

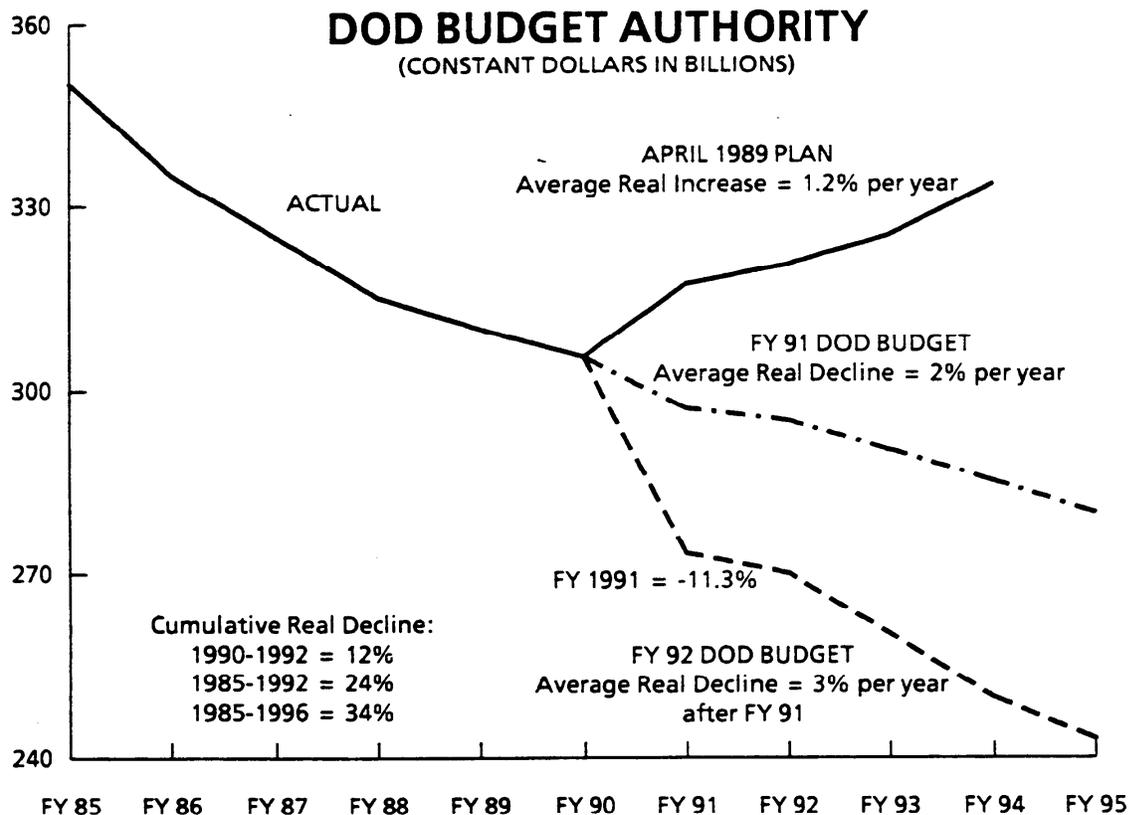
Executive Summary

On November 5, 1990, President George Bush signed Public Law 101-510, Title XXIX (the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990), establishing the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission to ensure a timely, independent, and fair process for closing and realigning U.S. military installations.

This statute required the Secretary of Defense to submit a list of proposed military base closures and realignments to the Commission by April 15, 1991. In accordance with the statute, these recommendations were to be based upon a force-structure plan submitted to Congress with the Department of Defense (DoD) budget request for fiscal year (FY) 1992 and eight selection criteria developed by DoD with public comment. Anticipated levels of defense funding in the FY 1992-97 period and a reassessment of the probable threats to the United States drove the force-structure plan. The present Administration viewed the changing world order as an opportunity to implement measured defense reductions. However, Congress has seized upon the reduced threat to our national security and mandated a sharp decline in defense funding. The graph on the next page showing DoD's budget authority depicts this dramatic decline in funding since the mid-1980s.

The Commission's purpose was to ensure that the proposals submitted by DoD did not deviate substantially from the force-structure plan and the eight selection criteria. Where it identified such deviations, the Commission was authorized to add or delete bases. The Commission's founding legislation calls for this process to be repeated in 1993 and 1995.

The end of the Cold War, evidenced by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the formal dissolution of the Warsaw Pact in 1991, fundamentally altered the military threat posed by the Soviet Union and its allies. These events had dramatic impacts on U.S. military requirements. In addition, the growing U.S. budget deficit provided an impetus to cut U.S. military spending. Therefore, DoD is planning



to decrease the U.S. military by approximately 25 percent over the next five years.

