

# Department of the Air Force

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# Summary Selection Process

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## Introduction

The Air Force will reduce its active component force structure by 29% across the Future Years Defense Program. This reduction spans the spectrum of Air Force active missions and includes a commensurate reduction in manpower. The resulting smaller force necessitates a reduction in Air Force base structure, both overseas and stateside. In determining base structure needs, the Air Force focused on both the Active and Air Reserve Component to ensure a Total Force approach to the process.

## The Selection Process

The Air Force used a structured process that treated all bases equally, without regard to past studies or announcements. The basis for selection was the Force Structure Plan and the eight final criteria established under Public Law 101-510.

The Secretary of the Air Force appointed a Base Closure Executive Group of five general officers and five SES-level career civilians with expertise across a wide range of disciplines. This Group reviewed all bases with more than 300 civilians authorized. Major Command and reserve component representatives served as advisors to the group. Data was collected directly from the bases and validated by the Major Commands, Air Staff and Air Force Audit Agency.

The Executive Group placed all bases in categories and conducted a capacity analysis based on the Force Structure Plan. Categories and subcategories having no significant excess capacity were excluded from further study. These categories and subcategories were flying/mobility, flying/other, and the support category including depots, and product divisions/laboratories and test facilities. All remaining bases were evaluated on the basis of military requirements. As a result, certain bases having unique missions not affected by the Force Structure Plan, in geographic locations where a base was

required, or otherwise militarily needed were excluded from further study.

All Active Component bases not excluded were individually examined on the basis of the eight final criteria, and on approximately 80 sub-elements. The sub-elements were developed by the Air Force to provide specific data points for each criterion. They vary somewhat by category. Each sub-element for each base was individually coded and the Group agreed to an overall coding for each criterion.

For the tactical subcategory five options were developed, with six developed for the strategic subcategory. Each option assigned bases to three groups, in order of desirability for retention. The basic scoring employed all eight final criteria, with priority to the first four. Other options were developed by applying all eight criteria, but rescoring all bases in the category with added weight placed on specified factors.

The Air Reserve Component Category required a slightly different approach. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Component bases do not readily compete against each other. Air Reserve Component units enjoy a special relationship with their respective states and local communities. Further, the recruiting needs of these units must be considered. The Executive Group first identified those realignments which would achieve reasonable savings. Then, the final criteria were applied to assure that the realignment would be cost effective, consistent with military requirements, and otherwise sound.

Intercommand and interservice utilization analysis was also accomplished. The Directors of Plans and Programs from the Major Commands met on several occasions with the Executive Group. Also, consultations with Army and Navy base closure representatives occurred regarding potential interservice asset sharing.

The Secretary of the Air Force, with the advice of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and in consultation with the Base Closure Executive Group, nominated bases to the Secretary of Defense for closure and realignment based on the force structure plan and the final criteria established under Public Law 101-510. The Secretary of Defense recommends the following Air Force bases for closure or realignment:

## **Recommendations and Justifications**

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### **Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas**

**Recommendation:** Bergstrom AFB, Texas, is recommended for closure. All active RF-4s will be retired. The 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing will inactivate. The corrosion control facility will remain if it continues to be economical to operate there. The Air Force Reserve units will remain in a cantonment area if the base is converted to a civil airport. If no decision on a civil airport is reached by June of 1993, the units will be redistributed as directed by the Secretary of the Air Force. If units stay but the airport is not an economically viable entity by the end of 1996, these units would also be redistributed. The Twelfth Air Force Headquarters; 12th TAC Intelligence Squadron; and the 602nd Tactical Air Control Center Squadron will relocate to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. The 712th Air Support Operations Center Squadron will relocate to Fort Hood, Texas. All other personnel will depart. The 41st Electronic Combat Squadron (ECS) (EC-130H aircraft) will remain in place at Davis-Monthan AFB rather than move to Bergstrom AFB as recommended by the 1988 Base Closure Commission.

