



## Defense Economic Adjustment Program

**PURPOSE:** The program was established in 1961 to support DoD objectives by helping communities resolve problems caused by significant Defense program changes:

When bases close or major defense contracts end suddenly, communities usually can not easily adjust to the loss of jobs and revenues.

When military bases are created or existing ones expand significantly, communities often have difficulty providing additional public facilities and services for the population increases.

**PURPOSE:** The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) operates the program. Technical and financial assistance has been provided since 1970 through the President's Economic Adjustment Committee (EAC), an organization composed of 23 Federal Departments and Agencies. The OEA is the staff for the EAC.

To maintain or restore community stability, the program helps:

- Communities help themselves organize appropriate local and intergovernmental structures to plan, coordinate and implement adjustment strategies
- Replace lost jobs through new economic development activities
- Join available Federal, state, and local government resources with those of the private sector to achieve adjustment goals
- Convert surplus base facilities to civilian job-producing uses such as airports, schools, and industrial parks
- Facilitate diversification of Defense contractor businesses to new markets and/or products
- Place and retrain affected workers

To address the encroachment of development around bases, the program provides for:

- Joint land use planning to assure compatible development occurs near the base

**RESULTS:** The program has helped over 500 communities in 35 years.

- On average, more than 1.5 new civilian jobs are created for each civilian job lost at closed bases
- Major new or expanded bases operate effectively with neighboring communities
- Compatible land uses are established to balance community growth with military mission requirements
- Resistance to Defense change is reduced
- Communities have devised and implemented strategies to support businesses and workers affected by Defense procurement cutbacks

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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