

## Frequently Asked Questions About BRAC

**Question: *What is BRAC?***

**Answer:** "BRAC" is an acronym which stands for Base Realignment and Closure. The 2005 BRAC round is the fifth since 1988 and it is expected to be the last for the foreseeable future. Ostensibly, the BRAC process is used by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to reorganize its installation infrastructure so that it can support its forces more effectively and efficiently, increase operational readiness, and facilitate new ways of doing business. However, no such massive base realignment or downsizing has occurred during an open-ended war, which is one of several reasons why the current BRAC round is highly controversial.

**Question: *Who are the BRAC Commissioners?***

**Answer:** The law governing the BRAC process requires that the President and Congress appoint a nine-member BRAC Commission to review the Pentagon's proposed BRAC list and make recommendations to President. The President can accept, modify, or reject the list of recommendations developed by the BRAC Commission. The nine members of the 2005 BRAC Commission are:

- **Anthony Joseph Principi**, of California (Chairman). Mr. Principi currently serves as Vice President of the Pfizer Corporation. He recently served as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Prior to joining the Administration, he was president of QTC Medical Services, Inc. Earlier in his career, Mr. Principi served in the United States Senate as Republican chief counsel and staff director of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and as counsel to the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services. A combat-decorated Vietnam veteran, he first saw active duty aboard the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy, and later served with the River Patrol Force on the Mekong Delta. Mr. Principi graduated from the United States Naval Academy and later received his J.D. from Seton Hall University.
- **James H. Bilbray** of Nevada. Former Congressman Bilbray was a member of the Foreign Affairs, Armed Services and Intelligence Committees. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1955 to 1963.
- **Philip Coyle** of California. Mr. Coyle is a Senior Advisor to the Center for Defense Information. He served as Assistant Secretary of Defense and Director of Operational Test and Evaluation at the Department of Defense.
- **Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.**, USN (Ret.) of Virginia. Admiral Gehman served on active duty in the U.S. Navy for over 35 years. His last assignment was as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic and as the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Joint Forces Command.

- **James V. Hansen** of Utah. Former Congressman Hansen was a member of the Armed Services Committee. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1951 to 1955.
- **General James T. Hill**, USA (Ret.) of Florida. General Hill served in the U.S. Army for 36 years. His last assignment was as Combatant Commander of the U.S. Southern Command.
- **Lieutenant General Claude M. Kicklighter**, USA (Ret.) of Georgia. Mr. Kicklighter is the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the Department of Veterans Affairs. He served in the U.S. Army for nearly 36 years.
- **Samuel Knox Skinner** of Illinois. Mr. Skinner served as Chief of Staff and as Secretary of Transportation for President George H. W. Bush. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1960 to 1968.
- **Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner**, USAF (Ret.) of Texas. General Turner is a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission. She served in the U.S. Air Force for 30 years, most recently as the director of nursing services in the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General at Bolling Air Force Base.

**Question: Why did the Pentagon recommend closing Fort Monmouth?**

**Answer:** Quite simply, the Pentagon made a serious error. The criteria it applied were flawed, which caused Fort Monmouth’s military value to be undervalued from the start. Further, the Pentagon has failed to appreciate the loss of military

**Question: What is the timeline for this BRAC round?**

**Answer:** Several entities will play a role during this BRAC round, including the Department of Defense (DoD), the Government Accountability Office, the President, and the Congress. Below is the timeline for this BRAC round, along with a brief description of what each entity’s role is at the various stages of the process:

Action	Due Date	Status
DoD must publish initial selection criteria in the <i>Federal Register</i>	12/31/03	Completed
GAO must complete review of DoD criteria	1/28/03	Completed
DoD must publish final selection criteria in the <i>Federal Register</i>	2/16/04	Completed
DoD final criteria becomes effective (unless disapproved by Act of Congress)	3/15/04	Completed
President must nominate Commission members (or BRAC process is terminated)	3/15/05	Completed
DoD must send closure list to Commission and Congress	5/16/05	Completed
GAO must complete review of DoD list	7/1/05	
Commission must send closure list to President	9/8/05	

President must approve/disapprove	9/23/05	
Commission may submit final revisions	10/20/05*	
President must certify Commission list (or BRAC process is terminated)	11/7/05*	
Congress has 45 legislative days to pass motion of disapproval (or the Commission's list becomes law)	Variable*	
Termination of base closure Commission authority	4/15/06	

\* These dates are the last legally authorized date by which either the Commission or the President can act at this particular stage of the process. If the Commission has no additional actions to recommend to the President after September 23 and the President subsequently approves the final BRAC list, it is possible he could submit the final list before November 7, 2005.

**Question: *If Ft. Monmouth is on the list, is it guaranteed to close?***

**Answer:** Removing a facility from the preliminary BRAC list is very difficult, but it is not impossible. Many factors are considered by the Commission when making its recommendation to the President. Ft. Monmouth has been on previous BRAC lists, for example, and has avoided closure.

**Question: *What if Ft. Monmouth is on the final BRAC list the President submits to Congress?***

**Answer:** When the President submits his list of proposed base closures to Congress, Congress has 45 legislative days to either approve or disapprove the entire list. Congress is not allowed to amend the list in any way. A majority vote is required for passage.

**Question: *If Fort Monmouth remains of the list and the BRAC Commission decides to close it how quickly will it happen?***

**Answer:** The fort would not close immediately and the entire process would likely stretch out over several years and would be influenced by several factors, including the amount of time required to get the potential receiving base in order to receive Ft. Monmouth's units, which will take some time. The precise timeline will only become clear after final Congressional action on the BRAC list and DoD has begun action to implement the final BRAC list. Regular updates on the process will be provided to the community.

**Question: *What will happen to New Jersey's economy if Ft. Monmouth closes? How many jobs will we lose?***

**Answer:** The full impact on New Jersey's economy will not become apparent for some time and will depend on several factors, including how the land

encompassing Ft. Monmouth is ultimately redeveloped, and whether Ft. Monmouth's units and activities are moved elsewhere in New Jersey or out of the state entirely. We will not know the full impact until the fort's final status has been determined. However, the Fort currently employs 5,555 people: 5,088 civilians and 467 military personnel. According to the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission, Ft. Monmouth contributes an estimated \$2.5 billion annually to the state economy. The \$2.5 billion in economic activity supports more than 22,000 jobs throughout New Jersey's economy.

**Question: *Will there be opportunities for public input?***

**Answer:** Yes. Later this year, the BRAC Commission will hold regional hearings at which it will take testimony from the public. Once the date, time, and location of the nearest regional hearing are available, we will notify district residents. Also, members of the public can send their comments to the BRAC Commission and the President.

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