

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Criteria Used to Evaluate Bases

How The Criteria Was Determined

According to the law governing the BRAC process, the Secretary of Defense must develop a set of criteria for selecting bases for closure and realignment. He must address a broad range of military, fiscal, and environmental considerations likely to affect closure and realignment decisions.

In prior BRAC rounds, the Department of Defense (DOD) assigned highest priority to four criteria related to military value. In addition to the initial four criteria, the DOD also includes as criteria, return on investment, economic impact, community infrastructure, and environmental impact. As proposed for the 2005 BRAC round, the eight selection criteria is the same as those adopted and implemented in the past three BRAC rounds.

2005 Criteria

Military Value

1. Current and future mission requirements and impact on operational readiness of DOD's total force, including the impact on joint war-fighting, training, and readiness.
2. Availability and condition of land, facilities, and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval, and air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the Armed Forces in homeland defense missions) at both the existing and potential receiving locations.
3. Ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements at both the existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training.
4. Cost and manpower implications.

Additional Considerations

1. Extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.
2. Economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations.
3. Ability of both existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions, and personnel.
4. Environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restorations, waste management and environmental compliance activities.