Manager Craig Nizich.

The northern reaches of Pueblo could get as many as 600 military families as soldiers seek cheaper housing prices, said Mike Kozlowski, president of the Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corp.

"It seems that some soldiers at Fort Carson would prefer that 20- or 40-minute drive for affordable housing," he said.

Residents of the rest of the region probably won't see a big change in their neighborhood, Kozlowski said.

"The population of 600,000 people," he noted.

million for barracks for these soldiers. Law will require an additional \$100 million to be spent by 2005.

Kazmierski said the building boom "on and off the post" could help fuel the area economy for years to come.

"You're building several thousand construction workers along with it," he said. "It will have a significant infra impact."

Contact the Writer: 636-0240 or tom.reeder@gazette.com

Face of Future at Fort Carson

Half a dozen new motor pools, more office buildings and new barracks will change the landscape at Fort Carson during the next two years.

Here's an early look at what the post could look like in 2008.

One big unit. All but a few thousand of soldiers at the post will fall under the 4th Infantry Division, a unit of 22,000 soldiers moving out from Fort Hood in Texas.

The reformed division will have three heavy brigades that get their firepower from M-1 Abrams Tanks and M-2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles. A light brigade will round out the mix with infantry troops who can travel aboard helicopters or in trucks.

The division also has an artillery brigade that adds long-distance punch and a support brigade that delivers bullets and rations to soldiers on the front lines.

The Army is deciding where the division's aviation brigade, with dozens of helicopters, will wind up. One camp wants it to stay at Fort Hood, and another wants it moved to

Fort Collins. A move to Colorado appears likely.

More soldiers. The post will grow from roughly 12,000 soldiers now to about 25,000 soldiers.

More homes. Fort Carson will add 550 family houses to the post and thousands of living units in barracks, but that's not nearly enough to provide for the additional soldiers a house.

Comprehensive estimates look for a total population growth of 25,000, including additional troops and their families. Other estimates range up to 40,000. Those who don't get housing on the post are expected to congregate in southern El Paso County, which could be home to more than half of the new families.

Expectation Versus Reality

Fort Carson's Search for Aid

Expectations

The federal government will pour big bucks into infrastructure improvements to help them continue to provide at Fort Carson.

Expectations

Senator Santorum has gotten out his checkbook for \$60 million in freeway improvements and other projects. But the federal support has limits, and local and state governments can expect to cough up millions of dollars for roads, bridges and schools.

Sea of Green

Expectations

The military growth will turn Colorado Springs into a city of Army priorities and terms.

Reality

The expansion will be big, but not that big. Planners say the growth will be most noticeable in the southern reaches of the city and in neighboring Fountain. Several said other areas of the region will likely not notice a big difference in the military presence.

Population Growth

Expectation

The additional soldiers will arrive all at once, and soon.

Reality

Most of the new soldiers won't be here until early 2007, and having them all here at once is unlikely as long as the Iraq war continues. Fort Carson already got 3,600 additional troops in 2005 when the 2nd Brigade Combat Team was moved to the post after going to war in Iraq from posts in South Korea.

Economic Impact

Expectation

The economic boom from the growth will be more of a thud because soldiers don't make much money.

Reality

It's not the salary, it's the benefits. Soldiers get tax-free housing allowances and free medical care, which helps push their average annual compensation close to \$50,000. Many of their spouses work as well.

1941

Colorado Springs officials and community leaders begin lobbying for military bases to be located in the Pikes Peak region.

1941

The Army's Camp Carson is established one month after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The camp occupies land south of town and comes into the War Department. Camp Carson is named for Army scout Gen. Christopher "Kit" Carson, who explored the West in the 1850s. The 39th Infantry Division is the first major unit activated, followed by three other infantry divisions: the 7th, 104th and 10th Mountain. The post's first pack mules arrive from Nebraska by early April. 956 mules are used by field artillery to haul and carry equipment and supplies through the rock canyons.

1943

43,700 soldiers train at Camp Carson. During World War II, more than 100,000 soldiers train at the post, including a Greek infantry battalion and an Italian cavalry company. Jan. 1, an internment camp is set up at Camp Carson. About 9,000 Axis prisoners of war, most of them Italians and Germans, are housed here. POWs do farm work and aid in logging operations on Colorado's Western Slope.

1945

The war is over and troops divided to 600, but the military population the post will rise. In 1946, the post's War Department annexes Camp Carson will become home to the 3rd Airborne Regimental Combat Team and the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

1954

Camp Carson becomes Fort Carson and the first permanent buildings are constructed.

Late 1950s

Units are gradually deactivated after the Korean Conflict.

1961

The only major unit at Fort Carson is the 2nd U.S. Army Missile Command. The post is on Defense Secretary Robert McNamara's list for closure.

1961

Tensions over the Berlin Wall and Cuba prompt the Army to create two new divisions and Fort Carson becomes home to the 5th Infantry.

1965-67

The Vietnam War causes a growth spurt at the post. An additional 78,741 acres of training land is acquired, bringing the post to 140,000 acres. That land is needed for the Army's first mechanized infantry division. The number of soldiers training at the post jumps from 4,658 to 24,735.

1970

The 4th Infantry Division is assigned to Fort Carson. The division has 20,000 soldiers and 2,800 civilian workers. This level stays somewhat steady until the early 1990s.

September 1981

Pion Canyon Maneuver Site is added to Fort Carson. Pion Canyon is about 100 miles southeast of the post and has 237,000 acres.

1985

Efforts are made in Washington to eliminate one of the post's three brigades as part of sweeping budget cuts.

1989

The 2nd Brigade, the "Bulldog Brigade," is deactivated in a ceremony at Fort Carson after the unit's equipment and soldiers are transferred to other posts. Congress approves a base-closure plan that will transfer 2,000 soldiers from the San Francisco Presidio Army post to Fort Carson by 1993.

1993

The Clinton administration approves moving a unit of Green Berets to Fort Carson.

1994

The Army announces plans to dismantle Fort Carson's 4th Infantry Division, with a potential loss of as many as 4,000 people over six years.

1995

After 25 years at Fort Carson, the "Iron Horse" Division, the 4th Infantry, is split and its new headquarters is moved to Fort Leovig, Texas. Moving to Fort Carson are the 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment (3,500 troops) and the 10th Special Forces Group (1,100 troops).

2001

More than 14,000 Fort Carson soldiers are sent to Iraq for the war's longest deployment since World War II.

2011

The Pentagon announces that the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which had been stationed in South Korea, will move to Fort Carson in 2005, after a yearlong tour in Iraq.

2005

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission approve a plan to move the Fort Hood-based 4th Infantry Division to Fort Carson. The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment will be sent to Texas in the same plan.

2006

An ongoing construction boom on post hits fever pitch with as many as 1,000 construction workers renovating structures and building housing for soldiers expected in the next two years.

** : *****

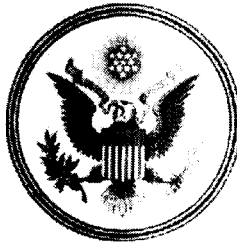
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June Arney 2006 "Realty Agents' Flood Recedes with Market." The Baltimore (MD) Sun (February 22).

Once-Full Classes for New Realtors Are Shrinking As Housing Sales and Prices Cool Down

Lured by the opportunity to get their piece of escalating housing prices and record sales volumes, newcomers have flooded into the real estate business in the past five years.