**Justification:** The Air Force has five more tactical bases than needed to support the number of fighter aircraft in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All tactical bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Bergstrom AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All tactical bases are in generally good condition with

strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. Bergstrom AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other fifteen bases in the tactical subcategory and is recommended for closure. While Bergstrom AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. The overall long term military value of Bergstrom AFB suffered because of local/regional encroachment and a lack of suitable ranges/airspace. Additionally, the cost to close Bergstrom AFB is low and the savings are high.

The closure of Bergstrom AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 17,000 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of just over 10,600 jobs, and regional income loss of 175 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of nearly 600,000, available jobs of just over 388,000, and regional annual income approaching 9 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$121M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$36.3M.

#### **Carswell Air Force Base, Texas**

**Recommendation:** Carswell AFB, Texas, is recommended for closure. The 7th Bombardment Wing will inactivate. The B-52H aircraft will transfer to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. The KC-135 aircraft will transfer to the Air Reserve Component (ARC). The 301st Tactical Fighter Wing (AFRES), 73rd Aerial Port Squadron (AFRES), 457th Tactical Fighter Squadron (AFRES) and the 20th Medical Services Squadron (AFRES) will remain at Carswell AFB in an efficient cantonment area containing only the direct support facilities. The 436th Strategic Training Squadron (SAC) will relocate to Dyess AFB, Texas. All other active duty personnel will depart.

**Justification:** The Air Force has six more strategic bases than are needed to support the number of bombers and tankers in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All strategic bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and

Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Carswell AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All strategic bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. Carswell AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other twenty bases in the strategic subcategory and is recommended for closure. While Carswell AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. The long term military value of Carswell AFB is impacted by severe local and regional encroachment. Carswell AFB also ranked below average in wartime tanker utility. The cost to close Carswell AFB is relatively low.

The closure of Carswell AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 20,000 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of just over 12,000 jobs, and regional income loss of nearly 212 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of over 1,200,000, available jobs just over 600,000, and regional annual income of 17 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$156M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$45.5M.

## Castle Air Force Base, California

**Recommendation:** Castle AFB, California, is recommended for closure. The 93rd Bombardment Wing will inactivate. The bomber and tanker Combat Crew Training missions will transfer to Fairchild AFB, Washington. The B-52G conventional aircraft will transfer to KI Sawyer AFB, Michigan. The KC-135 aircraft will transfer to the Air Reserve Component and other active units. All other active duty personnel will depart.

**Justification:** The Air Force has six more strategic bases than are needed to support the number of bombers and tankers in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All strategic bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Castle AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All strategic bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. Castle AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other twenty bases in the strategic subcategory, and is recommended for closure. While Castle AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. Peacetime and wartime tanker utility negatively impact the long term military value of Castle AFB. Also, encroachment on the base and flight patterns is significant. The condition of the facilities at Castle AFB is below average in the Strategic subcategory, and the housing deficit is much greater than average. Additionally, the cost to close Castle AFB is relatively low and the savings are favorable.

The closure of Castle AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 16,000 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of nearly 9,000 jobs, and regional income loss approaching 162 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of just over 492,000, available jobs close to 216,000, and regional annual income of 6.5 billion dollars. Castle AFB is on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$63M. This savings could be increased by approximately \$27M in land value. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$52.7M.

### **Eaker Air Force Base, Arkansas**

**Recommendation:** Eaker AFB, Arkansas, is recommended for closure. The 97th Bombardment Wing will inactivate. The B-52G Air Launched Cruise Missile aircraft will retire. The KC-135 aircraft will transfer to other KC-135 units. All other active duty personnel will depart.

**Justification:** The Air Force has six more strategic bases than are needed to support the number of bombers and tankers in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All strategic bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Eaker AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All strategic bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria

and Air Force subelements. Eaker AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other twenty bases in the strategic subcategory, and is recommended for closure. While Eaker AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. The long term military value of Eaker AFB ranked below average because of both peacetime and wartime tanker utility and access to bombing ranges. Also, the cost to close Eaker AFB is very low and the savings are very high.

The closure of Eaker AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 9,000 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of nearly 4,600 jobs, and regional income loss of just over 83 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of over 202,000, available jobs close to 99,000, and regional annual income of 2.2 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$221M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$52.9M.

