



## LESSON PLAN: BRAC 2005

Teacher Key

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What does BRAC stand for? What is the BRAC commission? BRAC 2005?

*Base Realignment and Closure*

*The BRAC commission is an independent, non-partisan panel nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate. It has the task of examining DoD recommendations regarding base closings and realignments and making recommendations to the president.*

*BRAC 2005 is the 5<sup>th</sup> round of base closings conducted since 1988.*

2. What is the purpose of the BRAC process? What are the major goals and priorities of BRAC 2005? What criteria will be used by the commission when evaluating bases?

*The BRAC process is intended to be an objective, non-partisan way for the military to evaluate its use of resources (bases) and make needed changes. The main criterion by which bases will be judged is military value. Other criteria include efficiency/cost savings, local economic impact, and environmental impact. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has noted that the military is no longer fighting a Cold War and needs to be updated to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges such as terrorism.*

3. Explain the timeline for the BRAC 2005 process. What has been or must be accomplished by each of the following dates?

*March 15 – President Bush names members of the 5<sup>th</sup> BRAC commission*

*May 16 – Defense Secretary Rumsfeld gives members of the BRAC commission and Congress the Pentagon’s recommendations for base closures and realignments (completed May 13)*

*Summer 2005 – regional hearings held so that local communities can give input to the BRAC commission and the commission can consider changes to the Defense Department recommendations*

*Sept 8 – the BRAC commission makes its recommendations to the president*

*Sept 23 – the president decides whether or not to accept the commission’s recommendations; if he does they become binding unless Congress rejects them within 45 days*

*Oct 20 – the commission must submit revisions to the president (if asked to)*

*Nov 7 – the president must accept or reject the revised recommendations (if needed); if accepted they become binding within 45 days unless Congress rejects them*

4. What role will Congress and elected lawmakers play in the BRAC process? How has this role changed? What has been done to make sure the process is open, fair, and as nonpolitical as possible?

*Prior to 1977 Congress had little authority over base closings. In 1977 a law was passed that required the Defense Department to notify Congress of any closings or realignments as part of its yearly request for funding. Lawmakers often sought to save bases in their districts or states from closure, making any changes difficult. In 1988 the current process was outlined by Congress in a law that called for an independent commission to make recommendations and for Congress to have to accept or reject the list of closings and realignments in its entirety.*