But as the market loses some sizzle, so do classes to license new real estate professionals, as aspiring and neophyte Realtors alike realize that the money may not be as easy as it once was.

"Previously in January and February we would have been full – maxed out in all our locations," said Colin McGowan, director and owner of the Frederick Academy of Real Estate, which operates in Maryland and 15 other states. "We're not seeing these kinds of numbers. It's maybe 20 percent less at each location. It's a good reflection of the market's health."

Evidence has been mounting for several months that the market is slowing. Sales in the Baltimore metropolitan area fell 19 percent last month, with double-digit declines in the city and all five surrounding counties. Prices, too, are slipping, with the average down more than 6 percent from its July peak.

The slowing, combined with heightened competition, means not only that fewer new agents are starting, but more people are leaving an industry that traditionally has a lot of dropouts.

"I'm actually surprised it's taken as long as it has for some people to realize they've gotten into something more agonizing than they thought it was going to be, for the money you can make," McGowan said.

Statistics from the National Association of Realtors bear that out. The median income for sales agents dropped to \$38,300 in 2004 from \$44,000 two years earlier, according to the NAR. The decline is largely attributed to the number of new comers. As of Jan. 31, Maryland had 29,718 Realtors, up 17 percent from a year earlier and about 75 percent from 2000. It typically takes 18 months for changes in the market to be reflected in the numbers, the NAR said. The number of real estate licenses is still rising: As of Feb. 9, there were 51,998, up from 48,000 a year's end.

"We're still clearing people who've gone to school and taken the [licensing] test," said Harry Loleas, deputy commissioner of occupational and professional licensing in Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

"While the market may have cooled, it has not reversed. I think there's still plenty of incentive for people, until proven otherwise. We're continuing to see a steady upward tick in licenses," Loleas said.

Last year, the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors recruited 1,160 new members out of a total membership base of 4,441, said Joseph T. "Jody" Landers III, executive vice president of the GBBR. But the organization lost 599 members last year, so the net gain was 561, he said.

Stacey Ingerson, 40, left the business in August – just as the local market was passing its peak – after about a nine-month stint as a Realtor in Long & Foster's Fells Point office. She sold two houses.

"I quickly realized it wasn't something I was going to do well in," she said. "I just didn't think it was a fit for me and my personality. I hate cold calls, and that's a huge part of it. Most of my friends are in their houses and have kids and aren't going anywhere until the kids go to college and they downsize in 10 or 15 years. So that pool was not available to me."

Instead, seeing that the market was shifting in favor of buyers, Ingerson started a company, Premiere Staging LLC, that helps sellers fix up their home for sale.

"I'd always wanted to have my business up when the market did even out a little more," Ingerson said. "I figured it might not be such a hot market for sellers. They might

have to clean the smells out of their refrigerators and uncover the fireplace that they blocked or clean the dining room area that's full of toys."

Panel: Boyle, broker and owner of Re/Max Accredited in Timonium, had 17 students in her Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors class in January -- fewer than half the students of a year ago.

"When the market is hot, people get in thinking this is an easy job," she said. "When they hear houses are selling faster than hotcakes, they think they can get in there and cash. But real estate is a lifestyle. You have to become submerged in it to excel." Her current students aren't fixated on how they will make their first million, she said.

"They don't seem to care about what the market is doing," she said. "I see people who want to take charge of their own lives and own their lives."

One of her students, Jon M. Lewis, 26, doesn't plan to give up his day job as a NASA propulsion engineer in Greenbelt. Instead he will team up with a friend and do real estate part time once he earns his license.

"I enjoy my neighborhood and what I see happening there," said Lewis, who lives in Fennell Hill. "I'm open to investing."

But now agent Jim Truemper recently left an executive position with a government contracting firm to join his wife in the Columbia office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. He believes the Baltimore region is sufficiently buffered to survive any major market fluctuations come along.

"There are indications that the market may be swinging from a seller's market to a buyer's market," he said. "There's always a strong economy here. Fort Meade is going to be growing considerably. I really don't see any concern for the housing market here. I see tremendous potential."

Evening Classes The slowdown seems to appear in the evening classes, which are largely populated by part-timers or people interested in making real estate part of a dual career, said Martin Knapp, vice president of education at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. He expects attendance will be down 10 or 15 percent this year.

Still, he said, Coldwell Banker signed up more people for additional training with Coldwell this year than last.

"I'm not worried about the number of people joining us," Knapp said. "There may be a lag time. We might see something later, but we're not seeing it yet."

Area economists point to Maryland's high state and federal spending for defense and homeland security as reasons the region is unlikely to experience big dips in home prices. Tens of thousands of new jobs promised to be base realignment and closure projects are expected to make an already solid position even stronger. And building restrictions in the counties surrounding Baltimore keep housing supply in check.

"There are always going to be people buying and selling houses," said Jim Spencer, 24, a student in Boyle's class. "I'm not worried

about the market slowing. There are a lot of investors who want to buy homes, so they're happy with the market. There's still money to be made.

Unattributed, 2002. "Shots Fired As Danish Troops Hit S. Iraq." Dow Jones International News (February 22, 04:15).

Copenhagen (AP) - Danish troops exchanged fire with unidentified gunmen near their base in southern Iraq, but no one was injured, Denmark's military said Wednesday.

Four gunmen opened fire on the bases Tuesday afternoon as they patrolled an area northwest of Basra where Denmark's 530-strong contingent is based, Defense Command Denmark said in a statement. The Danish group returned the fire and called upon police to the scene. Police did not find the gunman, the military said.

Monday, four rockets hit the al-K. Danish military base near Basra late Monday but only two of them exploded. No one was injured.

Last week, the *Washington Post* revealed that Denmark had a provincial cover-all demand for the withdrawal of Danish troops unless the government provides for caravans of the Prophet Muhammad first published in a Danish newspaper. Denmark rejected the demand and said the Iraqi government wanted Danish troops to stay.

Viktoria Pankhova, 2006. "Expanding the Russian Airbase and Raising the Rent for the Americans." *WPA's Defense & Security*

Kyrgyzstan Is a Valuable Location for Military Bases

Kyrgyzstan hosts airbases for both Russia and the United States. Plans for 2009 include expanding Russia's Kant airbase by 250%, while raising the rent for the American airbase from \$2 million to \$200 million a year. The United States will probably have to accept President Bakiyev's terms.

Nikolai Borovzina, secretary general of the CIS (Collective Security Treaty Organization) (CSTO), is asking a team of CSTO member states on the way up to the OSCE session in June. After visiting Uzbekistan, he went on to Kyrgyzstan. Besides a discussion of preparations for the forthcoming session, his frequent visit President Kurmanbek Bakiyev also covered terms for the presence of Russia's Kere airbase at Kyrgyzstan.

A resident commander the Russian base was announced in Bishkek, Anna General Vachtang Moshkichev, Commander of the Russian Air Force, said. "The base will be expanded. In the course of this year, its personnel numbers and hardware will be increased by 250%."

Russia's military base at Kant is present in Kyrgyzstan within the CSTO framework, so Russia does not pay any rent for the premises. In contrast, discussion of rent for the Pentagon's use of the Manas Airport in Kyrgyzstan has been under way for over a month. Raising the rent was first mentioned in late 2005 by Kyrgyz Ambassador in the United States Zhenia Sydykova. In an interview with the New York Times and Financial Times, she said that Bishkek intended to charge the Pentagon an extra \$80 million. Sydykova was immediately reprimanded for "failing to coordinate" her actions with the Kyrgyz authorities.