#### England Air Force Base, Louisiana

**Recommendation:** England AFB, Louisiana, is recommended for closure. The 23rd Tactical Fighter Wing will inactivate. Assigned aircraft will be retired or redistributed among remaining active and reserve component units. One active A/OA-10 squadron will be realigned to Eglin AFB, Florida and one to McChord AFB, Washington. All other personnel will depart.

**Justification:** The Air Force has five more tactical bases than needed to support the number of fighter aircraft in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All tactical bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close England

AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All tactical bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. England AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other fifteen bases in the tactical subcategory and is recommended for closure. While England AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. The long term military value of England AFB is limited by weather and available airspace for training. (England AFB has the least suitable weather of all bases ranked within this category.) Although its location relative to Fort Polk is an asset, adequate Air Force support can be provided from Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. Additionally, the cost to close England AFB is low and the savings are very high.

The closure of England AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 10,000 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of just over 5,700 jobs, and regional income loss of nearly 97 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of 139,600, available jobs just over 60,000, and regional annual income of 1.5 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$176M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$47.2M.

#### Grissom Air Force Base, Indiana

**Recommendation:** Grissom AFB, Indiana, is recommended for closure. The 305th Air Refueling Wing will inactivate. The KC-135 aircraft will transfer to the Air Reserve Component (ARC). The EC-135 aircraft will retire. The 434th Air Refueling Wing (AFRES), the 930th Tactical Fighter Group (AFRES), and the 930rd Civil Engineering Squadron (AFRES) will remain. The 930th Tactical Fighter Group will convert to the KC-135 and that unit's A-10s will retire. The Air Force Reserve units will be grouped in an efficient

cantonment area containing only the essential direct supporting facilities. The Air Force Reserve will operate the airfield unless the local/state authorities decide to convert to a civil airport. The airfield and all operational facilities will be retained and those facilities not required by the Reserves will be mothballed for future contingencies. However, the airfield and these facilities would be made available as required to support joint civil use. All family housing and community support facilities including the hospital, base exchange, commissary and all morale and welfare facilities not authorized for Reserve units will be declared excess and made available for disposal. All other active duty personnel will depart.

**Justification:** The Air Force has six more strategic bases than are needed to support the number of bombers and tankers in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All strategic bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Grissom AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All strategic bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. Grissom AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other twenty bases in the strategic subcategory, and is recommended for closure. While Grissom AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. As an active base, Grissom AFB ranked lower in long term military value because of peacetime and wartime tanker utility as well as access to bombing ranges. Additionally, the cost to close Grissom AFB Base is low and the savings are substantial. The condition of the existing facilities at Grissom AFB is ranked well below the average.

The closure of Grissom AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 9,700 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of just over 5,200 jobs, and regional income loss of nearly 88 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of just over 197,000, available jobs close to 101,000, and regional annual income of 2.6 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$157M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$48.3M.

### Loring Air Force Base, Maine

**Recommendation:** Loring AFB, Maine, is recommended for closure. The 42nd Bombardment Wing will inactivate. The B-52G conventional aircraft will transfer to KI Sawyer AFB, Michigan. The KC-135 aircraft will realign to the Air Reserve Component (ARC) and other active units. All remaining personnel will depart.

**Justification:** The Air Force has six more strategic bases than are needed to support the number of bombers and tankers in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All strategic bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Loring AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All strategic bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. Loring AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other twenty bases in the strategic subcategory, and

is recommended for closure. While Loring AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. Loring AFB ranked lower in long term military value due to limited peacetime tanker utility and access to bombing ranges. The condition of the existing facilities at Loring AFB is well below average. The cost to close Loring AFB is low and the savings are the highest of the bases considered in this subcategory.

The closure of Loring AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 22,000 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of nearly 9,900 jobs, and regional income loss of just over 92 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of over 49,100 available jobs close to 33,320 and regional annual income of 755 million dollars. Loring AFB is on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$182M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$61.8M.

#### Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado

**Recommendation:** Lowry AFB, Colorado, is recommended for closure. The Lowry Technical Training Center will inactivate. Courses currently conducted at Lowry AFB will be consolidated at remaining Technical Training Centers, contracted, or relocated to other locations. The 1001st Space Systems Squadron, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and Air Force Reserve Personnel Center will remain at Lowry AFB in cantonment areas. No housing (unaccompanied and family), community support, recreation, or other base support facilities will be retained. Major tenant units relocating are: 3320th Correctional Squadron to Lackland AFB, Texas; and the U.S. Army instructor and support cadre to Keesler AFB, Mississippi. All other personnel will depart. Courses from Chanute AFB, Illinois, realigned to Lowry by the 1988 Base Closure Commission will, instead, realign to various other locations.

**Justification:** The Air Force has one more Technical Training Center base than needed to support reduced Air Force enlisted accessions (30,000 per year). All Technical Training Center bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. The selection process involved the evaluation of a large number of subelements of the criteria by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Lowry AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All Technical Training Center bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. Lowry AFB ranked low and is recommended for closure. While Lowry AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. Lowry AFB's facilities ranked below the category average. The lack of a runway limited this base's overall long term military value and its ability to accept additional missions across a broad spectrum. Although not part of the cost analysis, Lowry AFB has one of the highest potentials to return substantial proceeds from property disposal to the Base Closure Account. Finally, the closure of Lowry AFB would reduce excess capacity with favorable savings.

The closure of Lowry AFB will have an impact on the local economy, although it is relatively the least severe of any of the Technical Training Center bases. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 9,500 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of nearly 12,000 jobs, and regional income loss of nearly 295 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of nearly 1,600,000, available jobs of nearly 1,000,000, and regional annual income of approximately 28 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net cost of implementing this recommendation is about \$48M. This cost could be reduced by approximately \$100M in land value. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$42M.

### Moody Air Force Base, Georgia

**Recommendation:** Moody AFB, Georgia, is recommended for closure. The 347th Tactical Fighter Wing will inactivate. Assigned aircraft will be redistributed to modernize other active and reserve component units. All other personnel will depart.

**Justification:** The Air Force has five more tactical bases than needed to support the number of fighter aircraft in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All tactical bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Moody AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All tactical bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. Moody AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other fifteen bases in the tactical subcategory and is recommended for closure. While Moody AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. The long term military value of Moody AFB, when compared to the other bases in its category, suffered because of weather, and its location in a region where special use airspace is being stressed increasingly by a growth in air traffic. Additionally, it is the least costly base to close of all bases in this subcategory.

The closure of Moody AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 9,300 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of just over 4,800 jobs, and regional income loss of nearly 98 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of 106,000, available jobs of just over 54,000, and regional annual income of just over 1.2 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$143M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$45.1M.

### Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, South Carolina

**Recommendation:** Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina, is recommended for closure. The 354th Tactical Fighter Wing will inactivate. Assigned aircraft will be retired or redistributed among remaining active and reserve component units. One active A/OA-10 squadron will be realigned to Shaw AFB, South Carolina, and one to Pope AFB, North Carolina. All other personnel will depart.

**Justification:** The Air Force has five more tactical bases than needed to support the number of fighter aircraft in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All tactical bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Myrtle Beach AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All tactical bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. Myrtle Beach AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other 15 bases in the tactical subcategory

and is recommended for closure. While Myrtle Beach AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. Incompatible development within the clear zone and accident potential zone, as well as local and regional airspace encroachment, and weather all negatively impact the long term military value of Myrtle Beach AFB. Additionally, the cost to close Myrtle Beach AFB is low and the savings are high.

The closure of Myrtle Beach AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 20,000 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of nearly 10,000 jobs, and regional income loss of just over 97 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of just over 183,000, available jobs approaching 100,000, and regional annual income of just over 2.1 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$76M. This savings could be increased by approximately \$15M in land value. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$30.2M.

#### Richards-Gebaur Air Reserve Station, Missouri

**Recommendation:** Richards-Gebaur Air Reserve Station, Missouri, is recommended for closure. The 442nd TFW, consisting of A-10 aircraft and associated support units will realign to Whiteman AFB, Missouri. Remaining major tenant units consist of the 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 77th Aerial Port Squadron, and the 78th Aerial Port Squadron which realign to Peterson AFB, Colorado. All remaining Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard personnel will depart.

