be transferred to the Veterans Administration.

Fort Sheridan is located on high-value property. The installation can be easily relocated. The only stipulation is that the relocation of the Fourth Army Headquarters must be within its seven-state area. The Recruiting Command needs to be centrally located due to its nationwide mission. Both activities require accessibility to an adequate transportation network.

This closure will have minimal environmental impact. Concerns that need to be addressed during implementation include historical buildings, a contaminated munitions burning site, various landfills, PCB transformers, and possible leaking underground storage tanks. Cleanup of contamination on these sites is covered under the DoD Environmental Restoration Program. Cleanup is independent of the closure.

The closure will have minimal impact on local employment.

The Commission recommends the following relocations of major units:

-- The Headquarters, Fourth Army, and Headquarters, United States Army Recruiting Command to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

-- The United States Army Recruiting Battalion Chicago, Illinois, and the United States Army Recruiting Brigade Midwest to leased space in Chicago.

**Army Material Technology Laboratory (AMTL), Massachusetts**

The Commission recommends Army Material Technology Laboratory **(AMTL)** for closure primarily due to the condition of its facilities and infrastructure. The laboratory's mission of developing new materials to enhance the effectiveness and warfighting capability of the Army can be performed at other Army installations. Relocating that mission will take advantage of existing Army property, reduce base operations costs, and combine research groups with those working on similar technologies. The net cost of closure will be paid back within one year. The Commission expects annual savings to be $7.1 million.

Army Material Technology Laboratory supports other laboratories in the area of material-development research. It provides advice, technical assistance, and support to other Army laboratories. It also performs failure analyses on developmental and fielded systems.

AMTL facilities need major renovation or replacement, the laboratory can be relocated and the construction avoided. The facilities are located on high-value property that can be sold to offset realignment costs.

The laboratory is currently hampered in performing its mission by the condition of the facilities and the supporting utility systems. Major renovation or complete replacement of the facilities at AMTL would be costly but necessary to overcome all the operational deficiencies. Closure avoids major renovation costs and enables the research functions to be performed more efficiently elsewhere.

Closure of AMTL will require consideration of hazardous-materials sites, asbestos, PCBs, and historically significant areas. Cleanup of these sites is covered by the Defense Environmental Restoration

Program. Cleanup is independent of the closure.

The closure will have minimal impact on local employment.

The Commission recommends the following relocations:

-- The ceramics and related research functions to the **U.S.** Tank-Automotive Research, Development, and Engineering Center at Detroit Arsenal, Michigan. This relocation will consolidate the ceramics and related research functions with similar activities now being performed at Detroit Arsenal.

-- The metal and metal-related research functions to the **U.S.** Army Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. This relocation will consolidate the metal and metal-related research functions with similar activities now being performed at Picatinny Arsenal.

-- The corrosion prevention and control related research to the Belvoir Research, Development, and Engineering Center at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. This relocation will consolidate the corrosion prevention and control research functions with similar activities now being performed at Fort Belvoir.

**Various Stand-Alone Housing Installations**

The Commission recommends fifty-two stand-alone housing installations (see list below) for closure. Cost analyses have indicated that these installations are not economically efficient to operate. There are no construction costs associated with the closure of these installations. Closures will result in immediate paybacks, with annual savings expected to total **$4.9** million for all sites.

Stand-alone housing installations provide family housing for military personnel and their dependents in locations separate from their place of duty. These sites are generally remote from the major installations that provide their support, and are dedicated to support service,members stationed in the geographic area in which the housing is located.

These housing areas were in most cases constructed in the early 1950s and are either approaching or have gone beyond their useful economic life. Annual operating costs for these housing units are double the Army average. The cost of housing allowances for personnel now residing in the houses will be less than half of the Army's actual cost to operate and maintain them.

Other factors that affect the housing sites include their deterioration and long distance to their parent military installations. The mission requirements that led to the construction of these facilities have either changed or no longer exist. Overall analysis indicates closure of all 52 areas recommended is the most prudent option except where another service may request transfer of ownership. *Also,* adequate housing may exist at other nearby military installations, and stand-alone housing may represent excess capacity.

Closure of these sites will have no environmental impact.

The Commission recommends that during closure the Department of Defense allow for continued occupancy of the units by the personnel currently housed in the units, until their rotation to new duty