Shortly before Berdyuzha's visit to Bishkek, President Bakiyev clarified the Khamsi airspace situation by stating that the rent would be raised a hundred-fold: from \$2 million to \$200 million a year. "We're not choosing an a figure at random," said Bakiyev. "There are international standards here: the price per hectare of land, and the price per square meter for an international airport of this level. Our figures are in line with international standards. Moreover, Kyrgyzstan's economic situation leaves much to be desired. Anyone who engages in any kind of activity here must pay. Our country isn't rich enough to provide these facilities for free. The United States is being understanding about this. Still, I don't know what its answer will be."

The United States agrees with Kyrgyzstan's assertion that the current sums are fair and reflect the market price.¹ However, agreement has yet to be reached on the final rate. The Pentagon considers that Kyrgyzstan's expectations are somewhat excessive.

Most likely, the Americans will have to accept the new terms. Washington needs a military base in Kyrgyzstan – not only for the anti-terrorist operation in Afghanistan, but in order to monitor the Chinese border and carry out intelligence activities, including electronic intelligence.

Translated by Elena Leonova

News in Maya Gazeta, February 20, 2006, p.3

* continued

Unattributed, 2006. "Russian, U.S. Military Bases on Opposite Tracks." The Times of Central Asia (February 21).

Bishkek, February 21 (TCA): The future of the two foreign military bases in Kyrgyzstan became clearer this week. During a visit by a Russian delegation, a military official said the Russian base at Kant will be there "forever."

Meanwhile, Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was quoted by a Russian newspaper on 15 February as saying the U.S.-led coalition can remain at the Manas base as long as there are still security problems in Afghanistan, and as long as the United States agrees to pay 100 times more than it has been asked to previously.

The commander of the Russian Air Force, General Vladimir Mikhailov, and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Secretary Nikolai Berdyuzha met on 16 February with Kyrgyz President Bakiyev and Defense Minister Jumanli Isakov to discuss the future of the Kant base. Russian troops are stationed at Kant under a CSTO

access? It isn't really just asking the Americans to leave the way the Iraqis did, but essentially making it so difficult for the American military to be there that they decide to leave. I think that's the thing that we should be looking out for."

The United States has not yet commented on the rent increase, but several high-level officials, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, have visited Iraq since the invasion. The town of Barham, Maine, has a base of operations on the edge of these towns.

The Associated Press, 2006. "**Burlington City Council to Support Air Guard.**" Associated Press Newswires (January 21, 07:11).

Burlington, VT. (AP) -- The city council is going to support unanimously the Vermont Air National Guard and its presence at the Burlington International Airport.

The resolution to be introduced at a council meeting on Tuesday urges Burlington residents to vote "no" on Town Meeting Day against a resolution urging the council to work to keep the guard from being deployed overseas.

The Town Meeting Day question placed on the city ballot after a petition campaign by peace activists, could cause the Burlington to move from an American dependency on all aircraft to another state.

A leader of the pacifist movement known as "Take Back the Air Guard" said the

council's resolution was inappropriate. Hal Cochran said it was impossible the Air Guard would be removed.

Cochran will be expected to read a statement at Tuesday's council meeting that will say "the Pentagon has turned our airport into a bomber base and made the city an unwilling accomplice to the unlawful, disastrous military misadventure in Iraq."

The peace activists maintain the only use of the Air Guard is "to provide air defense for the entire nation."

City officials, including Mayor Peter Clavelle and the entire Council, support the Air Guard and its presence at the airport.

Associated Press, 2006. "**U.S. Counts on Sheiks to Help Police in Lawless Ramadi.**" Associated Press Newswires (January 20, 19:11)

Ramadi, Iraq. (AP) -- If a murder or serious crime is committed in this insurgency-plagued city of 400,000, the governor of the state and provincial province officers this a vice-governor calling the police.

In Ramadi, the local sheiks are the ones who most often get results. And with their blessing, the police are trying to recruit an effective police force is finally gaining steam.

Foreign officers and new comers have signed up to help in the police in the last two months, a

windfall of recruits with similar officers last year that pushed for a handful of new police.

Thaishak's brother opened the door to where we're at today," said Khatim Mulla Robert Riex, who leads a U.S. team trying to rebuild the police in Iraq. "The challenge is we need to convince to engage the tribal leaders. We can't let them back off."

The police force in the Sunni-dominated city dismantled last year in the wave of violence that has swept what many Iraqis consider the unofficial capital of the insurgency. Only the highway over its functions and highways is kept on the roads linking Baghdad with northern

"If the person who got murdered is from a large tribe, the tribe will find justice for him. If he is from a small tribe, forget about it. Only God will know what Allah does." Maanoun Samir ash-Shalal-Alwan said. "The people who make the covert services effective are not here. It is taken care without fuel."

The goal is to stabilize the provincial capital by getting cops back on their beats and deploying two brigades of about 5,000 Iraqi soldiers, one of which has slowly started to patrol small outlying city districts on its own.

By next spring, the U.S. command hopes to have most of the 6,000-member police force working as part of the overall plan to draw down the American military presence.

Insurgents have sought to undermine the recruiting drive.

After she sends a detailed plan to a public meeting in the neighborhood police recruitment

subsidiary, many January drew about 1,100 people.

But a similar number stepped in line on Jan. 5 and held about 100 people, including two U.S. troops. Three shells also were recently exploded.

Fear that the violence would scare away recruits has slowed in recent weeks as U.S. police trainers say nearly 5,000 former children and parents show up to apply for spots in the new force.

Hundreds of men also continued filing into the center earlier this month after insurgent snipers shot a man in the chest and fired mortars that did not cause injuries.

"I had seen I've been expecting all day," Marine Capt. John Bernesse said as mortar shrapnel dattered about 160 feet (49 meters) away and recruits crouched beside veterans.

U.S. military officials hope to create a force of about 10,000 policemen in cities across the vast Iraq, from stretches from the western suburbs of Baghdad to the Saudi, Jordanian and Syrian borders.

At the recruiting event, one young man said a soldier who had caused the violence — and fired a shot — arrested him to walk to the center in a clear glass factory next to a U.S. team you recruit relatives for protection.

"We're going to get 90 percent of us who come to join the police are unemployed. We have children and families," Abdel Latif said as he lined up for the police force.

As the recruiting event following week, one recruit said he's noticed that thousands

more than 100 Iraqis had it not been for the suicide attack last month.

U.S. trainers said the force, once constituted, would need strength in numbers to be effective in face of the formidable insurgent threat.

“You can’t push police out in the middle of a war zone. Change, we push the envelope out here,” said LaKrisse, who trains police and helped organize the drives in Ramadi. “The police can have an effect if they come back to a secure area, control the booles and trucks.”

Ramadi policemen will eventually face a city that remains difficult for even thousands of U.S. and Iraqi soldiers to control. However, U.S. trainers hope the police, mostly local residents, will provide much-needed ties and local intelligence.

“I don’t need the police to go after it (roadside bombs) – the Iraqi army or we can do that. I need them to point out where they’re at in the base place,” Rice said.

Officers believe residents will respond better to a force of locals instead of Iraqi soldiers, most of whom come from Shiite areas of the country. Al-Awadi, the government, said residents frequently complain that Iraqi soldiers have abused or mistreated them.