**Justification:** Analysis of the DoD Force Structure Plan does not reveal a significant reduction in Air Reserve Component force structure. However, realignments of Air Reserve Component (ARC) units onto active bases could, potentially, be cost effective. Therefore, the Air Force decided to continue examination of the ARC category for cost effective realignments to other bases. The evaluation of the Air Reserve Component category recognized that ARC bases do not readily compete against each other. Air Reserve Component units

enjoy a special relationship with their respective states and local communities. Further, consideration must be given to the recruiting needs of these units. A Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians, was appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The BCEG first identified those realignments which could achieve reasonable savings. Then, the eight DoD selection criteria were considered to assure that the realignment would be cost effective, consistent with military requirements, and otherwise sound. The recommendation to close Richards-Gebaur ARS was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

For many years, the Air Force Reserve has borne a substantial portion of the operating costs of this airfield even though it is operated by the Kansas City Department of Aviation and Transportation. When the joint use arrangement was initiated in the late 1970's, the Air Force anticipated that an economically viable civil airport would develop and cost to the Air Force would be reduced dramatically over time. That has not occurred; therefore, relocation of the Air Force Reserve activities to an active Air Force base would achieve significant cost savings. Attention was focused on nearby Whiteman AFB, Missouri since the 442nd Tactical Fighter Wing could be relocated within the same recruiting area and, thus, avoid substantial loss of assigned personnel. The long term operational impact to this unit is minimal since Whiteman AFB has similar access to training ranges, low level routes, and Army exercise areas.

Realignment of the 442nd Tactical Fighter Wing to Whiteman AFB can be accomplished at low cost and the return on investment will be less than five years.

The closure of Richards-Gebaur Air Reserve Station will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of 4,600 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of 2,600 jobs, and regional income loss of 26.9 million dollars. The losses are in contrast to a regional population of over 702,200, available jobs of 461,000, and regional annual income approaching 11 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net cost of implementing this recommendation is about \$4M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$12.9M.

## Rickenbacker Air Guard Base, Ohio

**Recommendation:** Rickenbacker Air Guard Base, Ohio is recommended for closure. The 160th Air Refueling Group (ANG) will move to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio with 20 KC-135 aircraft. The 121st Tactical Fighter Wing will inactivate. The 907th Tactical Airlift Group (AFRES) will become the 907th Military Airlift Group and relocate with ten C-141 aircraft to Wright-Patterson AFB. The remaining six C-141 aircraft currently projected for this unit will be assigned to the 445th Military Airlift Wing (AFRES) at March AFB, California. The 4950th Test Wing, currently located at Wright-Patterson AFB, will move to Edwards AFB, California. Remaining major tenant units consist of the Naval Air Reserve Center and Army Aviation Facility. Both may move to locations as determined by those Services or may remain in cantonment at this location and the Air Force will transfer the necessary property to the Army and Navy as required. All remaining Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard personnel will depart.

**Justification:** Analysis of the DoD Force Structure Plan does not reveal a significant reduction in Air Reserve Component force structure. However, realignments of Air Reserve Component (ARC) units onto active bases could, potentially, be cost effective. Therefore, the Air Force decided to continue examination of the ARC category for cost effective realignments to other bases. The evaluation of the Air Reserve Component category recognized that ARC bases do not readily compete against each other. Air Reserve Component units enjoy a special relationship with their respective states and local communities. Further, consideration must be given to the recruiting needs of these units. A Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians, was appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The BCEG first identified those realignments which could achieve reasonable savings. Then, the eight DoD selection criteria were considered to assure that the realignment would be cost effective, consistent with military requirements, and otherwise sound. The recommendation to close Rickenbacker AGB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