Clearly, fewer forces require fewer bases. By eliminating unnecessary facilities, limited dollars can go to vital military needs. Balancing the base structure with the new force-structure plan will make DoD more efficient, streamline the defense infrastructure, and enhance national security.

This Commission differs from previous base-closure efforts; its purpose was to make independent recommendations to the President based on its review of the Secretary of Defense's April 1991 proposal to close 43 bases and realign 29. The 1988 DoD Commission, on the other hand, developed its own list of proposed closures, which it presented to the Secretary of Defense and Congress.

The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) was involved closely in the process. It acquired data from DoD and prepared a review of DoD's proposals, which was forwarded to Congress and the Commission on May 16, 1991. It also assisted the Commission in its own review of data by detailing staffers to the Commission and providing assistance from field staff.

The 1991 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's recommendations emerged from a uniquely open process, in which testimony and viewpoints were heard from community and congressional leaders. This process insulated the Commission from partisan politics. All meetings were open to the public. Transcripts of hearings and data received by the Commission were available for public review. Furthermore, every major site proposed for closure was visited by at least one commissioner. These visits enabled the

commissioners to gain a firsthand look at the installations. Commissioners also heard from members of the public about the effect that closure would have on local communities.

The Commission also received public testimony in Washington, D.C., from members of Congress, DoD officials, and other expert witnesses. Public hearings, providing community leaders an opportunity to comment, were held at 14 other locations across the country.

The Commission recognizes that some communities depend greatly on these installations. It notes, however, in the long term, and with effort and initiative, communities can overcome the hardships caused by base closures. In fact, history has shown many post-closure economies are stronger and more stable.

According to a survey by DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), between 1961 and 1990 approximately 158,000 new jobs had been created to replace nearly 93,000 jobs lost as a result of base closures. The OEA has also been working with 21 communities located near bases recommended for closure by the 1988 Base Realignment and Closure Commission and has provided \$1.6 million in grants to help develop reuse plans.

Since the Commission wanted to devote its entire effort to considering the bases under study for closure or realignment, an after-action report will be prepared and forwarded to the President and Congress. The report will offer the Commission's guidance for improving the base-closing process.

Based on the Commission's review-and-analysis and deliberations process, it is recommending to the President that 34 bases be closed and 48 bases be realigned. These actions will result in FY 1992-97 net savings of \$2.3 billion after one-time costs of \$4.1 billion. The savings from these actions will total \$1.5 billion annually. The following list summarizes closure and realignment actions of the 1991 Commission.

RECOMMENDED FOR CLOSURE

Department of the Army

Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN
Fort Devens, MA
Fort Ord, CA
Sacramento Army Depot, CA
Harry Diamond Lab Woodbridge
Research Facility, VA

Department of the Navy

Construction Battalion Center, Davisville, RI
Hunters Point Annex to Naval Station
Treasure Island, CA
Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, CA
Naval Air Station Chase Field, TX
Naval Air Station Moffett Field, CA
Naval Station Long Beach, CA
Naval Station Philadelphia, PA
Naval Station Puget Sound, Sand Point, WA
Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, PA
7 RDT & E Engineering and Fleet Support
Activities

Department of the Air Force

Bergstrom Air Force Base, TX
Carswell Air Force Base, TX
Castle Air Force Base, CA
Eaker Air Force Base, AR
England Air Force Base, LA
Grissom Air Force Base, IN
Loring Air Force Base, ME
Lowry Air Force Base, CO
Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, SC
Richards-Gebaur Air Reserve Station, MO
Rickenbacker Air Guard Base, OH
Williams Air Force Base, AZ
Wurtsmith Air Force Base, MI

***RECOMMENDED
FOR REALIGNMENT***

Department of the Army

Army Corps of Engineers
Aviation Systems Command/Troop Support
Command, St. Louis, MO
Fort Chaffee, AR
Fort Dix, NJ
Fort Polk, LA
Letterkenny Army Depot, PA
Rock Island Arsenal, IL
10 RDT&E Laboratories
7 Medical Laboratories

Department of the Navy

Midway Island Naval Air Facility
17 RDT&E Engineering and Fleet Support
Activities

***Department of the
Air Force***

Beale Air Force Base, CA
Goodfellow Air Force Base, TX
MacDill Air Force Base, FL
March Air Force Base, CA
Mather Air Force Base, CA
Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID

***RECOMMENDED
TO STAY OPEN***

Department of the Army

Fort McClellan, AL

Department of the Navy

Naval Training Center Orlando, FL
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, WA

***Department of the
Air Force***

Moody Air Force Base, GA