

Addressed to the DFO.Public mailbox  
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To the POC,

I can't make the public forum tomorrow but would like to add a suggestion as a retiree in the Ft. Bragg area. This is only my opinion and not that of the defense contractor I work for or the Army command that I support on Ft. Bragg.

The recommendation is to return most of the permanently based OCONUS units back to CONUS installations and fill the required OCONUS capability with rotational units. We've been doing this for years in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sinai and Kosovo and now the Armored BCT in Korea is rotational. This should be a model for all Div HQ and below units in Korea, Germany, Italy, Japan, etc. The units currently stationed OCONUS can be moved back to CONUS and positioned at US installations once the rotations are started so there is no gap in capability. The allied country will still have the US Army capability on their soil, but just not the additional infrastructure and costs associated with that additional infrastructure: family housing, cost of moving families/household goods, DODD schools, large PXs, etc. For above Division level units and where it makes sense, you should have them permanently based OCONUS (Army HQs, COCOM HQs, etc).

Advantages:

1. The allied country retains the same capability but less of a US footprint.
2. Units will prepare for the mission and deploy together (could use the current 9 month rotation).
3. Once the units are approaching "burn out", a newly trained and motivated unit arrives to take their place.
4. USAR and ARNG units can be added to the rotations as an Available Year event, providing relief to the AC force.
5. Excess support infrastructure can be turned back to the host nation and only retain what's required for the rotational forces (cost savings is unknown).
6. Theater Provided Equipment sets can remain in country for the rotational units to reduce costs (using the current OCO model).
7. NEO plans would be simplified since less dependents will be in country.
8. More units permanently based in the US is better for the communities surrounding those installations (may avoid another large BRAC if units are permanently moved back to CONUS).
9. Provides more stability for military families as they can remain in place at a US installation for longer periods of time if careers are managed properly. Parent may rotate out for 9 months but kids stay in same school, same house, keep the same friends, etc.

10. Current system of individual Soldier replacements has part of the unit just arriving and part getting ready to leave (new arrivals and short timers vs. all there together from start to finish).

11. Easier for our civilian leadership to move a unit if required.

Hope this helps.

v/r

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