

SSA STAFF

MICHAEL T. SCANLON JR.

President & CEO
mscanlon@selfstorage.org

MIKE BLACKETT

Vice President
Operations
mblackett@selfstorage.org

LYN BRACKETT

Vice President
Education & Training
lbrackett@selfstorage.org

TIMOTHY J. DIETZ

Vice President
Communications & Gov't Relations
tdietz@selfstorage.org

DEREK KNIGHTS

Vice President
Finance & Administration
dknights@selfstorage.org

MARTHA M. MORRISON, CMP

Vice President
Meetings & Trade Shows
martham@selfstorage.org

GINNY A. STENGEL

Vice President
Member Services
gstengel@selfstorage.org

TOM COMI

Director, Advertising Sales
tcomi@selfstorage.org

JENNIFER L. PETTIGREW

Director, Registration,
Vendor & Sponsorship Relations
jpettigrew@selfstorage.org

SHERON DAVIS

Membership Manager
sdavis@selfstorage.org

JOHN DUNLAP

SSA Globe Associate Editor
jdunlap@selfstorage.org

What Is BRAC to You?

By Tim Dietz – SSA VP, Communications & Government Relations

They called May 15, 2005 “BRAC Friday,” a dark reference to the supposed unluckiest days on our calendar. On that day the Department of Defense’s Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) announced its recommendations for shutting 20 major military bases and associated installations nationwide. Those decisions would change the lives of tens of thousands of soldiers and civilian personnel, their families and many more.



On page 9 of this issue of the *SSA Globe* magazine is a feature about the chaotic transitory lives of the men and women of the military. It’s an unfortunate reality that the very people who sacrifice so much for the rest of us, must also contend with even greater stress due to economic inconveniences. With a deadline of completing the base closures announced five years ago set at September 15, 2011 the country is sure to see a flurry of migration. As a practical matter, it is wise for storage operators to pay attention and adjust. The ripple effect when bases close is real; whole communities go dormant, civilians lose jobs and naturally, businesses lose customers.

In August, 50 soldiers and civilians made the 325-mile trek from Georgia to their new home at Ft. Bragg, in Fayetteville, North Carolina. They were the first of 3,000 U.S. Army Forces Command employees relocating due to the BRAC closure of Ft. McPherson in Atlanta. The Atlanta area was one of the big BRAC losers, not only hit with the closure of Ft. McPherson, but two other installations also, resulting in job losses of nearly 7,000 for the city.

The rest of the Peach State actually fared pretty well. Ft. Benning, to the south of Atlanta, and the King’s Bay sub base will grow by about 7,500 jobs due to the realignment. Such is the ironic nature of the BRAC realignment. Where there are losers in one place, there are many winners in others.

In Texas, Ft. Bliss and Ft. SamHouston will gain a combined 20,000 military and civilian employees, however the state will lose more than 10,000 of those with the closing of the naval base at Ingleside. The last sailors left that port in April. The Ft. Bragg area around Fayetteville will see more than 40,000 new jobs from BRAC, a windfall by any standard.

Ft. Benning’s gain of 3,400 Army Armor Center employees is Fort Knox’s loss. But the iconic Kentucky post will actually end up with a net gain of about 5,000 jobs with relocations from the Army Human Resources Command and the 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas.

To see if areas that might interest you are affected by BRAC, visit www.BRAC.gov, or any number of other websites, including Wikipedia, which has a solid overview at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BRAC>. For help getting tied into military personnel support outfits, look into the DoD’s Defense National Relocation Program, which was established to help families in transit. These sites and many others can provide you with a more complete understanding of BRAC winners and losers.

“Winners” and “losers” are relative terms. Next year, Alexandria, Virginia will welcome 6,400 BRAC relocated employees to 7.1 million square feet of new office space on the same campus as the Self Storage Association headquarters. It’s *currently* a nice location that offers relatively smooth traffic flow. ❖