



**NAVAL STATION, PEARL HARBOR
15TH AIRLIFT WING, HICKAM AFB
JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

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Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Memorandum of Agreement Signed

(PEARL HARBOR, HI) - The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Vice Chief of Staff for the Air Force, and the Vice Chief of Naval Operations recently signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the new Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor and Hickam AFB (HAFB) will combine into a single, joint installation to support both Air Force and Navy missions.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base will begin the transition period, called Initial Operational Capability (IOC), on Jan. 31, 2010. The end of the transition period is called Full Operational Capability (FOC) and will be achieved by Oct. 1, 2010. At that time all resources, property, personnel, and authority for installation management functions will transfer to the Navy, which was designated by Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law to be the lead agency for the new installation.

“Through Joint Basing we will create a better base by combining the best practices of both services and seizing upon opportunities to innovate as we transition,” said Col. Giovanni Tuck, commander of the 15th Airlift Wing at Hickam AFB. “The Pearl Harbor-Hickam team has worked diligently to make this a reality ever since the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law of 2005 first mandated we merge our two historic bases,” Tuck added.

The new installation will have a Joint Base Commander (JBC) from Pearl Harbor, with the Deputy Joint Base commander coming from Hickam AFB. The prospective JBC is Capt. Richard W. Kitchens, commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The prospective Deputy JBC is Col. Charles Baumgardner, commander, 15th Mission Support Group, 15th Airlift Wing, Hickam AFB. The mission commanders and other tenants will remain in charge of their units. The JBC will report to Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i.

“Three guiding principles were established early in the process and we remain unwavering in measuring each decision against them,” said Kitchens. “First and foremost, war fighting readiness and mission accomplishment are paramount. Second, we will join effectively to ensure the delivery of support and services to our tenant commands, service members and their families continues uninterrupted. Finally,” he adds, “after the first two are assured, we will look for the efficiencies Joint Basing offers. These three principles will endure long after we are fully operational as a Joint Base”

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“Col. Tuck and I, along with our staffs, are going about this very carefully, constantly with the mission in mind. We will better understand where efficiencies can be gained over time, and we plan to harvest those efficiencies using natural opportunities to shape the force as billets vacate over the years due to retirements and career progression. Reductions in force have not been discussed.” Kitchens said. “Instant budget cuts and elimination of jobs are not the goals of this process,” he added.

OSD conducted a MOA workshop in March 2009 in which representatives from Naval Station Pearl Harbor, 15th Airlift Wing, Navy Region Hawai'i, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i, and Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor participated.

Since the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) became law, NAVSTA Pearl Harbor and HAFB have planned and researched the best practices of each installation. The findings have helped create the JBPHH MOA, a binding document that each joint base must complete before implementation. It describes the organization structure, resourcing, output levels, dispute resolution procedures, manpower, real property, budget, performance standards and other agreements.

In all, 26 bases are a part of BRAC, and each branch of the military is participating. The 26 bases will combine to make 12 “joint bases.” The BRAC law requires that one base will take the lead in a joint base organization. The Lead Component will be responsible for providing installation support for the entire joint base.

The following installations are scheduled to become Joint Bases:

Navy Lead:

1. Naval Station Pearl Harbor/Hickam AFB, Hawaii
2. Navy Base Guam/Anderson AB, Guam
3. Anacostia Annex/Bolling AFB, Washington D.C.
4. Naval Station Norfolk/Ft. Story, VA

Army Lead:

5. Ft. Lewis/McChord AFB, WA
6. Ft. Myer/Henderson Hall, VA

Air Force Lead:

7. Charleston AFB/NWS Charleston, SC
8. McGuire AFB/Ft. Dix/NAES Lakehurst, NJ
9. Andrews AFB/NAF Washington, MD
10. Elmendorf AFB/Ft. Richardson, AK
11. Lackland AFB/Randolph AFB/Ft. Sam Houston, TX
12. Langley AFB/Ft. Eustis, VA

The timeline for joint base implementation is different depending on whether the joint base is part of Phase 1 or Phase 2. Phase 1 joint bases are scheduled for completion in Oct. 2009, and Phase 2 joint bases are scheduled for completion in Oct. 2010. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is part of Phase 2.

For more information on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, visit <http://www2.hickam.af.mil/library/joint-basinginformation/index.asp>