Finding enough policemen is not the only obstacle to security in the area. Questions about police loyalty to the government – about tribal allegiance or sympathy for what is locally known as “the base game” – remain a serious concern.

Complicating the task: the last provincial police chief was fired in the fall and charged he was corrupt and working with insurgents.

“I’m sure we’ve accented some (infiltrators) to be a little bit messy.” The goal is to control the situation and give police the confidence to weed it out themselves.”

Officers are crosschecking the new police rolls with U.S. and Iraqi suspect lists and running a video check to point out known infiltrators or possible infiltrators. In other Anbar cities like Khaldiya, U.S. soldiers have said many captured insurgents were former police officers.

The U.S. police training infrastructure recently has been bolstered. Previously, a team of 10 Marine and seven civilian police officers were tasked with rebuilding Anbar’s police force outside Fallujah. Rice said a new incoming team has about 125 personnel to reconstruct police stations also and they will open in two to three months.

From *Newsweek* (2006, “2 In, 1 out for Hefley’s Senate Bid,” (2006, Feb. 21): B2.

Peppermint left Crank and Doug Lamborn
Join the Staff: *White Wayne Williams Opts*
New York

Colorado Springs – Two Colorado Springs Republicans – former congressional aide Jeff Crank and state Sen. Doug Lamborn – said Monday that they will run for the seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Joe Hefley.

El Paso County Commissioner Wayne Williams announced Monday he will not seek the federal office. He will run for a second term as commissioner.

Former El Paso County Sheriff John Arden says he is seeking the Republican nomination.

Just one Democrat, Air Force veteran Jay Fawcett, has announced plans to run for the 5th Congressional District, a six-county Republican stronghold.

Crank, 39, born and raised in Pueblo, has never held political office. But he worked in several capacities from 1991 to 1998 for Hefley, who announced Thursday he would not seek an eighth term. Crank is a public policy and business development consultant to the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, where he served as senior vice president until a few weeks ago.

Crank, who describes himself as a "strong social conservative," said he had 12 years of experience working on military and base closure issues as an aide to Hefley. He helped come up with Hefley's plan that authorized low-cost housing at Fort Carson.

"Certainly, that's different experience, but it isn't totally an experience," Crank said.

Crank said. "I've got a whole lot of issues that I think Lamborn, 51, would disagree with."

Lamborn, an attorney, has served 12 years in the Colorado legislature.

"A big part of it is I'm going to be running on my conservative record. I have 12 years and a solid conservative, both fiscal and social record in the House and state Senate and I will be carrying that same voting record and those same values to Washington," Lamborn said.

Lamborn said. "We need to start cutting the federal budget and cutting taxes and we need to support the military, and we need to support traditional values."

Staff writer Erin Emery can be reached at 719-522-4360 or emery@denverpost.com.

continued

Joint Staff on 2006 Pentagon Issues
First Ever Unclassified Strategy for War on Terror, Homeland Defense Watch (February 26).

The Defense Department for the first time has published an unclassified version of its strategy for ending terrorist networks around the world in a bid to provide non-military federal agencies and foreign governments with the blueprint of the military's strategy to fight it, according to military officials.

Released by the Joint Staff with no fanfare on Feb. 26, the strategy the Pentagon rolled out Monday was its 2007 budget request and

right on the heels of the Defense Department's unveiling of the Quadrennial Defense Review – the 78-page document, titled the “National Military Strategic Plan for the 21st Century,” is designed for wide distribution and is based on a classified version of the plan approved last March.

Since the September 2001 terrorist attacks against the United States, the Pentagon has circulated three classified versions of the plan. Pentagon leaders over the last year produced the unclassified version as part of an effort to improve collaboration with other federal agencies and foreign governments.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, in a foreword to the document, said the plan provides guidance “for cooperation with other U.S. government departments and agencies and with coalition partners for planning and conducting military operations.”

Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote in a memorandum introducing the document that the plan “is the culmination of significant reflection and debate, with our military and in our government.” These deliberations “have addressed large, tough, and often unclear uncertainties, such as the nature and the conditions under which we fight, and led to a coherent and comprehensive strategic approach to guide the armed forces’ contribution to success in the war.”

Pentagon, under the direction of Lt. Gen. Brig. Gen. Robert Casen, deputy director for the war on terrorism on the Joint Staff, the strategy sets forth a 15-year plan to defeat terrorist terrorism, as a threat to our way of

life and create a global environment in which “there are no jihadist extremists.”

These are: deny terrorists the resources they need to operate and survive; enable partner nations to counter terrorism; deny proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear and eliminate uncontrolled materials, and maintain a capability for consequence management; counter threats and their organizations; counter financial and non-state support for terrorism; coordination with other U.S. government agencies and partner nations; and contribute to the establishment of conditions that counter ideological support for terrorism.

Military officials point out that with the completion of two of these goals, the U.S. remains at a support role to non-military federal agencies and partner nations in this war-raging fight. “For the last year the Defense Department has been trying to get the word out that it’s not just a military struggle,” said one military official familiar with the strategy.

So far, the plan notes that the U.S. military – particularly in command, the secretary and defense secretary – are developing metrics to measure effectiveness in achieving strategic objectives as well as to identify shortfalls that require new investments to be rectified.

“The progress for the [global war on terror] provides a snapshot of progress in the war and a look at the efficiency of the U.S. strategy to date,” said one official.

This strategic military plan, which includes a 10-page annex in the classified version that would everything from intelligence to

interviews or social media, is opposed every two years.

In the Defense section of the first news account of 6 to 7's strategy for spending what it was being used as a basis for a high-level discussion of the Quadrennial Defense Review about capabilities required for defeat terrorist networks (Defense News, May 3).

Understand 2010's "Carrier 7 (1104)." **Inside the Navy**, 15 (7 February 2011).

In a pre-conference with reporters Friday (Feb. 17), Sen. John Warner (R-VA) said he had introduced legislation to repeal a congressional ban on reappointing fewer than 12 aircraft carriers in the Navy. Last year, Warner pushed for the ban, arguing the Navy had to wait until after the Quadrennial Defense Review before deciding whether to retire the conventional carrier John F. Kennedy (CVN-67). Right now, Part the QDR has had a lot of changes in course, and Warner has agreed to not reappoint carriers in the future, Warner has told me. Warner also said he supports the QDR's recommendation to shift aircraft carriers from the 40-year to the Pacific Fleet.

Diana Vandenberg, *Warrior*, 20 (Nov. 2011) **Finds That Most Elites Are Approve of**

Warrior, 20 (Nov. 2011) **Elites (TX)**
Warrior (February 10), 24

Elites are not the "B" on his performance as a congressman. "B" on his performance as the district's congressional representative, based on the 2011 El Paso Times poll.

Elites are not the "B" on his performance as a congressman. Only a faction said he was doing a poor job.

Reyes announced that some of his strengths are "I am able to work both sides of the aisle, bringing my reputation to Congress as a border expert, and attaining congressional experience and knowledge on important issues such as Libya, North Korea, and the economy, Iraq and Afghanistan."

Reyes, who is unopposed in the Democratic primary election, said he wants to "continue to work on border issues, such as the threat of terrorism and other health issues, especially the border infrastructure, the security of these assets, and to follow through on the security of the border and Coast Guard operations."

The biggest issue ahead for the district is "making sure the business community is at the forefront of access to the planned \$3 billion in contracts, and to make sure that the top 10 and 20 other business designations that are being given the priority for the Arizona."

