



News Release

U.S. ARMY FIELD SUPPORT COMMAND

May 13, 2005

BRAC Impact on Rock Island Arsenal

Rock Island, Ill. – The Department of Defense released its base closure and realignment recommendations today. The process, commonly known as BRAC, will result in the realignment of Rock Island Arsenal and a net loss of employment at the installation if DoD's recommendations are adopted as written.

The recommendations are not final and still must go through the rest of the BRAC process before they take on the force of law. (*See the attached fact sheet on the BRAC process for more information.*)

Under the recommendations, the Arsenal would experience a net loss of 1,263 personnel spaces. In all, 1,417 civilian spaces and three military spaces would be lost, but a total of 154 military spaces would be gained.

The gain in military spaces would come with the relocation of the First U.S. Army from Fort Gillem, Ga. Fort Gillem is a satellite installation of Fort McPherson, Ga., which has been recommended for closure.

Along with the military spaces, 120 civilian spaces would be relocated to the Arsenal from Fort Gillem with the move of First U.S. Army. (*See the attached fact sheet on the First U.S. Army for more information on the unit's mission and history.*)

DoD also recommended transferring artillery metal parts work now performed at two ammunition plants identified for closure to the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center at the Arsenal. The metal parts work would be transferred from Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant at Stennis Space Center, Miss., and Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant in Riverbank, Calif.

The new workload will not result in any immediate gain in employment at the Arsenal, and its exact impact on employment levels remains unknown.

The personnel losses would result from the following actions outlined in DoD's BRAC recommendations:

- Functions now performed by components of the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) at the Arsenal would be transferred to TACOM Headquarters in Warren, Mich., and to the Defense Supply Center in Columbus, Ohio.
- The Northwest Region of the Installation Management Agency (IMA) would be transferred to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
- The Northwest Region of the Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM) would be transferred to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
- The Rock Island operating location of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) would be transferred to other DFAS operating locations; the exact destinations have not been identified.
- The Civilian Personnel Operations Center (CPOC) at Rock Island would be transferred to CPOC locations at Fort Riley, Kan., and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Exact personnel numbers for all of these individual actions are not yet available.

Decisions on how and when the impacted organizations will be transferred to their new locations are pending. By law, implementation actions cannot begin until the BRAC process is complete. However, planning for implementation will begin soon, and affected employees will be informed of their options and rights as the process moves forward.

The Headquarters of the U.S. Army Field Support Command (AFSC) is the largest organization on the Arsenal in terms of employment numbers, and Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, the commanding general of AFSC and highest ranking military officer on the Arsenal, serves as installation commander. AFSC Headquarters was apparently unaffected by the BRAC recommendations. However, the following six AFSC installations and sites in the United States were identified for closure:

- Hawthorne Army Depot, Hawthorne, Nev.
- Kansas Army Ammunition Plant, Parsons, Kan.
- Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, Texarkana, Texas
- Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant, Stennis Space Center, Miss.
- Red River Munitions Center, Texarkana, Texas.
- Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant, Riverbank, Calif.

Red River Munitions Center is a tenant on Red River Army Depot, which has been identified for closure. The depot borders on Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, and the two installations share a contiguous portion of land in northeast Texas.

Under the recommendations, Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown may gain some workload from plants that are closing. However, the exact impact of this new workload is unknown at this time.

The closure of the six installations is not expected to affect employment levels at AFSC Headquarters.

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**AFSC G-5 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
PHONE: (309) 782-5421; FAX: (309) 782-5011
E-MAIL: afsc-ofc-pc@afsc.army.mil**