

RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

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BEFORE THE

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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**ON THE
ARMY BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE PROGRAM**

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INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, it is a pleasure to appear before you to discuss the Army's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss our program with you. We would like to start by thanking you for your unwavering support to our Soldiers and their families serving our Nation around the world. They are and will continue to be the centerpiece of our Army, and they could not perform their missions so successfully without your steadfast support.

BRAC Program Highlights

All BRAC activity takes place within the context of achieving the Army's goals of winning Overseas Contingency Operations, transforming from a Division-structured, forward-deployed force to one comprised of agile Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) stationed on U.S. soil and Growing the Army in a manner that facilitates the Army's ability to win decisively anytime, anywhere. The Army remains committed to achieving BRAC 2005 Law and is on track do so. With full and timely funding by October 2009, there will be no impacts to movement schedules, training, or readiness. We are making significant progress and, with your support, will complete all actions in compliance with the law.

The Army's first major BRAC 2005 closure was completed on December 31, 2008, when the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant closed. Production functions were successfully relocated to McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, Oklahoma, Milan Army Ammunition Plant, Tennessee, Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Iowa, and Crane Army Ammunition Activity, Indiana, as directed by the BRAC Recommendation. The Army is working in collaboration with the Local Reuse Authority (LRA) to expedite property transfer.

Fort Bliss, Texas, has the largest Operational Army BRAC movement action in the Army. The installation will essentially triple in size from the Soldiers and their Family members moving to Fort Bliss and the surrounding communities. The Army is well underway in constructing new facilities to support this massive growth. The first BCT complex is now complete, and the second is scheduled for September 2009.

In support of the Reserve and National Guard transformation, the Army is constructing 125 joint Armed Forces Reserve Centers (AFRCs), 27 of which will include units from multiple military services or will be located on other service installations and 57 that are being led by the National Guard. Joint training provides the opportunity to enhance communication capabilities for future joint operations between Army and other service reserve units. This action will also move Reserve Component Soldiers out of antiquated Reserve Centers and Armories into the more efficient joint facilities. The Army has awarded 60 Reserve Component BRAC projects with the AFRCs at Cambridge, Minnesota, Camp Dodge, Iowa, Hastings, Nebraska, Jackson, South Carolina, Kearney, Nebraska, and Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, having been completed. The Army plans to award 72 more in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 for a total investment of \$3.5 billion in Reserve Component construction over the BRAC 2005 program. A total of 12 Reserve Component installations have been closed.

Fort Belvoir, Virginia, which is doubling its size, is proceeding on time with \$4 billion worth of construction to implement Army and other agency BRAC recommendations. Major efforts include the Mark Center, which will accommodate 6,400 Department of Defense workers, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Campus East, which will accommodate 8,500 workers; and the new Dewitt Army Community Hospital, a state of the art medical facility that will replace some functions

currently performed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which will close in 2011. Fort Belvoir is upgrading the internal infrastructure and road system to accommodate the new population. Department of the Army has also funded \$36 million in off post roads to ease access to the installation and impacts to the local community.

Fort Monroe, Virginia, recently achieved a critical BRAC milestone by finalizing the Programmatic Agreement (PA), completing Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. Fort Monroe is a designated National Historic Landmark, and the PA will ensure protection of Fort's 400 year-old history and culture after Army closure. The community responded enthusiastically to the PA concept, producing 32 consulting parties. Moreover, this unique PA creates management zones aligned with areas of historic significance requiring proper conservation measures. The Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia, and Army are planning a recognition ceremony in April 2009.

BRAC 2005

BRAC 2005 is carefully integrated with the Defense and Army programs of Global Defense Posture Realignment (GDPR), Army Modular Force, and Grow the Army. If done efficiently, the end results will yield tremendous savings over time, while positioning forces, logistics activities, and power projection platforms to effectively respond to the needs of the Nation.

As an essential component of Army transformation, BRAC 2005 decisions optimize infrastructure to support the Army's current and future force requirements. The elimination of Cold War era infrastructure and the implementation of modern technology to consolidate activities frees up financial and human resources to allow the Army to better focus on its core war fighting mission. Under BRAC, the Army will close 13 Active

Component installations, 387 Reserve Component installations and 8 leased facilities. BRAC realigns 53 installations and/or functions and establishes Training Centers of Excellence, Joint Bases, a Human Resources Center of Excellence, and Joint Technical and Research facilities. To accommodate the units relocating from the closing Reserve Component installations, BRAC 2005 creates 125 multi-component AFRCs and realigns U.S. Army Reserve command and control structure. By implementing BRAC 2005 decisions, the Active Army will maintain sufficient surge capabilities to expand to 48 maneuver brigades and handle increased production, training, and operational demands now and into the future. BRAC 2005 better postures the Army for an increase in end strength by facilitating the Army's transformation to a modular force and revitalizing and modernizing the institutional Army through consolidation of schools and centers.

In total, over 150,000 Soldiers and Army civilian employees will relocate as BRAC is implemented by September 15, 2011. The over 1,100 discrete actions required for the Army to successfully implement BRAC 2005 are far more extensive than all four previous BRAC rounds combined and are expected to create significant recurring annual savings. BRAC 2005 will enable the Army to become a more capable expeditionary force as a member of the Joint team while enhancing the well-being of our Soldiers, civilians, and Family members living, working, and training on our installations.

BRAC 2005 Implementation Strategy

The Army has an aggressive, carefully synchronized, fully resourced, BRAC fiscal year 2006-2011 implementation plan, designed to meet the September 2011 deadline, while supporting our national security priorities. Our BRAC construction plan is fully coordinated and carefully synchronized with other Army initiatives to support our overall strategy for

re-stationing, realigning, and closing installations while continuing to fully support ongoing missions and transformation. This construction plan identifies requirements, defines scope, and considers existing installation capacity and infrastructure needs. It is an extremely complex plan that manages numerous construction projects, re-stationing actions, BRAC moves, and deployment timelines to allow the Army to implement the BRAC statute while supporting critical missions worldwide.

One-hundred percent of our BRAC construction projects are planned to be awarded by the first quarter of fiscal year 2010. This will enable the major movement of units and personnel in fiscal years 2010 and 2011, with expected completion by the mandated BRAC 2005 deadline. But this effort requires your support with timely passage of the appropriations and full funding for the program.

In fiscal year 2006, the Army awarded 11 BRAC military construction projects to support re-stationing and realignments: three projects to support GDPR; two incremental projects for BCTs; five Armed Forces Reserve Centers, and one infrastructure project, totaling \$792 million.

In fiscal year 2007, the Army awarded 60 projects: 20 projects to support GDPR; 21 Reserve Component projects in 14 states; and 19 other Active Component projects, totaling \$3.3 billion, including planning and design for fiscal year 2008 and 2009 projects. This laid the foundation for follow-on projects, and in earnest, started the implementation of our synchronized construction program.

In fiscal year 2008, the Army awarded 79 projects: 16 projects to support GDPR; 26 Reserve Component projects in 18 states; and 38 other Active Component projects, totaling \$3.4 billion, including planning and design for fiscal year 2009 and 2010 projects.

In fiscal year 2009, the Army expects to award 96 projects. This represents our largest construction year. Fiscal year 2010 is our fifth and final year of BRAC construction. We have moved into a period where our construction timeline flexibility is essentially exhausted. Timely funding is critical and essential to our success. In each of the three previous fiscal years, funds have been delayed or withheld from the BRAC Program. In fiscal year 2007, a nine-month delay in receipt of \$2 billion delayed the award of 50 of the 68 planned major construction projects, in fiscal year 2008 \$560 million was delayed until the fourth quarter, impacting one third of that year's program, and in fiscal year 2009 there is a general reduction of \$170 million. I cannot overstate the difficulties that repeated cuts or delays in BRAC funding have, and will continue to pose to the Army as we implement BRAC construction projects. It directly threatens to derail our carefully integrated implementation plan. Completion of the final phases of incrementally funded projects and the award of the remaining fiscal year 2010 construction projects are all planned as first quarter, fiscal year 2010 contract awards. Delays past the first quarter will result in increased cost, risk of not meeting the mandated BRAC timeline, and uncertainty for mission commanders. The resulting impact will cascade through our carefully integrated re-stationing, transformation, and growth plans for years to come.

The Army plans to award and begin construction of the balance of our projects, plus planning and design for fiscal year 2010 projects. These projects include the construction of the three four-star headquarters facilities – Forces Command, Training and Doctrine Command, and Army Materiel Command. The Army is awarding many of the complex BRAC 2005 construction projects in increments. These increments include projects at Fort Benning, Georgia, Fort Lee, Virginia, and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, which are all interdependent in the establishment of the Maneuver Center, the Combat Service Support

Center, and the C4ISR mission, respectively, at these installations. The complexity of integrating these movements and many others in BRAC 2005 is a daunting task. The Army has based all of the intensive planning to include four-star level reviews on the timely award of the fiscal year 2010 program during the first quarter. The BRAC budget request provides funding for furnishings for BRAC projects awarded in fiscal year 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 as the buildings reach completion and occupancy. The request also funds movement of personnel, ammunition, and equipment associated with BRAC Commission Recommendations.

In fiscal year 2010, the Army will continue environmental closure and cleanup actions at BRAC properties. These activities will continue efforts previously ongoing under the Army Installation restoration program and will ultimately support future property transfer actions. The budget request for environmental programs includes Munitions and Explosives of Concern and Hazardous and Toxic Waste restoration activities.

Prior BRAC

Since Congress established the first Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission in 1988 and then authorized the subsequent rounds in 1990, the Department of Defense has successfully executed four rounds of base closures to reduce and align the military's infrastructure to the current security environment and force structure. As a result, the Army estimates approximately \$12.6 billion in savings through 2008 – nearly \$1 billion in recurring, annual savings from prior BRAC rounds.

The Army is requesting funds to address environmental restoration efforts at 147 sites at 14 prior BRAC installations. To date, the Army has spent \$2.95 billion on the BRAC environmental program for installations impacted by the previous four BRAC rounds. We have conveyed 177,990

acres (85 percent of the total acreage disposal requirement of 209,834 acres). Today only 31,844 acres remain to transfer.

SUMMARY

In summary, the Army has a carefully coordinated and synchronized plan for implementing BRAC 2005 mandates while continuing to conduct critical missions in support of Overseas Contingency Operations and homeland defense. These initiatives are a massive undertaking, requiring the synchronization of base closures, realignments, military construction and renovation, unit activations and deactivations, and the flow of forces to and from current global commitments. It is a balanced program that supports our Soldiers, their Families, Army transformation, readiness, and worldwide commitments. Your support and the support of this committee are critical to the successful implementation of this plan.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today and for your continued support for America's Army.