

## **Command/Control**

### **Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

*Category: Command and Control*

*Mission: Administrative Center for U.S. Army*

*Activities Located in the National Capital Region.*

*One-time Cost: \$ 11.3 million*

*Savings: 1994-99: \$ 49.1 million*

*Annual: \$ 13.4 million*

*Payback: Immediate*

### **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION**

Realign Fort Belvoir as follows: disestablish the Belvoir Research, Development, and Engineering Center (BRDEC), Fort Belvoir, VA. Relocate the Supply, Bridging, Counter Mobility, Water Purification, and Fuel/Lubricant Business Areas to the Tank Automotive Research, Development, and Engineering Center (TARDEC), Detroit Arsenal, MI. Transfer command and control of the Physical Security, Battlefield Deception, Electric Power, Remote Mine Detection/Neutralization, Environmental Controls, and Low Cost/Low Observables Business Areas to the Night Vision Electro-Optics Directorate (NVEOD) of the Communication and Electronics Research, Development, and Engineering Center (CERDEC), Fort Belvoir, VA.

### **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION**

In July 1992, the Secretary of the Army requested the Army Science Board appoint a panel of members and consultants to conduct a review of the Army Material Command Research, Development, and Engineering Center (RDEC) business plans. Specifically, the Secretary requested the panel determine which RDEC capabilities the Army can afford. The panel based its findings on an objective assessment of the missions, functions, business areas, core capabilities, customer needs, and major fields of technical endeavor of each RDEC measured against at least the following criteria to determine which RDEC capabilities are essential and affordable:

- relevance to the Army customer
- availability from other sources
- R&D quality
- in-house cost and efficiency

The study identified technical areas to be emphasized, deemphasized, or eliminated. Areas identified for elimination are tunnel detection, materials, marine craft, topographic equipment, support equipment, and construction equipment. The Army Science Board panel recommended the closure of the Belvoir RDEC and dispersal of the business areas that were not recommended for elimination.

The relocation of the Supply, Bridging, Counter Mobility, Water Purification, and Fuel/Lubricant Business Areas to TARDEC is consistent with the conclusions of the Army Science Board Study. There is a synergy between these functions and the mission of building military vehicles. For example, the Bridging area requires heavy vehicles such as tanks and heavy mobile logistics to move across demountable bridges and light spans. Supply, Fuel/Lubricants and Counter Mobility also complement the mission of TARDEC. The relocation of the Fuel/Lubricant business area as part the DoD Project Reliance has commenced.

The transfer of operational control of the Physical Security, Battlefield Deception, Electric Power, Remote Mine Detection/Neutralization, Environmental Controls, and Low Cost/Low Observables Business Areas from the Belvoir RDEC to the Night Vision Electro-Optics Directorate (NVEOD) of the Communication and Electronics Research, Development, and Engineering Center (CERDEC), also located in the same general area of Fort Belvoir, supports the study recommendations, while avoiding any additional costs.

### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

The community supported the disestablishment of the BRDEC and the elimination of the Tunnel Detection, Materials, and Support Equipment Business Areas. However, the community asserted the Marine Craft, Topographic, and Construction Equipment Business Areas were essential to maintaining the Army's capabilities and readiness and, therefore, should not be eliminated. Accepting this assertion would result in the retention of 50 personnel authorizations. The community also maintained the relocation of the business areas from Fort Belvoir to Detroit Arsenal was not cost effective. By transferring command and control of these business

areas to TARDEC, but leaving them at Fort Belvoir, the costs of moving the personnel and associated construction costs could be avoided. This cost avoidance would pay for the retention of the personnel to staff the business areas the community recommended retaining.

Additionally, the community believed the proposed realignment cost was \$26.2 million, not the \$11.3 million estimated by the Army.

#### COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission found the Secretary's plan for the disestablishment of the BRDEC, including the elimination of the Marine Craft, Construction Equipment and Topographic Equipment Business Areas, was reasonable and would eliminate duplication of efforts both within the Army and among the Services. The Army would retain its acquisition capability and would rely on commercial enterprises for the actual development of common items.

The Commission also found the Army's long-term research, development, and engineering effort would be better served by collocation of similar activities at Detroit Arsenal, MI.

The community's cost estimate appeared to include all new construction, which would dramatically increase DoD's estimate. The DoD plan was based on renovation of currently existing and vacant facilities at the Detroit Arsenal.

#### COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Commission finds that the Secretary of Defense did not deviate substantially from the force-structure plan and final criteria. Therefore, the Commission recommends the following: realign Fort Belvoir as follows: disestablish the Belvoir Research, Development and Engineering Center (BRDEC), Fort Belvoir, VA. Eliminate the Tunnel Detection, Materials, Marine Craft, Topographic Equipment, Construction Equipment and Support Equipment Business Areas. Relocate the Supply, Bridging, Counter Mobility, Water Purification, and Fuel/Lubricant Business Areas to the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), Detroit Arsenal, MI. Transfer command and control of the Physical Security, Battlefield Deception, Electric Power, Remote Mine Detection/

Neutralization, Environmental Controls and Low Cost/Low Observables Business Areas to the Night Vision Electro-Optics Directorate (NVEOD) of the Communication and Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC), Fort Belvoir, VA.

#### *Professional Schools*

#### **Presidio of Monterey/Presidio of Monterey Annex, California**

*Category: Professional School*

*Mission: Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center*

*One-time Cost: \$ 3.4 million*

*Savings: 1994-99: \$ 74.9 million*

*Annual: \$ 15.7 million*

*Payback: Immediate*

#### **ARMY RECOMMENDATION TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

Close the Presidio of Monterey (POM) and the Presidio of Monterey Annex (part of Fort Ord). Relocate the Defense Language Institute (DLI) and contract the foreign-language training with a public university which must be able to provide this training at or near Fort Huachuca, AZ. This recommendation is contingent upon the successful negotiation of a contract by October 1994. If agreement cannot be met, DLI will remain at the Presidio of Monterey. The Army would then reevaluate options which might lead to another proposal to the 1995 Commission.

#### **ARMY JUSTIFICATION**

The Defense Language Institute currently has a staff and student population of over 4000 personnel. This institute offers training in over 20 languages (e.g., Russian, Somali, Swahili, Ukrainian). However, it has a high operating overhead in both facilities and staff. A new approach to the operation of the Institute should be considered.

Contracting foreign language training with an existing university-level institution will create significant savings in operational overhead, both in instructors (many of whom may already be on staff at a university) and in administration. The high base operations cost at the Presidio of Monterey would be avoided.