

FORT GREELY, ALASKA (ARMY RECOMMENDATION)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign Fort Wainwright, AK, by relocating the Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) headquarters from Fort Wainwright, AK, to Fort Greely, AK.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION

This recommendation relocates CRTC headquarters to Fort Greely to improve efficiency of operations and personnel safety. Sufficient capacity exists at Fort Greely. This would not affect Force Structure. This recommendation relocates headquarters closer to the CRTC's test mission execution on the Bolio Lake Range Complex. This complex, although realigned under Fort Wainwright in BRAC 95, is only 10 miles south of Fort Greely but 100 miles from Fort Wainwright's cantonment area. This action would improve interoperability and reduce costs by permitting personnel to live closer to their primary work site, thus avoiding a 200-mile round trip between quarters and work sites. It also decreases the risks associated with the required year-round travel in extreme weather conditions and results in more efficient and cost effective monitoring and control of arctic testing of transformational systems. This recommendation did not consider other locations since the CRTC headquarters manages testing at only one site.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

There were no formal expressions from the community.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission found that this recommendation would reverse a 1995 BRAC decision realigning Fort Greely by placing the CRTC headquarters at Fort Wainwright. The original proposal essentially mothballed Fort Greely and moved two major activities, the Northern Warfare Training Center and the Cold Regions Test Activity (now the Cold Region Test Center), off the installation.

In 2001, Congress, as part of Public Law 107-20, permitted the use of Fort Greely for missile defense, effectively reactivating the installation. The Commission agrees with DoD's rationale for moving the CRTC headquarters back to Fort Greely to reduce harsh weather travel demands on headquarters personnel.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission found the Secretary's recommendation consistent with the final selection criteria and force structure plan. Therefore, the Commission approved the recommendation of the Secretary.