

The Major Bases To Be Lost in Rumsfeld's Plan

by Marcia Merry Baker

The map and the profile below identify the 33 military installations having the highest "economic replacement value," out of the 180 bases and other facilities targeted for closing in Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) plan, currently being fought by affected states and communities, and by members of Congress of both parties. These 33 facilities are slated by the Pentagon for either total shutdown, or some more partial "realignment."

The list was released by the Department of Defense on May 13, and altogether, calls for reductions or closures at 775 smaller installations.

These 33 sites are defined as "major" because they each have a plant replacement value exceeding \$100 million; we group them here by geographic region, as numbered on **Figure 1**.

In addition to the bases shown here, many other military installations should also be designated as "major"—such as

the first-rate, and historic, Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.—in terms of their role in the surrounding community, in support of the National Guard, or another function in the whole military and economic system.

After the first 33, the next category is that of installations losing 400 or more net total personnel (civilian and military), of which there are 29—the Army has 5, the Navy 11, the Air Force 10, and there are 3 more used by multiple services.

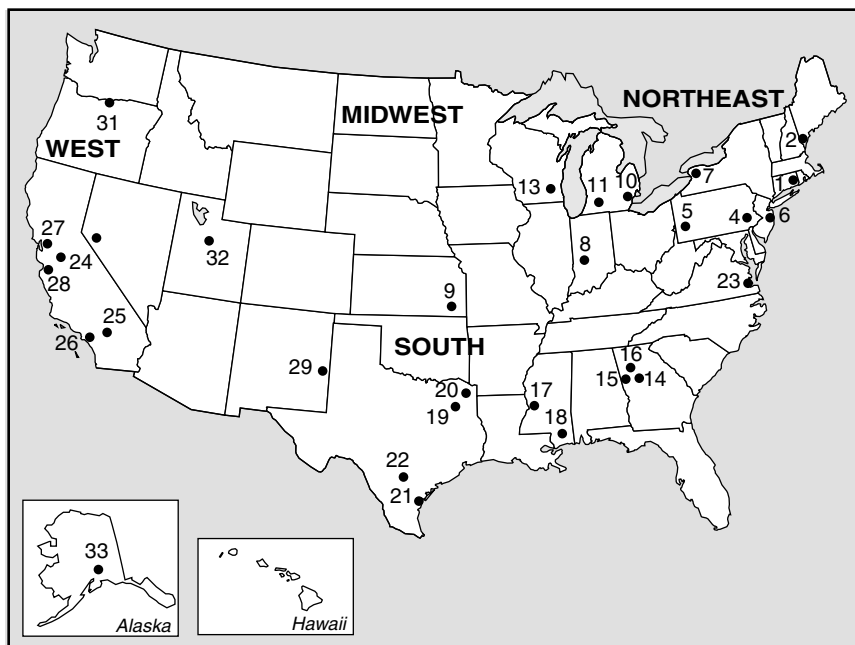
Among these 29, for example, is the Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska.

The Northeast

The New England region is very hard hit by the proposed closures. Two of them—New London/Groton, Connecticut and Portsmouth Naval Yard, Maine—are nuclear-licensed, meaning that they employ a long-standing complex of skills and capital intensity related to nuclear technology. In the most minimal calculation, the state of Connecticut estimates that the closing of the New London/Groton naval complex would lead to a loss of \$3.3 billion and 31,500 jobs statewide, with 8,586 jobs eliminated at the shipyards directly. In Maine, 6,938 jobs would be lost at the shipyards. The loss of these assets of high-technology nuclear capability, would be severe for the nation's economy and security.

1. Connecticut. **Submarine Base, New London (Navy)**
2. Maine. **Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth**
3. Massachusetts. **Otis Air National Guard Base (Air Force)**
4. Pennsylvania. **Naval Air Station, Willow Grove**
5. Pennsylvania. **Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve**
6. New Jersey. **Fort Monmouth (Army)**
7. New York. **Niagara Falls International Airport Air Guard Station**

FIGURE 1
The 33 Major Military Bases Rumsfeld Would Close Down



Source: U.S. Department of Defense.

The Midwest

In South Dakota—part of the Upper High Plains region of the United States suffering a mass outflow of population—the Ellsworth Air Force Base is the second largest employer in the state. The highest-value targets for shutdown are:

8. Indiana. **Newport Chemical Depot (Army)**



Department of Defense

Nuclear submarine repair and maintenance at the New London/Groton Submarine Base in Connecticut. The Pentagon's move to shut this major base has generated shock and great opposition.

- 9. Kansas. **Kansas Army Ammunition Plant**
- 10. Michigan. **Selfridge Army Activity, Macomb County**
- 11. Michigan. **W.K. Kellogg Airport Air Guard Station, Battle Creek**
- 12. South Dakota. **Ellsworth Air Force Base, Rapid City**
- 13. Wisconsin. **General Mitchell Air Force Reserve, Milwaukee**

The South

Long-time command centers and major regional centers are among those bases proposed for shutdown in the South. In Atlanta, Ft. McPherson serves as the headquarters for the Third U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), and the U.S. Army Reserve Command. These functions would be removed to the Carolinas. Atlanta's Ft. Gillem also is the location for the regional leadership of FEMA, the Red Cross, and other services. Ft. Gillem and Ft. McPherson combined, represent a Greater Atlanta workforce of 11,000, with a \$600 million annual payroll.

- 14. Georgia. **Ft. Gillem (Army), Atlanta**
- 15. Georgia. **Ft. McPherson (Army), Atlanta**
- 16. Georgia. **Naval Air Station, Atlanta**
- 17. Mississippi. **Mississippi Army Munitions Plant, Vicksburg**
- 18. Mississippi. **Naval Station, Pascagoula**
- 19. Texas. **Lone Star Army Munitions Plant**
- 20. Texas. **Red River Army Depot, Texarkana**

- 21. Texas. **Naval Station Ingleside, Corpus Christi**
- 22. Texas. **Brooks City Air Force Base, San Antonio**
- 23. Virginia. **Fort Monroe (Army), Hampton Roads**

The West

California, which saw major losses in the previous four rounds of base-closings, still stands to lose another 11 bases, including the four major installations on the map.

- 24. California. **Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant**
- 25. California. **Naval Support Activity, Corona**
- 26. California. **Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach**
- 27. California. **Concord Detachment (Navy)**
- 28. California. **Onizuka Air Force Station, Sunnyvale**
- 29. New Mexico. **Cannon Air Force Base**
- 30. Nevada. **Hawthorne Army Depot**
- 31. Oregon. **Umatilla Chemical Depot (Army)**
- 32. Utah. **Deseret Chemical Depot (Army)**

Alaska

In addition to the prospect of closing the Kulis Air Guard Base at Anchorage, Alaska faces the Rumsfeld proposal to shut the Eielson Air Force Base outside of Fairbanks, stripping down 3,000 jobs directly.

- 33. Alaska: **Kulis Air Guard Station (Air Force), Anchorage**