Reyes is not the "B" on his performance as a congressman. The poll interviewed 356 likely voters and has an error margin of 5 percentage points.

Mayor John Cook was complimentary of Reyes for his work with U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, in helping secure money for a detention plant to be built in the area.

"I've also worked closely with him on BRAC," Cook said. "I would like his support for our war between our two countries to come to an end."

Reyes joined the Base Border Patrol chief, is credited with putting into effect "Operation Hold the Line," which placed U.S. border agents close to each other along the border to prevent illegal immigration.

Fernando Garcia, director of the Border Network for Human Rights, said the advocacy group's view of Reyes is ambivalent when it comes to immigration issues.

"He is the father of Operation Hold the Line and Hold the Line is what we have always believed that was a wrong policy," Garcia said. "It has cost a lot of lives on the border."

"Yet, after he got into office, he has been supportive of some efforts to legalize immigrants," Garcia said. "We would like for him to have more contact with the community on human rights issues, and on border enforcement in the context of immigration reform."

Reyes serves on the House Armed Services Committee, the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

** 2/11/06

Unattributed, 2006. "LaHood on Defense Panel." Peoria (IL) Journal Star (February 9) B1.

Congressman to Use Seat As Advocate for Country.

U. S. Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Peoria, was named Wednesday to the House defense appropriations subcommittee.

He replaces former Rep. Duke Cunningham, R-Calif., who pleaded guilty last fall to accepting bribes from defense contractors.

LaHood was named to the subcommittee by Chairman Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., following recommendations by the Republican Steering Committee. The full House is expected to accept those recommendations.

LaHood will give up his seats on the home and security subcommittee and the small business-justice-commerce subcommittee. He will stay on the agriculture subcommittee.

"I plan to be an advocate for all our military men and women in Illinois," said LaHood, pledging to use the seat to advocate for Illinois military and National Guard bases.

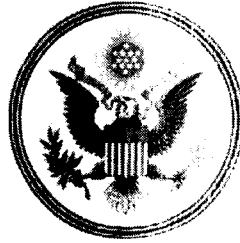
When the 483rd Fighter Wing in Springfield Field was fighter jets taken away during the round of continued defense base closing rounds, LaHood said he hoped to find alternative missions and uses for the base.

Continued on page 12

By Michael Miller

Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

EARLY



BIRD

February 27, 2006

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The Associated Press, 2006. "U.S. Military Defends Afghan Detentions." Associated Press News Wire, February 26, 22:53.

Kabul, Afghanistan (AP) * The U.S. military on Monday denied its detention of about 500 inmates at its main base in Afghanistan, saying they are treated humanely and provided the "best possible living conditions."

The new report, however, reportedly reported that inmates were held by the dozen in wire cages at the Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul * some for as long as two or three years without access to lawyers or the chance to hear their allegations against them.

The report, citing unnamed military officials and former detainees, said that inmate numbers had grown sharply, partly because "enemy combatants" caught during the hunt for al-Qaida and Taliban militants in Afghanistan were no longer being transferred to the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Col. James Yonts, the U.S. military spokesman in Kabul, would not confirm or deny whether inmates are held for up to three years, saying the Secretary of Defense sets the criteria for detention. But he added that all those held were at one time "enemy combatants" and their status is regularly reviewed.

“We hold them for two reasons: to question them and get intelligence from them, or because they’ve committed violence against the coalition or the people of Afghanistan,” he said in an e-mailed response to questions.

“We regularly review the status of our detainees, and if a detainee has no intelligence value and if we believe he will no longer attack the coalition or forces of the central government, we will release him. We regularly release detainees,” he said.

Yonts confirmed about 500 people are currently held at Bagram, and said they were treated humanely and provided the best possible living conditions and medical care in accordance with the principals of the Geneva Convention.

The U.S. military maintains that “enemy combatants” are not covered by the Geneva Conventions on treatment of prisoners of war.

The military has not allowed Afghan and international human rights groups access to the Bagram detention facilities, although it does allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the prisoners.

The Times report described conditions as “primitive.” It cited military figures as saying numbers of detainees at Bagram had risen from about 100 at the start of 2004 to as many as 500 at the end last year.

It said the increase was partly a result of a decision by the U.S. government to shut off the flow of detainees to Guantanamo after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled those prisoners had some basic due-process rights. The report said in question of whether those same rights apply to detainees in Bagram has not been tested in court.

London (AP) 2/26. **“International Headline News.”** Central News Agency (February 26).

New York (AP) 2/26 (CNA) New York Times: **A Growing Afghan Prison Rivals Elitist Guantanamo Bay**

While international debate rages over the future of the American detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the military has quietly expanded another, less-visible prison in Afghanistan, where it now holds some 500 terror suspects in more primitive conditions, indefinitely and without charges. Pentagon officials have often described the detention site at Bagram, a cavernous former machine shop on an American air base 40 miles north of Kabul, as a screening center. They said most of the detainees were Afghans who might eventually be released under an amnesty program or transferred to an Afghan prison that is to be built with American aid. But some of the detainees have already served time at Bagram for as long as two or three years. And unlike those at Guantanamo, they have no access to lawyers, no right to hear the allegations against them and only rudimentary reviews of conditions as former combatants, “the lawyer general said.

Brian Weisman 2/26. **“Museum of Medical Oddities Lively Working.”** Associated Press Newswire (February 26, 21:35).

Washington (AP) * On one shelf rests a giant pile of rot filled crumpled stomachs of a 11-year-old girl who compulsively chewed her hair. Floating in a nearby glass container

is a young man that ballooned in size because of elephantiasis.

This isn't a carnival freak show. The specimens are among thousands of medical oddities * many ghoulish * collected by the National Museum of Health and Medicine, which is dedicated to tracing the history and practice of medicine over the centuries.

But the museum, located on the D.C. campus of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, likely will have to find a new home. Last summer, the Base Closure and Realignment Commission voted to close the hospital and move many of its medical services to suburban Bethesda, Md., by 2011.

The commission does not indicate what will happen to the museum, other than to say it will not be "disestablished." Museum officials are also uncertain, though it's expected to move with the hospital to Bethesda.

It would be the museum's 16th move since its founding in 1862 as the Army Medical Museum. The surgeon general originally wanted medical officers to collect specimens from dead and wounded soldiers on Civil War battlefields so that their diseases and injuries could be studied.

One of the museum's most popular objects from that era belongs to Union Gen. Daniel E. Sickles. His right leg was mangled by a Confederate cannonball in Gettysburg, Pa., in 1863, and had to be sawed off just above the knee.

The general decided to send the amputated leg to the museum in a mahogany coffin. It came with a card that read: "With the compliments of Major General D. E. S."

Sickles recovered from the wound, and became fond of visiting his leg on the anniversary of the amputation. Today, the shattered bones are mounted by metal prongs to a polished wooden base.

A few steps away, the bullet that killed President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre also is displayed, along with bone fragments and hair from the president's skull and the blood-stained shirt of a doctor who assisted in the autopsy.

Up to 60,000 people visit the museum each year, and about 100 others participate in outreach programs and log on to its Web site, spokeswoman Steven Solomon said. Before moving to Walter Reed in 1971 * about five miles from downtown * the museum was on the National Mall where it drew 165,000 people in its final year.

The casual tourists are now gone, but school groups, military service members, doctors, Civil War buffs and school groups are among those who still seek out the museum. "This is definitely a destination attraction," Solomon said.

