



## CLOSING FORWARD OPERATING SITES

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A commander with the appropriate authority, such as the [combatant commander](#), a [joint force commander](#) (JFC), or the [air component commander](#), may direct closure of a deployed location when that location is no longer required, or needs to relocate as part of a dispersed basing strategy in a contested peer or near-peer conflict. It is important the following actions be performed (although not necessarily in the following order):

- ✦ Document environmental conditions and collect historical resource information. For more information, see Air Force Instruction 84-101, [Aerospace Historian Responsibilities and Management](#), and Air Force Handbook 10-222, Volume 4, [Environmental Considerations for Overseas Contingency Operations](#).
- ✦ Perform required cleaning and decontamination including mitigation and remediation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear hazards.
- ✦ Arrange for hazardous waste disposal and spill remediation to address any imminent threat to human health or safety.
- ✦ Close out all accountable records to prevent inadvertent movement of assets to the inactivated location.
- ✦ Transfer equipment to host nation activities or pack equipment and mark items for refurbishment or disposal.
- ✦ Review support infrastructure (including contracted support) and reduce requirements to maintain the smallest footprint possible as forces depart a forward operating site.
- ✦ Ensure a coordinated withdrawal while maintaining unit integrity.
- ✦ Destroy all unnecessary classified information and official documents.
- ✦ Conduct inventory of all real property items. Coordinate with host nation and other services as required.

- ✦ Obtain accountability for personnel assigned, gained, and supported for movement (include contractors, coalition, etc.).

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- ✦ **Contingency Planning:** Airbase closing is a critical task for military operations and should be addressed as part of the Air Force forces' (AFFOR) contingency planning.
- ✦ **Theater Capabilities Planning:** Airbase closure operations should determine relevant support requirements necessary to continue supporting operations during redeployment of forces and capabilities and transition an airbase back to the host nation or other entity.
- ✦ **Joint Integration Planning:** The JFC may establish a joint airfield planning and coordination team that should include personnel from applicable ground component forces and the AFFOR to plan airbase closure in the context of theater requirements and the operational environment.
- ✦ **Airbase Closure Transition Events:** There are specific times during airbase closure when transitions between events may drive actions that combat support (CS) forces should be prepared for to ensure the airbase closure process is as smooth as possible.

Functional airbase operating capabilities and responsibilities will normally transfer and consolidate from the Operate the Base force module forces as end of mission and location transfer or closure occurs. Planners and CS forces should be prepared to transfer the following: command and control, aircraft operating surfaces, operational facilities, airfield management, air traffic control, navigational aids, fire crash rescue, munitions, medical, security, administration, maintenance, lodging, dining, etc.

Transfer of senior airfield authority responsibilities will normally occur in parallel with decreasing aviation operations.

## RECONSTITUTION

Reconstitution is the restoration of capability following operations and includes both equipment and personnel. Reconstitution maintains control over resources and maximizes asset recovery. The objective is to prepare the reconstituted force for future operations in minimal time. For more information, see Joint Publication 3-35, [\*Deployment and Redeployment Operations\*](#).

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