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## Congress votes to close 130 military bases nationwide

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress sealed the fate of scores of military bases nationwide, approving recommendations to close 130 facilities and scale back 45 others in a money-saving effort that will cost tens of thousands of jobs.

By a vote of 83-12 on Monday, the Senate rejected a motion to disapprove the work of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. By law, the entire package takes effect unless both the Senate and House overturn the panel's proposals in their entirety.

This marks the third round of base closures in five years, and another swipe at reducing military infrastructure is planned for 1995.

The bulk of the direct job losses will be concentrated in three states. Hardest hit are California, slated to lose more than 40,000 military and civilian defense-related jobs; Florida, facing the loss of 22,000 jobs, and South Carolina, which is expected to lose more than 14,700 jobs.

Among the major installations on the list are Alameda Naval Air Station in California, the Orlando Naval Training Center in Florida and the Charleston Naval Station and Naval Shipyard in South Carolina.

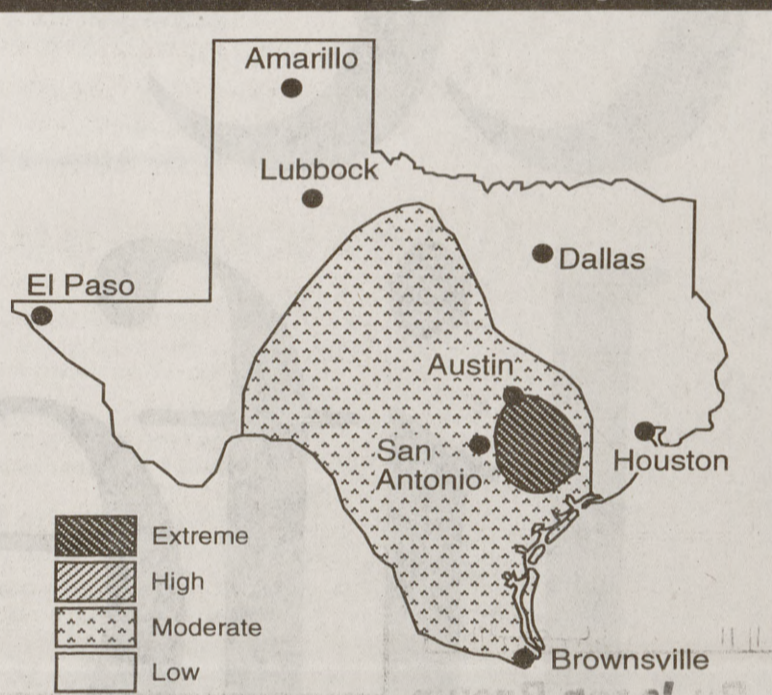
Slated for closure are 35 major bases and 95 minor facilities; 27 major and 18 minor installations will be realigned.

The commission estimated that closing the bases will save about \$4 billion from fiscal 1994 to fiscal 1999 after one-time closure costs of \$7 billion. Savings after the turn of the century will be about \$2.3 billion annually.

Reflecting the general consensus that the closures were a done deal, no motion of disapproval surfaced in the House and only nine senators spoke on the issue during Monday's low-key debate.

"One way or another people are going to lose jobs," Senate Armed Services Chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., said.

## Wildfire Danger Report



Rains have reduced fire danger at least temporarily across much of the state.

Source: Texas Forest Service and Texas Agricultural Extension Service 09-15-93



## Health Tips

### Students can prevent flu virus with annual shot, precautions

By Stacey Garner

Special to THE BATTALION

It's that time again - the coughing, sneezing, aching, stuffy head, fever, so you can't rest season.

The flu season is already hitting Texas and that means it's time for many Texas A&M students to consider getting a flu shot. Many students may be affected by the flu. Besides making you feel miserable, the flu can cause you to miss school, work, and other events you would not want to frantically catch up on later.

The influenza virus is spread from person to person. The virus can live for a short time on objects. For this reason, avoid touching something that has been handled by someone already infected and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes. Wash your hands frequently, and for obvious reasons, avoid being sneezed or coughed on, even if the person does not present flu symptoms at the time.

The flu begins with headaches, body aches, fever, chills and coughing. Later, you may have a sore throat, sneezing, a runny nose, and feel extremely weak and fatigued for up to three weeks. Pneumonia can appear as a complication of the flu. There is something you can do to help avoid the misery and protect yourself against the flu - get a flu vaccination.

What are flu shots? The flu is caused by the influenza virus, and antibiotics are not effective in curing the disease. Vaccinations can be administered to help protect you from the flu. New vaccines are developed yearly, based on influenza strains circulating at the time and those expected to circulate the following winter. Because the viruses vary, the flu vaccine is needed on a yearly basis.

You may experience mild side effects such as slight fever, and soreness at the vaccination site after receiving the vaccine. Reactions are infrequent and usually last about two days.

Another important thing to note is you need to tell the person administering the vaccine if you are allergic to eggs because flu vaccines are prepared with eggs.

Flu vaccinations are recommended for those who want to reduce their chances of acquiring influenza and are especially recommended for people in the following high-risk groups:

- People with asthma.
- People with immune system disorders, anemia, or renal dysfunction.
- People with chronic cardiovascular, pulmonary or metabolic disorders (including diabetes).
- Adults older than 65 years of age and residents of nursing homes.
- Children with chronic respiratory disorders.
- Health-care personnel with the above high-risk groups.
- People in contact with the above high-risk groups.
- Persons providing essential community services (such as police and fire department personnel).

The flu vaccine is not a guarantee you will not catch the disease, but it can reduce the risk of acquiring the flu or having complications. Since the vaccine does not take effect for several weeks, the best time to receive it is now, before the winter flu season begins.

If you would like to get a flu shot, come to the A. P. Beutel Health Center front desk on Wednesdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The process is simple and short, and the cost of the vaccine is only \$5 for students who have paid their fees.

## Ranking

Continued from Page 1

Holly Ketron, senior reporter for Money magazine and college issue guide coordinator, in a prepared statement said she believes the magazine's survey is the most accurate because specific figures are taken into account when figuring the ratings.

"We weigh all the information we have about a school and try to tell the reader if it is a good buy or maybe consider someplace else that is," she said.

But, Berry Hill, executive director of news and publications at number two-rated Rice University, said universities are very skeptical of the idea of rankings.

"I think universities take ratings with a grain of salt," he said. "Money Magazine has called attention to Rice, but we're not in the business of trying to be the best buy. We're in the business of trying to offer the best education, and a best buy rating doesn't count in terms of anything real that's going on at Rice."

"Our education hasn't changed. We're still a research university with a strong undergraduate teaching component, and we still offer scholarships.

"In regards to whether a college is the best buy, it doesn't mean that it's the best place to go," Hill said. "Parents and students should be very careful in evaluating which college is for them."

Bishop said the ratings depend more on how well acquainted the rating board is with the specific universities, than with the actual quality of the schools.

"I don't view statistics as being very important," he said. "One year you may be second, and the next you may be number 40."

"I think it has to do with who's on the rating board, and how well they are acquainted with one university as opposed to another."

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