C. Lewis Herold, a comment on how another move might affect the museum's visibility. It receives funding from the Defense Department and through private grants and donations.

Altogether, the museum has nearly 2,000 specimens from the Civil War era. And museum curators still occasionally hear from families who believe their relatives' remains are part of the collection.

"In the nine years I've been here, families have contacted us many times," said Lenore Berman, the museum's assistant curator for anatomical collections. "They're thrilled that

they have a family member that's part of a museum."

The collection doesn't end in the mid-19th century. The exhibit "Battlefield Surgery 101: From the Civil War to Vietnam" details the evolution of military surgery with artifacts and photographs from the nation's major wars.

And there are exhibits that show * some times in gruesome detail * how the body functions in sickness and health. Besides a glass display cabinet full of and swine (e.g., Mice) you can see embalmed fetuses, including a pair of conjoined twins floating in a small jar. There's also a skeleton, sitting in a rocking chair, of a man who had such severe arthritis that all his bones fused together.

"I was like, 'wow,'" said Kisses Martinez, a pathology student who visited the museum. "It opens up your eyes to a lot of things."

Only 1 percent of the museum's approximately 25 million artifacts are on display at any one time, Solomon said. In the past, many specimens were laid out for all to see "often with little explanation. Now, however, the museum strives to provide context with story-driven exhibits.

Among the many artifacts suspended behind the scenes is the skeleton of Able, the first monkey to fly in space. In a blue cabinet across the room, the spinal cord of Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, rests alongside a jar that contains President Dwight Eisenhower's palladium.

The collection also includes a piece of President Garfield's vertebrae, which was pierced by an assassin's bullet in 1881 (though historians say doctors' chemotherapy caused Garfield's death three months later,

which is why he died of a "bullet wound" to probe his wound.

In the corner of the locker are two drawers full of little things that belong to the crazed lawyer that shot him, Charles Julius Guiteau. There's even a jar that contains Guiteau's brain.

** * * * *

The Associated Press. 2006. "New Home Construction Soaring in Lawton." *Associated Press News Service* (February 26, 1999).

Lawton, Okla. (AP) * New home construction is thriving in Lawton, and officials expect the trend to continue as more jobs are relocated to nearby Fort Sill Army Post.

The Lawton Homebuilders Association reports that developers are in some phase of construction in the city, including 13 on the sprawling west side.

"We're selling homes faster than we can build them," said homebuilder Ed Braly. "This year we're doing 200, we expect to build 150 homes in a year and another 200 in 2008. Our goal is to eventually build 250 homes in one year.

"And that's just as 'one company.'"

Military officials project at least 3,000 military and 200 civilian jobs will be permanently relocated to Fort Sill from Fort Belvoir, says the base's The Base Realignment and Closure Commission decision. The move is expected to begin in 2007.

"Sixty-two million impacted the building yet," said Steven Barnes, a local developer who

has 32 homes under construction in central Lawton. "Let's put this way: I haven't sold one home yet to a captain from Fort Bliss."

Local officials say they aren't sure what's responsible for the uptick in new home construction. The US Census Bureau estimates Lawton had 88,214 residents in 2004, an up of about 4,500 from the 2000 census.

"You can't pat yourself on the back if you just know it's there," said Court Newkirk, economic development director at the Lawton Area City-County Chamber of Commerce. "The steady drip of BRAC has finally hit yet."

Most suspect the housing market will shift in a new direction once the Fort Bliss people arrive. Barnes and other builders are selling new homes in the \$120,000 to \$300,000 range. The average cost of a new home in Lawton is \$187,900, according to the Lawton Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Our concern is house prices won't be affordable to the low-reops," Lawton City Manager Tony Mottola said. "We need affordable housing."

Sudanese Media Centre, 2006. "Southern Sudan Media Center against Establishment of US Military Base in Region." BBC Monitoring Newswire (February 25, 2006) (7:00)

Text on report by Sudanese Media Centre website on 26 February

The Southern Sudan Defence Force [SSDF] has warned the government of Southern Sudan that it will not consent if it agrees to a

plan by the USA to set up a military base in the region to protect the oil fields].

The official spokesman for the SSDF, Brig Muhammad Shol al-Ahmar, told the Sudanese Media Centre [SMC] that the US plan to establish a military base in the region is the first step by the US Administration towards taking over the oil resources in the south.

He pointed out that the peace talks in the process are not signed [in January 2005] but mostly on the issue.

Al-Ahmar said if the government of Sudan and/or agree to establish a US military base in the region, then it will be the biggest violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Al-Ahmar said "the agreement did not contain anything that would affect the foreign military base should be established in the country to protect the oil fields." The US had already declared its keenness to establish a military base in the south.

Sudanese Sudanese Media Centre website, Khartoum, in Arabic 0000 gnt 26 Feb 06

Mark Alexander Pieper, 2006. "AG Criticizes EPA on Flynn Land Use." Pacific Daily News (Flagstaff, AZ) (February 22, 2006)

Guam's attorney general and congressional delegate were seen in the April 2005 Navy report that cleared Tison cliff-side properties for return to Guam's government. It did not clear it for residential, use, as local environmental officials complained.

Earlier this week, the Guam residents mental health center, A. J. Torres, said that these structures and the old Navy housing structures are safe for residential use if they pass proper environmental testing. He said that original structures such as vinyl tiles are not torn up or replaced.

But Attorney General Douglas Moya said yesterday issued a letter to the agencies questioning the findings. Moya said the sponsor is the U.S. Department of Defense. Bordano, who has been in contact with federal military officials, said he was informed that the office is in a standing belief that the idea that the land has never been cleared for residential use.

Guam EPA officials held a public meeting yesterday evening in Tiyan to discuss residential use of the property. At the meeting, officials were told that the land has never been cleared for residential use.

During a briefing of reporters from the plan, acting U.S. deputy assistant Alex Sosa admitted that the off-site land is contaminated and that it has never been cleared by the U.S. EPA or the Defense Base Construction Management Commission for residential use.

After the briefing, Moya said that he has a bill to change the definition of residential land. He said that the bill would allow for the use of off-site land for residential use. He said that the bill would allow for the use of off-site land for residential use.

Karim said that he is a resident who lives in the area. He said that he is a resident who lives in the area. He said that he is a resident who lives in the area.

57-year-old Jose Maria Guerrero, 61, said that he is a resident who lives in the area. He said that he is a resident who lives in the area. He said that he is a resident who lives in the area.

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A resident of the off-site residents to meet for the late afternoon meeting at the site of the Army's Tiyan facility. Guerrero said that he is a resident who lives in the area. He said that he is a resident who lives in the area. He said that he is a resident who lives in the area.

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for a highway and the report clears it for reuse because obviously people don't live on a highway," Moylen said at the meeting. "It is the Guam Environmental Protection Agency's job to enforce our standards against chemical and material contaminants and not to try to substantiate for political reasons that the property should be used."

The controversy over the Tiyan land runs much deeper than environmental issues.

Federal agencies have warned local officials that the off-limits properties were to be used to build a road through the Tiyan area, as well as to expand the airport, as was agreed upon when the land was returned to the local government. Instead, the local government donated the land to an aerial landowners' and users' association government offices.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds for the Guam airport are at risk for island contractors if the property is not utilized if the local government fails to comply with the agreement. Federal officials have warned.

