

Army BRAC 2005 Environmental



Transforming Through Base Realignment and Closure

The Army continues, and will always be, a good steward of the environment and ensure the utmost safety of employees and the community



BRAC 2005 Environmental Process

Whether your installation is identified for closure or for realignment, some of the most often expressed concerns relate to the environment. If your installation will close or realigns but has excess property for disposal, these concerns relate to the environmental condition of the excess property. If your realignment installation will gain a mission or unit(s), then those concerns relate to the environmental impacts the local area might incur by the addition of facilities and people.

It is important to assure the local community that the Army has had on-going environmental cleanup programs for many years as part of the Department of Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP). The BRAC process will expedite the environmental remediation actions, under applicable statutes, regulations and authorities, which will support the lease or conveyance of the real property at affected installations.

It is DoD policy to conduct environmental cleanup actions and programs to protect human health and the environment and to facilitate the reuse and redevelopment of closure bases as expeditiously as possible. The Army will carry out this policy to promote economic reuse of affected installations, both closing and realigning, in support of the surrounding communities, while satisfying applicable environmental protection laws and regulations.

Current Condition

Each BRAC installation, both closing and realigning, that will dispose of real property, will conduct an Environmental Condition of Property (ECP) following DoD guidelines. This investigation will assist the Army and community in determining appropriate disposal mechanisms and realistic reuse options for the excess property. The ECP process begins with a Programmatic Environmental Review (PER) that will identify any data or knowledge gaps in the currently available information regarding the installation's environmental liabilities. The PER will lead to further environmental assessment of the property that will result in an ECP Report for use by potential purchasers or property recipients, the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA), and environmental regulators. The Army Base Realignment and Closure Division (BRACD) will oversee the ECP process. For the most part, redevelopment planning should be based on civilian uses that are like or similar to the military uses whenever practicable. In the case of property with munitions and explosives of concern (MEC), such as military ranges and demolition or burning grounds, the uses should be restricted to those consistent with the potential explosives risks, such as wildlife refuges or recreational areas that do not involve ground-intrusive activities.



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act requires that all DoD installations being closed or realigned perform an analysis on the impact of the actions to be taken. For disposal actions, this analysis must consider all reasonable disposal alternatives and their respective potential environmental consequences. For realignment gaining installations the analysis will consider potential impacts due to the increase in construction activities, facilities, and populations and identify potential mitigation efforts that may be required to offset or reduce potential impacts. Additionally, both closing and gaining installations must analyze potential impacts to natural and cultural resources and conduct consultations with other Federal and State agencies (e.g., U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) if necessary.

In order to improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the NEPA process for BRAC 2005, the Army Corps of Engineers NEPA Support Team at the Mobile District will oversee all NEPA document preparation.

Community/Installation Support and Involvement

The Army will continue to be a good steward of the environment. Whatever disposal method is chosen for each installation, the Army will ensure it or the property recipient will take all actions necessary to protect human health and the environment. The following will aid in this endeavor.

Base Transition Coordinators: The Army designates a Base Transition Coordinator (BTC) for each military installation to be closed under

a base closure law. The BTC serves as the liaison between the Army and the community. The BTC facilitates the disposal and reuse of closing military bases by creating partnerships and supporting environmental cleanup communications.

BRAC Environmental Coordinators: The Army will appoint a BRAC Environmental Coordinator (BEC) for each BRAC base who will manage the environmental programs related to transfer of the installation's real property. The BEC will work with the BTC to assist the community in understanding the environmental activities associated with the closure and/or realignment of the installation.

Restoration Advisory Board: A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) provides a public forum where people who reflect the diverse interests within the local community can come together with the DoD and environmental oversight agencies to enable the flow and exchange of information. RABs are created to ensure that all parties actually or potentially affected by the restoration activities at the installation (often referred to as "stakeholders") have a voice and can actively participate in the review of restoration documents. The BEC serves as co-chair of the RAB and is the interface between the Installation and the stakeholders. The community RAB acts in an advisory capacity only and is not a decision making body. In the future the Army will provide specific guidance for establishing a RAB at your installation.