Since the reserve units at Rickenbacker Air Guard Base, Ohio are the predominate users of the airfield, the support costs for these activities

are high. Therefore, it was apparent the relocation to an active base could achieve significant cost savings. Thus, attention was focused on Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio in order to keep the Guard unit in the State of Ohio. Also, because of the relative short distance (70 miles) between Columbus and Dayton, Ohio, it was considered likely that most of the personnel currently in these units would remain in a move to Wright-Patterson AFB. In addition, this would move those units closer to the centroid of a very large demographic area which would enhance recruiting potential. This resulted in the recommended realignments. The cost to realign the 160th Air Refueling Group and the 907th Tactical Airlift Group to Wright-Patterson AFB is low since the facilities to be vacated by the 4950th Test Wing are designed for aircraft similar to the 20 KC-135 and ten C-141 aircraft which will be used by the Air Force Reserves and Ohio Air Guard. Although the Air Force Reserve unit was scheduled to receive 16 C-141 aircraft, the number was reduced to ten in order to avoid costly MILCON of parking ramps and hangars that would be required to accommodate all the aircraft. The remaining six C-141 aircraft will be assigned to the Air Force Reserve unit at March AFB, California. The realignment of the 4950th Test Wing and its consolidation with the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, California will result in a more economical and efficient operation and the cost of transfer is moderate. The return on investment will be less than five years. In addition to the substantial recurring cost savings, this realignment enhances the total force concept through a closer association of active and reserve forces.

The closure of Rickenbacker Air Guard Base will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of 13,100 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of 6,700 jobs, and regional income loss of 41 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of over 1,071,000, available jobs of 677,000, and regional annual income of 15.5 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net cost of implementing this recommendation is about \$16M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$22.7M.

## Williams Air Force Base, Arizona

**Recommendation:** Williams AFB, Arizona, is recommended for closure. All aircraft will be retired or redistributed. The 82nd Flying Training Wing will inactivate. Major tenant unit relocating is: Aircrew Training Research Facility to Orlando, Florida. All other personnel will depart.

**Justification:** The Air Force has one more Training subcategory base than needed to support reduced Air Force force structure. All Training subcategory bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. The selection process involved the evaluation of a large number of subelements of the criteria by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Williams AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All Training subcategory bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. Williams AFB ranked low in this process and is recommended for closure. While Williams AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. Williams AFB ranked lowest in its category for airspace encroachment both now and in the future, directly impacting its long term military value. Additionally, it ranked lowest in condition of base facilities. The cost to close Williams AFB is low and savings are favorable.

The closure of Williams AFB will have an impact on the local economy; however, it is the least severe of any of the Training subcategory bases. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 7,700 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of

nearly 6,000 jobs, and regional income loss of nearly 130 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of just over 2,000,000, available jobs of nearly 1,200,000, and regional annual income of nearly 33 billion dollars. Williams AFB is on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$222M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$54.1M.

### **Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Michigan**

**Recommendation:** Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan, is recommended for closure. The 379th Bombardment Wing will inactivate. The B-52G Air Launched Cruise Missile aircraft will retire. The KC-135 aircraft will relocate and transfer to the Air Reserve Component (ARC). All other personnel will depart.

**Justification:** The Air Force has six more strategic bases than are needed to support the number of bombers and tankers in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All strategic bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against the eight DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to close Wurtsmith AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All strategic bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and Air Force subelements. Wurtsmith AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other twenty bases in the strategic subcategory, and is recommended for closure. While Wurtsmith AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight

DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. The long term overall military value of Wurtsmith AFB is below average because of distance to low altitude training routes, and poor peacetime tanker utility. The cost to close Wurtsmith AFB is very low and the savings very high.

The closure of Wurtsmith AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 9,400 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of just over 4,600 jobs, and regional income loss of nearly 94 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of 87,600, available jobs close to 34,800, and regional annual income of 987 million dollars. By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$256M. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$63.3M.

### **MacDill Air Force Base, Florida**

**Recommendation:** MacDill AFB, Florida, is recommended for realignment and partial closure. Realign the 56th Tactical Training Wing's F-16s from MacDill AFB, to Luke AFB, Arizona. The Joint Communications Support Element will move to Charleston AFB, South Carolina. The airfield at MacDill AFB will close, those facilities that support flying operations will be disposed of and the remainder of MacDill AFB will become an administrative base.

