

CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION SCHEDULES FIRST MEETING
ON REVIEW OF OVERSEAS MILITARY FACILITY STRUCTURE
OF THE UNITED STATES

Will hear Congressional Budget Office briefing July 14 on Army's Overseas Basing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C., July 12, 2004 - The Commission appointed by Congress to review, report, and make recommendations on the overseas basing structure of the United States Military will convene its first public meeting July 14 in Washington, D.C. with a presentation by the Congressional Budget Office of its study "Options for Changing the Army's Overseas Basing."

The Commission will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 14, at the Congressional Budget Office, Ford House Office Building, Room 483, 2nd and D Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C.

The Commission on Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure of the United States - the Overseas Basing Commission (OSBC) - was created as part of FY 2004 Military Construction Act (Public Law 108-132) and given a broad charge to consider and assess any appropriate issues relating to overseas basing. . The OSBC's report to the President and Congress is due no later than December 31, 2004.

"The goal of the Commission is to provide the Congress and President with an objective evaluation of the various alternatives being considered for global basing. The Commission will solicit information and opinion from a wide array of civilian and military leaders, agencies, and departments," said Al Cornella, OSBC Chairman.

"The Commission's report is particularly significant because it may influence the domestic round of base closure and realignment (BRAC), scheduled in 2005," he said.

The Commission is empowered to hold hearings, take testimony, and secure from any Federal department or agency the information and evidence the Commission determines necessary to carry out its duties.

The Commission is to be comprised of eight members; two each named by the Majority and Minority leaders of the Senate, two by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two by the House Minority Leader. The Commissioners elected Mr Al Cornella and MG Lewis Curtis as their Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively.

Five members have been appointed. They are:

- Chairman; Al Cornella, a South Dakota businessman who also served on the 1995 Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC). (Appointed by Senator Thomas Daschle).
- James Thomson, California, President and CEO, RAND Corporation. (Appointed by Senator Thomas Daschle),
- Vice-Chairman; Major General. Lewis E. Curtis III (USAF Retired), Texas, (Appointed by Senator Bill Frist),
- Lieutenant General H.G. (Pete) Taylor, (USA Retired), Texas, (Appointed by Representative Representative Nancy Pelosi)
- Brigadier General Keith Martin, (PA Army National Guard, Retired) Director of Homeland Security, State of Pennsylvania(Appointed by Representative Nancy Pelosi)

The Commission selected Ms. Patricia J. Walker, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, as its Executive Director.

The Overseas Basing Commission will submit its report--containing findings, conclusions, and recommendations for legislation and administrative actions, as well as a proposal for an overseas basing strategy to meet current and future requirements--to the President and Congress.