

Chapter 3

Final Criteria

Introduction

Public Law 101-510 required the Secretary of Defense to develop the final criteria to be used in selecting bases for closure and realignment. The final criteria are listed below. Before developing the final criteria, the Secretary was required to publish the proposed criteria in the Federal Register and solicit public comments.

Proposed Criteria

The Department of Defense (DoD) published the proposed criteria and requested public comments in the November 30, 1990, issue of the Federal Register (55 FR 49679).

The proposed criteria closely mirrored the criteria established for the 1988 Defense Secretary's Commission on Base Realignment and Closure (See Appendix F for a history of base closures).

The 1988 criteria were developed jointly by the Department of Defense and the Congress, and were incorporated, by reference, into Public Law 100-526 (the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act).

The proposed DoD selection criteria differed in two ways from the 1988 criteria. The 1988 Base Closure Commission stated that in their analysis of the DoD base structure, they gave priority to military value. DoD agreed and changed the proposed criteria accordingly. The 1988 Commission also recommended that "payback" not be limited to six years. DoD agreed and changed the proposed criteria accordingly.

Final Criteria

DoD received 169 public comments in response to the proposed criteria and request for comments. DoD published the final criteria in the February 15, 1991, issue of the Federal Register (56 FR 6374). This Federal Register notice contained an analysis of public comments received and a description of the changes DoD made to the proposed criteria before finalizing them. The final criteria follow.

In selecting military installations for closure or realignment, the Department of Defense, giving priority consideration to military value (the first four criteria below), will consider:

Military Value

1. The current and future mission requirements and the impact on operational readiness of the Department of Defense's total force.
2. The availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace at both the existing and potential receiving locations.
3. The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements at both the existing and potential receiving locations.
4. The cost and manpower implications.

Return on Investment

5. The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.

Impacts

6. The economic impact on communities.
7. The ability of both the existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions and personnel.
8. The environmental impact.

1993 Criteria

On December 15, 1992, DoD published a notice in the Federal Register (57 FR 59334) that DoD would not change the final criteria approved in 1991, and would use the same criteria for the 1993 base closure process.