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# The University of Dayton

# News Release

April 18, 1991  
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## **BASE CLOSINGS BENEFICIAL TO COMMUNITY, ACCORDING TO UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON STUDIES**

DAYTON, Ohio -- Closing military bases can have a beneficial impact on local communities, according to nearly two decades of base-closing studies by a University of Dayton researcher.

"In virtually every case, when a military base is closed and a community devotes its energies to recovering from the closing, that community is able to recover very nicely and within five years is better off than it was before the military left," says Patrick J. Sweeney, professor of engineering management and systems and assistant dean of the School of Engineering.

While most experts over the years have predicted unemployment rates of up to 18 percent in local communities, Sweeney's studies forecast rates of 6 or 7 percent.

"They all don't leave in one day--closures normally take about three years, and employment declines at a manageable rate," says Sweeney. "You have to negotiate with the government to slide businesses in as bases close. The government will help, that's shown by past closings."

For example, one community started a vocational school in vacated facilities, says Sweeney. Another community may be able to use an air strip, he says.

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