

THE WATERTOWN ARSENAL WORKERS

Ninety percent of the permanent Arsenal personnel have already adjusted to the closing and are no longer working there. About half have transferred to other government jobs in the Greater Boston area. The largest number found work at the Boston Navy Yard and about 225 workers were hired by the U.S. Army Materials Research Agency located within the arsenal grounds. At least 37 people went to work for the NASA installation in Cambridge. Ironically 26 workers transferred to the Portsmouth Navy Yard even though it is scheduled to close by the mid-1970's. As the map on page 14 shows, the rest are scattered throughout the country; three have moved as far as Hawaii and one has accepted an overseas assignment in Japan.

The arsenal experience illustrates the strong tendency of all displaced Defense Department civilian workers to remain in government employment if at all possible. Despite ample opportunities for most Watertown workers no more than one worker in four will enter private employment. Many firms sent personnel teams into the arsenal in an attempt to recruit skilled workers. The bulk of the response to these offers come from those who were able to take early retirement and about two-thirds of that group took jobs in private industry. Other workers were entitled to severance pay which—depending on age and length of service—could amount to a year's salary.

NEW LOCATIONS OF WATERTOWN ARSENAL WORKERS
ACCEPTING GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS

