

Army could build (or enhance) an airfield at Fort Ord for approximately \$60 million–\$120 million. The community stated that closing Fort Ord would increase unemployment by 25 percent. The community also argued that the land value included in DoD's recommendation was overstated. Finally, the community asserted that adequate family housing existed at Fort Ord for all of the soldiers assigned to the installation.

### COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission found that all installations in this category were treated fairly. It also found that moving the 7th Infantry Division from Fort Ord to Fort Lewis optimizes the use of Fort Lewis. The Commission also found that there will be an excess capacity of two installations in the category at the end of 1995. The Commission finds that the community assertion for deployability has some merit; however, stationing the division at Fort Lewis does enable the division to use nearby McChord Air Force Base for its deployment. Currently, the 7th Infantry Division uses a civilian airport or travels 150 miles to Travis Air Force Base. The Commission found that building an airfield at Fort Ord (or enhancing the existing airfield) will cost approximately \$97 million; however, environmental concerns may prevent the construction.

The Commission agreed that the land value was overstated, but the issue was not a factor in the Army's recommendation. The Commission found that family housing is limited and expensive. There are currently 1,365 families inadequately housed at Fort Ord. The Commission also found that training for the division, while readily available, is split among three different installations – Fort Ord proper, Fort Hunter-Liggett, and Camp Roberts.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Commission finds DoD's recommendation did not deviate substantially from the force-structure plan and the selection criteria. The Commission, therefore, recommends the

closure of Fort Ord, California, and the movement of the 7th Infantry Division from Fort Ord to Fort Lewis, Washington. This recommendation does not impact on the status of Fort Hunter-Liggett. Fort Hunter-Liggett therefore remains open and is still recognized as a valuable asset to the Army and DoD.

### Fort Polk, Louisiana

*Category: Fighting (Maneuver)*

*Mission: 5th Infantry Division (5 MX)*

*Cost to Close: Fort Polk/Fort Chaffee  
\$303 million*

*Savings: 1992-97: –\$34.2 million;*

*Annual: \$22.9 million*

*Payback: 5 years*

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Realign 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) to Fort Hood, Texas, from Fort Polk, Louisiana; move the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) from Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, to Fort Polk; realign the 199th Separate Motorized Brigade (SMB) from Fort Lewis, Washington, to Fort Polk.

This realignment allows the Army to station the JRTC at the installation best suited to its requirements (Fort Polk) and to house two divisions at its finest fighting installation (Fort Hood). Realignment of the 199th SMB from Fort Lewis to Fort Polk to serve as the opposing force for units training at the JRTC enhances the JRTC capabilities and opens space at Fort Lewis for the 7th Infantry Division (Light).

### COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The community argued that the DoD recommendation would create excess capacity at Fort Polk. It also stated that unemployment would increase six to eight percentage points as a result of the combination of the Fort Polk recommendation and the Air Force's proposal to close England Air Force Base.

### **COMMISSION FINDINGS**

The Commission found that excess capacity will exist at Fort Polk after completion of the recommended realignment. However, it also found that the Army will likely use this excess capacity to house forces that may return from overseas or to station other Army or DoD activities. Additionally, the Commission finds that Fort Polk does not have enough training facilities or maneuver acreage to support both a division and the JRTC at Fort Polk. The Commission estimates that the unemployment impact will be severe.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Commission finds that the DoD's recommendation did not deviate substantially from the force-structure plan and the selection criteria. The Commission, therefore, recommends the realignment of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) from Fort Polk to Fort Hood, the JRTC from Fort Chaffee to Fort Polk, and the 199th SMB from Fort Lewis to Fort Polk.

## **Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania**

**Category:** Industrial Depot

**Mission:** Depot Maintenance

**Costs to Realign:** \$36.4 million

**Savings:** 1992-97: \$27.0 million;

**Annual:** \$17.7 million

**Payback:** Immediate

### **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Realign the Headquarters, Depot Systems Command, including the Systems Integration Management Activity (SIMA), from Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania, to Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, and merge it with the Armaments, Munitions and Chemical Command to form the Industrial Operations Command. Realign the Materiel Readiness Support Activity from Lexington-Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, and the Logistics

Control Activity from the Presidio of San Francisco, California, to Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. The latter proposal is a revision to the recommendations of the 1988 Base Realignment and Closure Commission, which relocated the Materiel Readiness Support Activity to Letterkenny Army Depot.

### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

The community argued that the Depot Systems Command need not be relocated in order to form the Industrial Operations Command. The new command could operate effectively in a split configuration. Additionally, the community believed that the SIMA was a separate entity that supported a variety of customers. Relocating that activity would result in an unwarranted up-front cost and an additional operational cost to support the entire customer base. The community was also concerned that the realignments would degrade the mission because experienced personnel would not move.

### **COMMISSION FINDINGS**

The Commission found that the depots were treated equally. The formation of the Industrial Operations Command and resultant reduction of the number of subordinate commands were rational approaches to management efficiencies.

The Commission did consider alternative ways to form the Industrial Operations Command and to realign each of the activities designated for relocation. The Commission determined that the formation of the Industrial Operations Command in a single location was operationally more effective. The realignments of Depot Systems Command, the Materiel Readiness Support Activity, and the Logistics Control Agency were also determined to be economical. The relocation of SIMA was operationally expedient in the long term and beneficial to the economy at the receiving location (Rock Island Arsenal), which is losing a large number of employees because of other base realignment and closure actions.