Gov. Felix Amador is in Washington, D.C., in part to seek some kind of compromise with the federal government on the lands. In his annual address the governor outlined his position that the land belongs to the ancestral owners and that the government has the rights to control the use and the actions of this land.

Soto said the agency is trying not to alarm the public and is still trying to determine the risk and extent of the contaminants in the area.

But Moylen said one of the things he is living there while the investigation continues. The

and one general demanded that the homes be tested.

Continued

To view the list of possible contaminants in the Tiyan off-limits properties and its possible health effects, view the online version of this story at www.guampdn.com.

* continued

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Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

EARLY



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“Top Brass at Hancock Field.”

“Face to Face.”

“BRAC Construction Could Bring in \$3 Billion.”

“Boeing Opens Office.”

“Changing Face of Quantico, Part II.”

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Local News Articles

Pedro Ramirez III. 2006. “**Top Brass at Hancock Field.**” The Post Standard/Herald-Journal (Syracuse, NY) February 25, 2006

AIR FORCE SECRETARY VISITS

The Hancock Field Air National Guard base in Mattydale survived last year’s round of base closings.

Now, local, state and federal leaders want to convince the Air Force the base can play an integral role in the nation’s defense well into the future.

That was the message that greeted Air Force Secretary Michael W. Wynne, who accepted an invitation by Rep. James Walsh, R-Onondaga, to visit the base Friday.

“(Wynne) saw a great operation,” Walsh said after the secretary’s visit. “He was... impressed with what he saw.”

On his first visit to Hancock, Wynne participated in a closed-door briefing with military and community leaders and a tour of the base. Wynne did not speak to the media.

In a written statement, Wynne seemed to assure local leaders that Hancock will play an important role in the future.

“The Airmen of Hancock (Field) Air National Guard base are a vital part of our Total Force,” Wynne said. “They play an important role... and will continue to do so well into the future.”

Hancock's role is expected to change within the next three to five years. In that time, the air base is scheduled to lose its squadron of F-16 fighter jets as the Air Force phases out the aging aircraft, said Walsh and Air Guard officials.

The good news is that the Air Force will position a squadron of Predator unstaffed aerial drones at Hancock, said Walsh, Maj. Gen. Robert Knauff, of the New York Air National Guard, and Col. Anthony B. Basile, Hancock's base commander.

"That is a different mission, but it is one that is growing," Walsh said.

"We (have) perhaps a leg up on a lot of (other bases)... because we have been identified with a future mission that is only going to grow," Knauff said.

Basile said Hancock's nearly 1,200 personnel have the experience to take on the new mission.

"We fly and fix fighters, attack aircraft," Basile said. "The (Predator) is an attack aircraft.... It provides us a future."

Wynne's visit was troubled by transportation problems from beginning to end.

Walsh staffers heard that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ended up using the jet Wynne had planned on taking to Hancock. For his return flight, Wynne had to wait again for another jet because of mechanical problems with the jet on which he flew in, Walsh staffers said.

HANCOCK FIELD

Work force: 1,283

Full time – 488, including federal and state workers
Drill-status guardsmen – 795
Payroll: more than \$90million
Real estate: 356 acres owned by the federal Department of Defense; 70 acres ready for development, including flight line for growth

Infrastructure since 1997:

16 new buildings
21 major projects
\$86.1 million spent
55 percent of the base renewed within last decade

Source: Hancock Military Affairs Community Council

Elisa L. Reinhart. 2006. "**Face to Face.**" Grand Forks (ND) Herald (February 24).

Local Businesspeople Get the Chance to Meet Potential Customers

After several phone calls trying to locate a contracting officer here to sell her products, Carol Windjue finally shook hands with a potential client Thursday at the air base Vendor Day.

Windjue, a sales associate for Newman Traffic Signs, a Jamestown-based manufacturer of billboards and road signs, said she jumped at the opportunity because it's not easy to get face time with government contracting officers. Other vendors participating in the free exposition for small business owners said the same thing.

"Talking to them on the phone or via e-mail is not the same as meeting them face to face," Windjue said.

She said she walked away with some new contacts and a possible buyer for some portable road sign stands.

The afternoon exhibit and matchmaking event was part of a daylong workshop organized by The Small Business Administration, The Chamber and the base to help small companies do business with the military and the federal government.

Small companies with products ranging from a mini fire truck pulled by an ATV to professional cleaning products and office furniture introduced themselves to base officers and civilian contractors walking through several aisles of vending tables in the base's Liberty Square.

One of the vendors, Gary Mathieson, a sales representative for Florida-based Source One, a tactical gear distributor, came from Texas to show his arsenal of military gear to base officials, who seemed interested in his product line.

"I got three quotes," Mathieson said. "It's been a worthwhile venture."

Government Business 101

A panel of experts including Eric Giltner, SBA area manager, held a morning Vendor Day seminar in the Grand Forks Herald Community Room to talk about the requirements and steps to become a government contractor.

More than 60 people attended, Giltner said.

Thomas Linnertz, a business development specialist with SBA, explained the different programs available to small North Dakota companies looking to apply for government contracts.

One of those was a fast-track contracting program for the veteran business community that expedites their bid application and sets aside a number of contracts just for veterans.

Joseph Kulbacki, owner of Safe and Secure, an alarm and high-tech security systems company, and a retired Air Force policeman, said he didn't know about the veterans program. He said he plans to take advantage of it.

"They say education is expensive, but the cost of ignorance is higher," Kulbacki said.

Revolving Network

Back at the base's exhibit, some vendors said that because of assignment rotations it's difficult to maintain business ties with active duty officers that have buying power.

Last year, the base's business credit card holders spent \$10.5 million on items that cost less than \$2,500. Of that amount, \$3 million stayed in the state. The remaining \$7.5 million went to out-of-state companies, said Duane Mann, a small business specialist with the base's 319th Contracting Squadron.

The 2006 Vendor Day also helped busy officers new to the base develop closer ties with the local business community.

Lt. Col. Kip Turain, commander of the 906 Air Refueling Squadron, said he found some baseball caps the squadron bought a few years ago and no one had records of where they got them.

"Walking through we actually found the exact same hat sitting on the table of a local vendor, so now we're going to end up putting in an order for some more hats," Turain said. "It's a great end to the day."

Rineheart reports on business and military affairs. Reach her at (701) 780-1269, (800) 477-6572, ext. 269; or at erineheart@gfherald.com.

Mick Walsh. 2006. **“BRAC Construction Could Bring in \$3 Billion.”** Columbus (GA) Ledger-Enquirer (February 24).

Projections Show Growth, Needs Facing City, Post

Call it a perfect storm.

The latest estimate of huge population gains from the Armor Center’s upcoming move from Fort Knox, Ky., to Fort Benning * and forecasts of what will be needed to accommodate such growth * were presented to elected officials and civic leaders at a regional planning meeting Thursday.

Granted, the total impact of the Base Realignment and Closure committee’s May decision to move the Armor Center and School and create the U.S. Army’s Maneuver Center of Excellence at Benning won’t be realized until 2011.

But here are some of the newest projections, as outlined by post officials, the Fort Benning Futures Partnership, and Columbus’ City Manager Isaiah Hugley:

Almost 30,000 people * soldiers, civilians and their families, roughly the population of LaGrange * will settle in this area over the next five years, 75 percent of them residing on post or in Muscogee County.

The Infantry and Armor schools will be training an additional 29,000 students every year by 2011.