**Justification:** The Air Force has five more tactical bases than needed to support the number of fighter aircraft in the DoD Force Structure Plan. All tactical bases were considered for closure equally in a process that conformed to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 and the Office of Secretary of Defense (OSD) guidance. Each base was evaluated against all eight of the DoD selection criteria and a large number of subelements specific to Air Force bases and missions. Data were collected and the eight criteria and subelements of the criteria applied by the Base Closure Executive Group (BCEG), a group of five general officers and five senior civilians appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The recommendation to partially close MacDill AFB was made by the Secretary of the Air Force with advice of the Air Force Chief of Staff and in consultation with the BCEG.

As with the other categories, it was difficult to select closure candidates. All tactical bases are in generally good condition with strong community support. Distinctions can be drawn, however, when the data are evaluated against the criteria. MacDill AFB ranked low in this process compared to the other fifteen bases in the tactical subcategory and is recommended for realignment and partial closure. While MacDill AFB's ranking rests on the combined results of applying the eight DoD selection criteria, rather than one or two specific deficiencies, a few points stand out. With the planned F-16 aircraft reductions, there is no longer a requirement to maintain two F-16 training locations (MacDill and Luke AFBs) and Luke AFB will have excess capacity due to redistribution of F-15 and F-16 aircraft. The long term military value of MacDill AFB is low due to significant impacts of current/potential local and regional land use and airspace encroachment. This realignment is low cost and the savings are substantial. Although not part of the cost analysis, MacDill AFB has one of the highest potentials to return substantial proceeds from property disposal to the Base Closure Account. By consolidating F-16 training at one base, the Air Force will save a minimum of \$20 million annually.

The closure of MacDill AFB will have an impact on the local economy. It is projected to result in a population loss of approximately 6,000 persons, direct and indirect employment loss of 4,500 jobs, and regional income loss of 96 million dollars. These losses are in contrast to a regional population of just over 1.6 million, available jobs of just over 915,000, and regional annual income of nearly 26 billion dollars.

By the end of FY 97, the net savings from implementing this recommendation are about \$53M. This savings could be increased by approximately \$50M in land value. Annual savings after implementation are expected to be \$20.4M.

### **Beale Air Force Base, California**

**Recommendation:** Instead of sending the 323rd Flying Training Wing (FTW) and Undergraduate Navigator Training (UNT) to Beale AFB, California, as recommended by the 1988 Base Closure Commission as part of the closure of Mather AFB, California, realign these activities to Randolph AFB, Texas.

**Justification:** The Air Force has identified six Strategic Air Command bases for closure under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990. Beale AFB was identified as a location for realigning force structure from these closing bases. The excess capacity identified by the 1988 Commission at Beale can better be utilized by operational strategic force structure instead of navigator training.

Also, based on the DoD Force Structure Plan, the requirements for Undergraduate Navigator Training have reduced substantially from the level projected at the time of the 1988 Commission. As a result, Randolph AFB has the capacity to absorb the 323rd FTW at reduced cost while maintaining a quality training environment. The MILCON avoidance totals approximately \$31.5M.

### **Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas**

**Recommendation:** As part of the closure of Chanute AFB, Illinois, realign the fuels training to Sheppard AFB, Texas, and realign the technical training fire course to Goodfellow unless a satisfactory and cost effective contract can be arranged. The 1988 Base Closure Commission recommended that both of these courses be realigned to Goodfellow AFB, Texas.

**Justification:** The Air Force would like the opportunity to explore more cost effective ways to conduct fire training. However, realignment to Goodfellow AFB would proceed if a satisfactory and cost effective alternative cannot be arranged.

Based upon the DoD Force Structure Plan and the base structure review, the Air Force identified excess dormitory/dining hall capacity at Sheppard AFB that can accommodate the fuels training courses. Moving fuels training to Sheppard AFB, taking advantage of excess facilities, will result in MILCON cost avoidance of approximately \$2.6M.

### March Air Force Base, California

**Recommendation:** As a part of the closure of Norton AFB, California, realign 45 Headquarters Air Force Audit Agency (AFAA) manpower authorizations (out of 184 total positions) to the National Capital Region (NCR). The remaining 139 HQ AFAA positions remain at March AFB, as recommended by the Commission. The 1988 Base Closure Commission recommended that the AFAA realign to March AFB, California.

