

The Commission further recommends that **DoD** submit its consolidation plan of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to the 1993 Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

Fort Chaffee, Arkansas

Category: Major Training Areas

Mission: Major Maneuver and Training

Cost to Close: Fort Chaffee/Fort Polk
\$303 million

Savings: 1992-97: -\$34.2 million;

Annual: \$22.9 million

Payback: 5 years

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Close Fort Chaffee, retaining the facilities and training area to support the Reserve Component. Station the current Active Component tenant, the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), permanently at Fort Polk, Louisiana (outlined in **DoD's** recommendation for Fort Polk).

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The community argued that economic impacts will extend further ~~than~~ **DoD** stated.

Additionally, the community claimed that Fort Chaffee provides a more challenging, versatile training environment than Fort Polk and that Fort Polk was never considered as a candidate for the JRTC. The local citizens also argued that **DoD** overstated costs for facilities to support the **JRTC**. For example, a hospital and housing **are** available in the community and need not be constructed. Finally, the community argued that World War II facilities *can* be rehabilitated to meet the needs of JRTC at a cost of \$79 million rather than the **DoD** estimate of \$224 million.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission found that both Forts Chaffee and **Polk** were evaluated as potential

sites for the JRTC. The selection of Fort Polk as the site for the **JRTC** is the result of an Army stationing study that evaluated alternative locations.

The Commission also found that unemployment will increase by four percentage points. The counties of Sebastian, Crawford, and Franklin, which are immediately adjacent to Fort Chaffee, will incur 90 percent of the increase. The Commission also finds there are **no** permanent facilities at Fort Chaffee and the Army would incur substantial military construction costs **in** preparing Fort Chaffee to be the permanent home of the JRTC.

The Commission found that Fort Chaffee currently has **an** Active Component garrison and that the garrison will continue to exist at Fort Chaffee after **JRTC** is moved to Fort **Polk** and Fort Chaffee reverts to primarily supporting Reserve Component training. This has been **confirmed** with **DoD**.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission finds **DoD's** recommendation did not deviate substantially from the force-structure plan and the selection criteria. The Commission, therefore, recommends that Fort Chaffee be returned to its semiactive status with an Active Component garrison to be used in support of Reserve Component training and that a permanent Joint Readiness Training Center be established at Fort Polk, Louisiana.