

BRAC and the connection to Middletown, CT

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What is BRAC?

BRAC includes the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendations for reshaping the Defense Department's infrastructure and force structure. The recommendations were turned into law Nov. 9, 2005. President Bush received the report from the nine-member BRAC panel Sept. 8 and sent it to Congress for legislative review Sept. 15, 2005. Congress had 45 legislative days, until Nov. 9, to accept or reject the report in its entirety but was not authorized to make any changes to the final report. By statute, the Defense Department had until Sept. 15, 2007 -- two years from the date President Bush sent Congress the BRAC commission's final report -- to begin closing and realigning the installations as called for in the report.

BRAC is part of a Department of Defense process used to

- Reorganize its installation infrastructure to more efficiently and effectively support its forces
- Increase operational readiness
- Facilitate new ways of doing business
- It is law. (BRAC Law: The provisions of Title II of the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (Pub. L. 100-526, 102 Stat. 2623, 10 U.S.C. S 2687 note), or the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 100-526, Part A of Title XXIX of 104 Stat. 1808, 10 U.S.C. S 2687 note).

What does the BRAC Law say about Middletown and the reserve center?

The BRAC wording, "...relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center, Organizational Maintenance Shop and Army Maintenance Support Activity in Middletown, Connecticut, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities" seems to have caused some confusion

The language in the BRAC Law specifically states that the Armed Forces Reserve Center be located in Middletown.

For example, for some reserve centers, the law requires a new facility "be built on a military installation" or "in the vicinity of" a city.

Previous experience of the Army requesting to move facilities outside of town limits was objected by Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and required the Army to select a site that met the BRAC language. In one example, the Army selected a site for the Ayer, Massachusetts, Armed Forces Reserve Center one mile outside of city limits. OSD opined the site did not meet the language in BRAC law and the center could not be built unless moved. Because of this ruling, the Army must be specific in selecting a site within the Middletown city limits.

The reference to "acquire land suitable" refers to land which meets the operational requirements for the reserve and meets or exceeds strict environmental guidelines to protect humans and the environment. This process includes a site selection following the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Army is looking for a site which may have environmental problems but those which can be mitigated without excessive investment of time and money; has good access and visibility for vehicles; utilities; and is a site which can accommodate the project.

The following is a quote from the BRAC Law concerning Middletown, CT:

"Close the US Army Reserve Center, Middletown, CT, the Organizational Maintenance Shop, Middletown, CT; the SGT Libby US Army Reserve Center, New Haven, CT; the Organizational Maintenance Shop, New Haven, CT; the Army Reserve Area Maintenance Support Activity #69, Milford, CT and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center, Organizational Maintenance Shop and Army Maintenance Support Activity in Middletown, Connecticut, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC, OMS and AMSA shall have the capability to accommodate units from the following facilities:

Connecticut Army National Guard Armories in Putnam, Manchester, New Britain and the CTARNG facility in Newington, CT if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units."

What is meant by "suitable site?" Who decides what constitutes a suitable site in Middletown?

The reference to "acquire land suitable" refers to land which meets the operational requirements for the reserve and meets or exceeds strict environmental guidelines to protect humans and the environment. This process includes a site selection following the National Environmental Policy Act.

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What reserve centers will this project replace?

- New Britain Armory

- DVA—Newington Armory
- Putman Armory
- Middletown USARC
- New Haven USARC
- Milford USARC

What are specifics of the closures?

Close and relocate to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center including an Organizational Maintenance Shop and Army Maintenance Support Activity in Middletown, Connecticut.

The following facilities will be closed:

- the US Army Reserve Center, Middletown, CT
- the Organizational Maintenance Shop, Middletown, CT
- the SGT Libby US Army Reserve Center, New Haven, CT
- the Organizational Maintenance Shop, New Haven, CT
- the Army Reserve Area Maintenance Support Activity #69, Milford, CT and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center.

The new AFRC, OMS and AMSA shall have the capability to accommodate units from the following facilities: Connecticut Army National Guard Armories in Putnam, Manchester, New Britain and the CT Army Reserve National Guard facility in Newington, CT if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.

How will excess property be handled?

- Current Reserve Center is located in Middletown, CT and is vacant
- Overview of the disposal
 - Work with the Local Regional Redevelopment Authority to dispose of the property
 - Transfer to an approved local homeless provider
 - Public Benefit Conveyance
 - Sale to a public entity
 - Competitive sale to the general public

Links for BRAC information

Army's BRAC website: http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsimweb/brac/env_ea_final.htm.

Army BRAC EA documents can be found at:

http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsimweb/brac/env_ea_final.htm

Army BRAC EIS documents at:

http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsimweb/brac/nepa_eis_docs.htm.