**Justification:** On February 4, 1991, a restructuring of HQ USAF was announced. In that restructuring, the Auditor General position, along with six other AFAA positions were transferred to the manpower rolls of the Air Force Secretariat. This action formally recognized that the Auditor General would be both a member of the Secretariat and the manager of the AFAA. It is imperative that, in his dual role, the Auditor General have sufficient staff in the NCR to establish Air Force policy and direct AFAA operations.

### Mather Air Force Base, California

**Recommendation:** As part of the closure of Mather AFB, California, realign the 940th Air Refueling Group (ARG) (Air Force Reserve) to McClellan AFB, California, and leave the 323rd FTW Hospital open as an annex to McClellan AFB. The 1988 Base Closure Commission recommended realignment of the 940th ARG (AFRES) to McClellan AFB if local authorities did not elect to operate the Mather facility as an airport.

**Justification:** During the Air Force review of the DoD Force Structure Plan and its base structure, sufficient capacity at McClellan AFB, which is only ten miles from Mather AFB, was identified to support the 940th Air Refueling Group (AFRES). This move to McClellan AFB will enhance operational capability because of the active duty infrastructure to support the unit and will save annual base operating costs of \$9M. In addition, the move could enhance the viable reuse of Mather AFB by the local community since this refueling unit occupies the primary flightline space at the air base. Also, the Sacramento community has not, to date, committed to the reuse of Mather AFB as a civil airport. Finally, the Commission did not specifically address where, or if, the 323rd FTW hospital would

realign. The Air Force implementation plan associated with the 1988 Base Closure Commission closes the hospital at Mather and converts a clinic to a hospital at McClellan AFB at a cost of approximately \$34M. After review, it is appropriate to keep this 45 bed hospital at Mather AFB open as an annex to McClellan AFB. This will save construction costs of expanding the existing medical facility at McClellan AFB and be responsive to all medical requirements in the Sacramento area. The MILCON avoidance is approximately \$9.5M.

### Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho

**Recommendation:** As a part of the closure of George AFB, California, realign some F-4Gs to the Idaho and Nevada Air National Guard squadrons at Boise and Reno respectively; inactivate the 35th TTW; keep the 41st ECS (EC-130H aircraft) in place at Davis-Monthan AFB; realign Mountain Home AFB EF-111 aircraft to Cannon AFB, New Mexico; and establish a composite wing at Mountain Home AFB. The 1988 Base Closure Commission recommended that the 35th Tactical Training Wing (TTW) and the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) (F-4E/G aircraft) realign to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. These aircraft were to be consolidated with the Mountain Home AFB's EF-111 electronic warfare aircraft. To accommodate the move of the F-4E/Gs into Mountain Home AFB, the Commission recommended realigning part of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing (F-111E and F-111A aircraft) from Mountain Home AFB to Cannon AFB, New Mexico. Additionally, the Commission recommended realigning the 27th Tactical Air Support Squadron (OV-10 aircraft) to Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona where other OV-10 aircraft were already located. To accommodate the additional OV-10 aircraft at Davis-Monthan AFB, the 41st Electronic Combat Squadron (ECS) (EC-130H aircraft) would realign from Davis-Monthan AFB to Bergstrom AFB, Texas.

**Justification:** The force structure upon which the 1988 Base Closure Commission based its realignment recommendations is significantly different than the current and projected force structure in the DoD Force Structure Plan. The Air Force, in its FY92 budget, programmed for the retirement of all F-4E/G aircraft assigned to George AFB. However, as a result of Operation Desert Storm, the Air Force has validated an operational requirement to maintain some total force F-4G capability into the future. The Reno and Boise units present a cost effective solution since they currently fly the RF-4 and are well located to support Red Flag operations and the Mountain Home AFB composite wing. The George AFB OV-10s have retired, therefore eliminating the need to realign the 41st ECS. Additionally, Bergstrom AFB is now recommended for closure. Realigning Mountain Home AFB EF-111s to Cannon AFB will collocate all CONUS based F-111 type aircraft at a single base, enhancing logistics support. These actions created capacity at Mountain Home AFB to support a new composite wing equipped with a variety of fighter, tanker, and potentially, bomber aircraft realigning from other bases. The MILCON avoidance is approximately \$10.6M.