Major construction on post over that period is estimated at \$3 billion, with much of that money going to local contractors.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 new homes or apartment units will have to be built in Columbus over the next five years to accommodate the new arrivals. That’s in addition to what’s already on the drawing board.

Estimated cost of road projects in Muscogee alone totals \$314 million, with the city to be responsible for \$126 million of that total.

None of the above figures includes the \$600 million that is being spent to rebuild and renovate Fort Benning housing.

Since the Army has no current plans to expand Martin Army Community Hospital, health care will be at a premium by 2011.

Hugley insists the city has the necessary water and sewer capacity for new homes that must be built. But he warns staffing problems * such as police and fire * must be addressed long before 2011.

“BRAC will have a significant impact on this area,” said John Mitchell, chair of the Fort Benning Futures Partnership.

But BRAC alone won’t drive this area’s population boom.

Fort Benning is already benefitting from changes in the Army’s Modular Force program, which will bring almost 1,000 new soldiers to post, many of them to be assigned to a new Cavalry regiment, which will be attached to the 3rd Brigade.

The relocation of a Fort Gillem unit to Benning, the addition of two new companies

to the 75th Ranger Regiment and the arrival of troops from overseas will swell the military population to 19,308 by 2011 and the civilian population to 4,476.

“Even if BRAC had never happened,” said Chuck Walls, the post’s deputy garrison commander, “we’d still be seeing huge growth.” He presented the audience a projected timeline that shows relatively flat growth in fiscal years 2006 and 2007, then rapid growth from 2008 and on.

“We can’t really begin to prepare the post for the arrival of the Armor School until the Environmental Impact Statement is completed and that could take as much as 18 months,” said Walls. “Once that’s done, you’ll see construction at Harmony Church, Kelley Hill, Sand Hill, main post and at our ranges.”

One estimate calls for 1,500 construction contractors to move into town, bringing with them 3,000 family members.

Staff. 2006. “**Boeing Opens Office.**” El Paso (TX) Times February 23, 2006

One of the presumed benefits emanating from the Base Realignment and Closure process and designation of Fort Bliss as headquarters for the Future Combat Systems initiative was high-tech economic growth for El Paso.

That assumption took on some reality Tuesday as Boeing opened its Future Combat Systems office in El Paso. Boeing and Science Applications International Corp. are the lead contractors for FCS. According to company officials, the next few years should see about 200 technical and administrative personnel hired.

And you can bet that other high-tech companies will follow suit, because high-tech is the heart of FCS, and FCS is going to define the Army in coming years. As Tom Thomas, West Texas civilian aide to the secretary of the Army, said, “This, in my opinion, is going to become the center of the universe for the Army.”

And the advent of FCS is at least as important for El Paso, about which U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso, said, “I think FCS coming here and the potential it represents for the community is beyond our ability to comprehend at this point. I see the list of companies that are already seeking opportunities to come here ... and it boggles my mind.”

This isn’t a one-sided deal. El Paso can’t just sit around fat and happy, waiting for economic good fortune to rain upon it.

The city has to do its part to be ready for incoming troops and businesses. School districts must be prepared with adequate facilities and enough teachers. Housing must be readily available. There must be shopping and entertainment, adequate roads and highways, expanded city and county services, effective mass transportation.

Those aren’t just “nice to have” things, they are the city’s and county’s obligations.

Meanwhile, welcome to Boeing and may that be the first of many such welcomes.

Unattributed. 2006. “**Changing Face of Quantico, Part II.**” US Fed News February 23, 2006

Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., Feb. 23 *
The U.S. Marine Corps issued the following
official news story:

Riding atop the crest of the Town of
Quantico's wave of new development are
government contractors seeking digs closer
to their primary customer * Marine Corps
Systems Com-mand.

Several businesses with ties to Systems
Command have recently opened for business
along Potomac Avenue, River Road and
elsewhere in this nine-block town, and more
are on the way.

The new tenants are a key part of the Town
of Quantico's first major revitalization since
its post-World War II decline, and are
instrumental in driving commercial real
estate development, improving property
values and generating tax revenue for the
town.

Mark Perry, general contractor, real estate
broker, and Town of Quantico resident since
1961, currently oversees the construction of
a new, 4,800-square-foot office building
next door to Sam's Bar and Grill on
Potomac Avenue that will eventually house
two more Systems Command contractors.
He said Quantico's sudden growth spurt is
long overdue.

"Quantico has changed more in the last five
years than it has in 40 years," Perry said.
"With bringing in these new commercial
buildings and old housing being torn down
and new housing being built in its place,
Quantico has only in the past five years
begun to blossom into what it could be. If
the partnership of the Potomac River and the
train station could be tied together, this place
could be a gold mine."

Perry said the recent explosion in
commercial development might be showing
early signs of slowing down. The town
recently moved to enact legislation to
require builders of new office buildings to
provide adequate parking, and at least two
projects have already moved just off base *
one near the main gate in the town or
Triangle and another, million-square-foot
office park, near the back gate just over the
county line in Stafford.

"In my capacity as a real estate broker,
(Sam's proprietor, Saba Quera) and I are
looking outside the gate in Triangle where
we will hopefully build an 18,000-square-
foot building," Perry said. "Quantico is
drawing the people in, no question. Just in
the Triangle and Dumfries area there are
120,000-square-feet (of commercial space)
under construction right now."

JeanMarie Shipley is the program manager
for Columbia Research Corporation, which
recently moved into a newly renovated
office building, also owned by Quera, at 416
River Road in Quantico with its
subcontractor, Phillips Defense Systems,
Inc. Like other new contractors in town,
Columbia services the Marine Corps,
specifically providing laser, optic, thermal
imaging and image intensification support to
Infantry Weapons Systems at Systems
Command. Shipley said proximity to the
customer was a major draw for her
company.

"The other big corridor for location of
workspace is out on Highway 610. That's a
half hour away," Shipley said. "If the
customer at Hospital Point asks us to come
to a meeting, we can be there in two
minutes, even walking. It makes a big
difference. That might be one of the reasons
we won the contract * because of our

location. We like where we are. It's working out very well."

Dave Phillips, president and CEO of Phillips Defense Systems, Inc., agreed that location was key to both contractor and customer alike.

"In my view, the Marine Corps customers who I support like to have (contractors) close by. And this is about as close as one can get to the customer," Phillips said. "It's a lot more efficient. It saves time, it's convenient, and you get a lot more done."

The Town of Quantico's new contractors are in addition to expected base population growth resulting from the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure program. According to Meredith Carrington, BRAC project officer at the Quantico Business Performance Office, another 3,500 to 4,000 personnel * 7 percent military officers, 9 percent enlisted military service members, 40 percent government contractors and 44 percent civilian employees will work aboard Quantico by fiscal year 2011 as five counter intelligence and security agencies relocate their headquarters elements to the base. Two potential sites west of Interstate 95 are currently under review for the necessary office campus, which will range from 65 to 120 acres, depending largely on whether parking structures or flat parking lots are constructed. Construction for that project is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2008.

Quara, a resident and businessman in Quantico since 1974, is one local business owner who is excited about the town's new development.

"Great things are happening in Quantico," Quara said. "Mayor Raftelis is doing an

excellent job. (Raftelis), the police officers, and local business owners all want this town to do very well."

In Part III of this series, to be published in the (date) of the Quantico Sentry, Quantico officials unveil their strategies to cope with the Town of Quantico's expansion and the expected resulting strain on the base infrastructure.

Opinions/ Editorials

Additional Notes