

## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction/Background**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to forward to the Secretary of Defense the recommendations of the Secretary of the Air Force.

#### **Background**

The demise of the Soviet Union, the victory of the United States and its coalition allies over Iraqi aggression, and the success of integrating the leading democracies into a US-led system of collective security have changed our fundamental strategic position and choices. The new regional defense strategy sets a course that will ensure our ability to deal with potential threats and shape the environment in ways favorable to our national interests and security.

The world has dramatically changed and our national military strategy has concurrently evolved to meet regional threats around the world. We must, however, continue to deter and defend against strategic nuclear attacks and retain the potential to defeat a global threat, should one emerge.

The capability to respond rapidly to regional crises and contingencies, such as Iraq, the Balkans, Somalia, and Haiti, is one of the key demands of our national strategy. Achieving and maintaining preeminence in the air and in space are critical to our continued success as a global leader. Our ability to project power has strategic value beyond crisis response. It is a day-in and day-out contributor to deterrence, regional stability, and collective security.

Retention of an affordable base structure which supports our national strategy must be the preeminent goal of any base closure process. The recommendations in this report represent the fourth installment in shaping the Air Force's basing structure consistent with the changes in the national strategy. In previous BRAC rounds, the Air Force has recommended the closure or realignment of 26 major installations. Of those, 18 have already been accomplished, with another five scheduled to occur by the end of September 1995. The Air Force has been active in assisting communities with the reuse and redevelopment of the property associated with those installations. Almost a quarter of the acreage has been transferred to local redevelopment authorities for commercial use and more than 5500 people are employed in newly-created jobs.

## **Global Missions**

The Air Force emerged from World War II a fighting force with a global capacity to meet America's national security needs. In the words of General of the Air Force Hap Arnold, the United States Air Force had a Global Mission. Today, the Air Force has Global Missions, providing Global Reach-Global Power-Global Awareness to America's Warfighting Commanders. This combination will help ensure operational freedom on the ground, at-sea, and in air and space. Air Combat Command blends firepower and theater airlift into one command. Providing forces tailored for the theater air campaign is the foremost challenge for Air Force power projection. Initiatives like the Composite Wing, where different aircraft are combined in one wing to train together in peacetime and prepare to fight the way they would in war, provide a theater commander with responsive, effective firepower.

Air Mobility Command combines much of our mobility and refueling assets on the same team and provides the sinew of global reach. Mobility forces preserve a tremendous asset: the ability to operate from the CONUS and to move rapidly to any spot on the globe, whether building an air bridge for ground forces or speeding support for air forces already on the scene. Fighter forces paired with precision weapons are a formidable combination that our mobility fleet can deploy worldwide. Integrating airlift and tankers enhances mobility, reach, and combat power across the breadth of America's armed forces. The uniquely American capabilities to airlift anything, anywhere, and to extend the range of our firepower are the foundation of global reach and power. Air Mobility Command provides the countries "Global Reach" through the core elements of airlift wings and air refueling wings. The rapid deployment and employment of decisive combat power is the key to victory in wartime, and timely response to a whole range of Military Operations Other Than War is the standard during peacetime. Integrating airlifter and tanker aircraft into a single Air Mobility Wing enhances mission readiness, planning, and coordination in a rapidly changing global environment including: humanitarian and disaster relief efforts, peace making and peace keeping operations, and non-mobilized to fully-mobilized contingencies.

Air Force Materiel Command acquires and sustains superior systems in partnership with customers and suppliers. At depots, product and test centers, and laboratories, Air Force Materiel Command performs continuous product and process improvement through integrated management of research, development, test, acquisition and support. As an integral part of the Air Force War Fighting Team, Air Force Materiel Command contributes to affordable combat superiority, readiness and sustainability.

Air Force Space Command provides the capability that enables our warfighting commanders to control, manage, and assess military operations; and, it provides the conduit for national decision makers to obtain critical, time-sensitive information to craft their responses to national security needs. In short, Air Force Space Command provides global awareness. Space forces help guarantee command and control, intelligence, reconnaissance, surveillance, and navigation and positioning support is available to all forces. Space forces provide a key link between fielded forces, theater battle staffs, and national leaders. The

unique capabilities Air Force space forces provide our nation make them an equally vital component of the Global Reach-Global Power-Global Awareness team.

The dramatic changes in personnel and budget levels over the last decade have correspondingly enhanced the importance of our Air Reserve Components. Both the Air Force Reserve and National Guard provide critical components to accomplish the missions of each major command discussed above. In addition, they provide an important presence in communities across the United States, reminding all citizens of our day-to-day actions across the world. The citizen-soldier concept is nowhere more evident than in the Air Force guardsman or reservist.

### **Applicable Specific Legislation**

The Air Force developed all of its recommendations in compliance with the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (DBCRA/90 or Public Law 101-510), as amended.

### **Air Force Basing Concept**

The Air Force base structure is intended to support Air Force operations, logistics, education, training, research, development, test, and acquisition.

Force structure reductions, driven by dynamic changes in the international security area, create new challenges for Air Force leaders and all mission elements, as they do for the other Services. To meet these challenges and provide the greatest probability for success, weapon systems and like-mission assets should be consolidated where possible to optimize effective combat capability and increase efficiency.

The array of domestic bases is determined by a variety of factors such as survivability, dispersion, proximity and unencroached access to training airspace and ranges, extent of ground encroachment, suitable weather, and adequate base infrastructure. Additionally, the Air Force must look to the future long-term military value and flexibility of its installations. As the Air Force is compelled to adjust its base structure, it must ensure that the potential for limitations on military value from elements such as ground and airspace encroachment, air quality restrictions, and airspace congestion are minimized at our remaining bases. Likewise, locations or regions with potential for future airspace/range expansion must be emphasized.

In determining base structure, the Air Force focused on future concepts: continuing close air support and mobility interoperability with the Army and the development of a modernized Global Reach-Global Power-Global Awareness concentration of fire power, mobility, and information dominance. With regard to close air support interoperability, the Air Force will continue to base close air support force structure on Air Force bases near major Army installations. This will provide daily interoperability with Army units at the division level and below, and enhance the development of improved interoperability and fire power

support. With the focus of the Air Force mission changing from a global war to regional contingencies, mobility requirements have evolved rapidly. To meet this new mission and new mobility requirements, Air Mobility Command was formed to help integrate the air refueling and airlift missions.

Air Force bases are strategically positioned to support multiple missions from SIOP support to essential resupply. Those that remain in the Air Force basing structure will support the programmed force structure effectively and efficiently. This base structure will retain the flexibility to absorb overseas force structure, provide surge capability, and accommodate changes in the strategic threat. Obviously, as conditions change further, the Air Force will continue to seek ways to operate and train more effectively and efficiently.

The Air Force recommendations also reflect sound fiscal judgment. While the savings gained from closing bases are substantial, the investment associated with those closures, and the impact on current budget priorities, must also be and were considered. These recommendations represent a balance of costs and savings resulting in a sound return on investment for the Air Force's future.

*NOTE: As part of the 1995 Base Closure and Realignment process, active and Air Reserve Component units are likely to be inactivated. In some cases a unit's heraldry (numerical designation and unit flag) may have a sufficiently high value to warrant retention of the unit's heraldry regardless of the inactivation of the unit's structure. In such cases, the Air Force might assign the heraldry to another unit, without changing the substance of the action recommended. For example, if the recommendation were to "transfer the 699th Wing to Anywhere Air Force Base," the aircraft, personnel, equipment, etc., would indeed go to Anywhere AFB, but the unit might be redesignated the "9th Wing."*