

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOR INFORMATION:
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OVERSEAS BASING COMMISSION WILL ISSUE A REPORT MAY 9

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 27, 2005 - The Commission on the Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure of the United States (Overseas Basing Commission) will release a report to Congress and the President in a news conference to be held at 10 a.m. Monday, May 9, 2005 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

The report will include an assessment of geopolitical considerations, operational issues, mobility concerns, budgetary impacts, regional threat assessments and the overall strategic impact of the changes in overseas basing structure currently being contemplated by the Department of Defense (DoD). Among other things, those changes propose the permanent return to the U.S. of some 70,000 military personnel now based overseas.

The Commission was established by Public Law 108-132 - the Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004 - to provide Congress and the President with a thorough study and review of matters relating to U.S. military facility structure overseas. The law requires the Commission's report to include a proposal for an overseas basing strategy to meet current and future Department of Defense missions. Congress later extended the Commission's reporting date to August, 2005.

The Commission's task is to assess independently whether the current overseas basing structure is adequate to execute current missions, and to assess the feasibility of closures, realignments, or establishment of new installations overseas to meet emerging defense requirements. The Commission's report will serve as another data point to assist the Congressional Committees in performing their oversight responsibilities for the DoD's basing strategy, future military construction appropriations, and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission determinations.

"Although the law gives the Commission until August 15, 2005, to report, we feel it is critical to provide an early report that can be used by the domestic Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) when it receives the base closure list from the Secretary of Defense in mid-May," said Al Cornella, chairman of the OSBC. "Some minor additions to our report will likely be made between now and August, but today's document represents the essential conclusions and recommendations of the Commission," he said.

The OSBC was organized in May, 2004, and since that time has held four public hearings in Washington, D.C. at which testimony was taken from current and former

military leaders and defense policy makers. Commissioners have traveled to Europe, Asia and the Middle East to meet with Combatant Commanders and their staffs, with embassy representatives, foreign military officers and local officials. The Commission's staff has gathered global basing information from numerous government and non-government agencies and individuals.

The members of the Overseas Basing Commission are:

- Chairman: The Honorable Al Cornella, a South Dakota businessman who also served on the 1995 Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC).
- Major General Lewis E. Curtis III (USAF Retired), Texas
- Vice Admiral Anthony Less (USN Retired), Virginia
- Brigadier General Keith Martin (PA Army National Guard, Retired) Director of Homeland Security, State of Pennsylvania
- Lieutenant General H.G. (Pete) Taylor (USA Retired), Texas
- Dr. James Thomson, President and CEO RAND Corporation, California