

3,400 acres, representing about 10 percent of the city's land area. It has a complement of about 4,000 military personnel and in addition provides employment for some 400 civilians. Closing is scheduled for July 1968.

The State of Maine and the city of Bangor are working together to develop a master plan that will take full advantage of the re-use potential of the base. Because government surplus property is available at little or no cost for conversion into educational, hospital, and municipal airport facilities, about half of the original investment of \$100 million is expected to be devoted to such public purposes. There is a possibility that the University of Maine will use some of the facilities to develop a separate 2,000 student campus. The base, located only 6 miles from the campus, contains messhalls, dormitories, and other buildings which could be made useful to the university and would be available for the cost of conversion. Moreover, the base's hospital may be developed to replace the present municipal chronic disease facility. And if the city agrees to accept responsibility for maintaining the airport, it can acquire that \$35 million facility for the payment of \$1. Although annual operating costs of \$400,000 appear high, they will be shared by many users including an Air National Guard unit and it is possible that the city will not have to pay any of these costs.

The base contains about 1,000 units of permanent housing, roughly 8 percent of the total in Bangor. At the date of closure, the U.S. Department of Defense will remain responsible for the \$13.5 million of mortgages outstanding on this housing. To prevent widespread disruption of the private housing market, some units will be used by the University of Maine for faculty and married student housing and some taken by the city to house people displaced by urban renewal projects. About 180 units will be leased by military personnel remaining in the area. Finally, 226 single family units will be placed on the market but should be easily absorbed by the expanded private activity in the adjacent industrial park.

The loss of the military payroll will undoubtedly have an adverse effect on Bangor, a city of about 39,000 inhabitants. However, the city plans to develop the remaining lands and buildings of the base into an industrial park which if successful will bring added income to the residents. In addition to being able to acquire the buildings at low cost, the park will also have the advantage of being adjacent to an interstate highway and a commercial airport, important considerations for many firms.

By the nature of the Air Force mission, the base will remain near full strength until closing. Its conversion is therefore still in the planning state, but the advance indications are that the transition will be relatively painless and productive.

THE PORTSMOUTH NAVY YARD

The problem resulting from the announced closing of the Portsmouth Navy Yard appears more serious, however. Since its inception in 1800, the Navy yard has been the major employer in this area of New Hampshire as well as in the southern tip of Maine. Fully one-fifth of the area's economic base is dependent on the Navy