



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000



May 13, 2005

Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The decade since the last BRAC has been a period of dramatic change. The U.S. national security strategy addresses the new challenges posed by international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, ungoverned areas, rogue states, and non-state actors. BRAC 2005 provides the Department a unique opportunity to adjust U.S. base structure to meet these developments, and to be positioned to meet the challenges envisioned during the next two decades.

As required by Public Law 101-510, as amended, I am providing to the Commission the Department of Defense Base Closure and Realignment Report containing the Department's recommendations to realign or close military installations within the United States and its territories. These recommendations strengthen national security by reshaping the domestic installations at which U.S. military forces perform their assigned missions. Volume I describes the Department's overall BRAC selection process; provides an unclassified version of the force structure plan; and details the Department's closure and realignment recommendations and their justifications. Eleven other volumes (II-XII) will be provided under separate cover. Volume II is the classified force structure plan, which is available on a restricted basis. Should you have any questions about the proper handling of classified material, the Department stands ready to assist. Volumes III-XII further describe the analytical processes and recommendations of each of the Department's 10 proponent organizations -- the three Military Departments and seven Joint Cross-Service Groups (JCSGs).

The Department's recommendations will align U.S. base structure with the force structure that is expected to be needed over the next 20 years. These proposals will implement the Department's global force reposturing; facilitate the ongoing transformation of U.S. forces to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and restructure important support functions to capitalize on advances in technology and business practices. The Department's BRAC recommendations address almost every Defense mission area and affect most of the Department's major U.S. installations. Overall, these recommendations support force transformation; address new threats, strategies, and force



protection concerns; consolidate business-oriented support functions; promote joint- and multi-service basing; and provide significant savings.

As required by law, the BRAC process entailed comprehensive and comparable analyses of all installations in the United States and its territories, using military value as the primary consideration. In reviewing its base structure, the Department considered the capabilities needed to support potential mobilization and surge requirements, as well as the unique installation needs of Reserve Component forces. The Department placed emphasis on retaining the infrastructure and capabilities necessary to respond to contingencies. The Military Departments and Joint Cross-Service Groups incorporated surge assessments throughout their analyses.

The Department organized its analysis into two categories: seven Joint Cross-Service Groups scrutinized the bases and functions that constitute the Department's common support infrastructure, while the Military Departments analyzed installations devoted exclusively to those Department's requirements, as well as supporting operational forces. The joint groups were composed of senior representatives of the Military Departments, the Joint Staff, and OSD, and were empowered to issue candidate recommendations that were considered jointly by the executive groups with responsibility for overseeing the entire process. In performing these analyses, all proponents were challenged to look beyond Service boundaries, and particularly to consider joint basing options, including the joint use of critical assets and the creation of centers of excellence. This work was difficult, and the accomplishments of each of the 10 proponents were significant.

The individual groups conducting the BRAC 2005 analyses reviewed each installation from its functional perspective. Their candidate recommendations were then integrated, or "knitted" together, based on functional or strategic relationships. The resulting recommendations consequently should be viewed as interdependent. This interdependence will need to be considered as the Commission conducts its review.

The Joint Staff actively participated in the development of the BRAC recommendations. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs consulted with the combatant commanders to ensure that the recommendations would not degrade operational capabilities. The Military Departments retained critical real estate and facilities that would be difficult to reconstitute through reinvestment or reliance on the private sector. They ensured that the U.S. base structure could support the forces that remain deployed overseas. The Secretaries of the Military Departments, the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff all support the Department's recommendations.

The Department is confident that these recommendations will improve the posture of U.S. forces for years to come. Increasing combat effectiveness and transforming U.S.

forces are critical if our country is to be able to meet tomorrow's national defense challenges. Because the dynamism of the current environment will continue to require the Department to optimize its resources, we recommend that a BRAC review be conducted every five to ten years.

A number of the recommended actions will present challenges to local communities as they face a drawdown of military missions or, in some instances, significant increases in military presence. The Department stands ready to assist communities affected by BRAC 2005.

The Department is providing identical letters, with enclosures, to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and all Members of Congress. The list of recommended closures and realignments is also being published in the *Federal Register*. Copies of the unclassified portion of the report will be available on the website [www.defenselink.mil/BRAC](http://www.defenselink.mil/BRAC).

I thank each member of the Commission for agreeing to perform this challenging task for the American people. Your review is an essential confirmation of the reasonableness of the military judgment behind each BRAC recommendation, as well as the fairness of the overall BRAC analytical process. The Military Departments and the Joint Cross-Service Groups stand ready to assist the Commission during its review, providing information and sharing the rationale for the recommendations that have been made. You have a critical role in securing and strengthening tomorrow's armed forces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Rumsfeld". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Enclosure:  
As stated