

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS

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INFORMATION SHEET

The Department of the Army has a need to reduce nonessential overhead support personnel and costs connected with its base structure. As part of this program, preliminary evaluation indicates that Fort Devens, Massachusetts, should be reviewed for possible realignment. Accordingly, Fort Devens has been nominated for study for possible reduction in scope of active operations by end FY 78, with retention of Reserve Component support activities.

The primary missions of Fort Devens are to provide base operations support services for tenant units with training, Reserve affairs, and special forces missions; and to command, train and support non-divisional units on post. The current authorized strength of Fort Devens is 4711 military and 1663 civilian jobs, not including students (average student load is 1359).

This installation has been selected for study because of the following factors:

- The mission of the US Army Security Agency Training Center and School (the largest single activity at Fort Devens) was reduced during 1974 and 1975 as the result of triservice consolidation of selected training courses at Pensacola Naval Station, Florida and Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas. Further triservice training consolidation is under consideration.

- Command of the US Army Security Agency Training Center and School will be transferred to the US Army Training and Doctrine Command in October 1976. It is appropriate to consider consolidation of Army Security training with similar Training and Doctrine Command training activities.

- The physical size of Fort Devens also restricts the area for unit training operations, limiting viability of long term stationing of large combat units and associated combat support and combat service support units at the post. Accordingly, should the above consolidation be appropriate, then the utility of Fort Devens for contemporary Army troop unit requirements also warrants review in order to develop further efficiencies.

- In any event, retention of the Active Army Reserve Readiness Region and Readiness Group at Fort Devens would continue in order to permit concentration on Reserve Component support by this installation.

The potential impact of this alternative on Fort Devens could be the loss of approximately 4372 military and 846 civilian jobs.

Other practical, feasible alternatives to the reduction in scope of operations of Fort Devens may develop as detailed study progresses.

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The Department of the Army is soliciting comments on a series of potential realignments and, hence, welcomes views on this candidate action from interested persons and congressional delegations. The Army would appreciate receiving any comments early in the decision process, not later than 30 days from this announcement. Comments may be addressed to Headquarters, Department of the Army, ATTN: DACS-DMA, Washington, D.C. 20310.

Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and its implementing guidelines an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken to evaluate the possible reduction of Fort Devens by relocation of Army activities not required for Reserve Component support. It is expected that this assessment will take from one to three months. Upon completion of the assessment, a determination will be made as to whether or not an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

If the determination is made that no EIS is necessary, a final decision on the results of the EIA will be made and announced. Should a determination be made as the result of the EIA that an EIS is required, a draft EIS will be prepared and filed with the Council on Environmental Quality and disseminated to all interested agencies, activities and parties for comment. A notice of the availability of the draft EIS will also be published in the Federal Register, along with appropriate information and guidance as prescribed by regulations. Substantive comments on the draft EIS received from interested agencies and parties will be evaluated and the results included in the final EIS. The final EIS will be filed with the CEQ and noted in the Federal Register.

Upon expiration of the prescribed waiting period after the filing of the final EIS with the CEQ, a final recommendation will be formulated and processed for decision. Any decision concerning the candidate action will be announced promptly.

If final decision is made to undertake this realignment, all career employees will be given maximum assistance in continuing their careers as employees of the Federal Government through transfer with function or reassignment to other positions in the Department of Defense or other Federal Agencies. In addition, in cooperation with the Department of Labor and State employment services, assistance will be given to employees in locating positions in private industry. The President's Economic Adjustment Committee would also be available to bring the resources of the Federal Government to bear on alleviating the economic impact on communities. The Committee works with state and local governments and the private sector to create new private sector jobs to replace Defense jobs that might be eliminated.