

# 4

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# Facility Programming

## 4 - 1

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### Using This Chapter

This chapter provides guidance for programming individual Community Activity Centers, identified in the Community Framework planning discussed in Chapter 3. It discusses the considerations involved in their detailed programming, including the type and numbers of population served, location, functions included, building organization and size.

The material in this chapter, together with local post data and judgments, will provide the basis for the development of building programs. These indicate the specific functions to be included, and the types and sizes of spaces required to accommodate them. The programs provide the content of the functional requirements sections of the Project Summary and Project Development Brochure, and the Requirement for Project section of DD Form 1391. Preparation of the PDB is further explained in TM 5-800-3, preparation of the 1391 is explained in AR 415-15.

This chapter should be used by Morale Support Activities officers and staff, the Facility Engineer, other using services potentially involved in the proposed centers, the coordinating committees mentioned in the previous chapters, and user committees including representative troops, parents, youth, volunteer staff, interest organizations, or other affected groups.

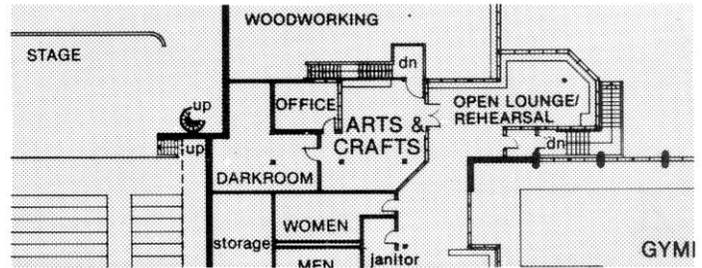
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## 4 - 2

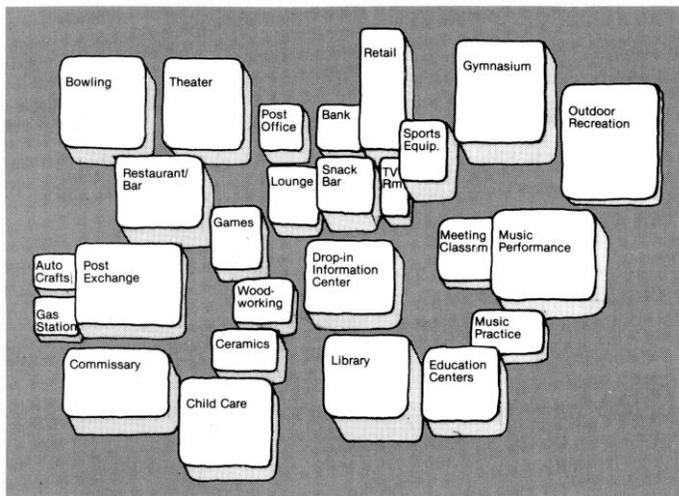
# Program Considerations



The program for an individual Community Activity Center should be developed in the context of the overall Community Framework, as discussed in Chapter 3. This provides the functional program basis for the CAC and an understanding of its relationship to all the other community facilities. The following considerations are important general issues which affect the programming of Community Activity Centers. Issues specific to Main Post Centers or Local Centers are discussed in sections 4 - 3 and 4 - 4 .

## a. Range of Functions

The range of functions that can be accommodated in Community Activity Centers is extremely broad and variable. The general types of CAC's and the implications of specialized and nonspecialized activities are described in Chapter 3, and should be referred to in understanding individual building programming. However, even within one type of CAC, there is considerable choice as to which functional areas to include. This variety is suggested in the typical functional area programs indicated in table 4 - 1. The selection of functional areas to be included in any CAC will vary from post to post, depending on local needs.



## b. Troops and Families

Various Community Activity Centers should be designed in order to serve troops and families. Both are part of the post community, and the morale of both contributes to accomplishing Army missions and retention of quality military personnel. The increased proportion of military personnel at all levels who are married, highlights the importance of this consideration.

Troop life and family life are inevitably mixed in a post-wide environment, but not on the local residential level. Most existing MSA facilities have been located and designed primarily for use by the troops; and even where the opportunity exists, families often feel excluded or do

Table 4 - 1 Main Post and Local Centers: Typical Functional-Area Programs

	Main Post Center	Small Local Troop Center	Large Local Troop Center w/Spec. Act.	Local Family Center w/Spec. Act.
<b>Social Activities</b>				
Large Program Area	x		x	
Games	x	x	x	x
Television	x	x	x	x
Small Multi-purpose Areas	x	x	x	x
Information, Tour, Travel	x		x	
Snack Bar	x	x	x	x
Amusement Center	x		x	
<b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b>				
Ceramics	x			x
Painting, Sculpture	x			
Glass, Jewelry, Metal	x			
Weaving, Textiles	x			
Photography	x	x	x	x
Woodwork/Repair	x		x	x
General Crafts		x	x	x
Auto Repair	x			
<b>Music &amp; Drama</b>				
Large Performance Hall	x			
Small Performance Space	x	x	x	
Stage in Multipurpose Gym				x
Experimental Theatre	x			
Practice/Listening	x	x	x	x
Instrument Check-out	x	x	x	x
Rehearsal Rooms	x		x	
<b>Library</b>				
General Collection	x		x	x
Reference	x		x	x
Periodicals	x		x	x
Children's Collection	x			x
Study Space	x		x	x
Technical Services	x			
Paperback Book Collection	x	x	x	x
<b>Physical Fitness</b>				
Gymnasium	x		x	x
Swimming Pool (indoor)	x		x	
Swimming Pool (outdoor)				x
Handball/Racquetball	x		x	x
Exercise Rooms	x		x	x
<b>Youth Activities</b>				
Drop-in				x
Programmed Activities				x
Large Space Activities				x
<b>Child Care</b>				
Indoor Activities	x			x
Outdoor Activities	x			x
<b>Other</b>				
Bowling	x			
Chapel/Religious Ed.	x			
Family Services	x			
Commissary	x			
Main Exchange	x			
Exchange Service Outlets	x			
Gas Station/Car Wash	x			
Liquor Store	x			
Post Office	x			
Restaurants	x			
Theatre	x			
Thrift Shop				

not take advantage of these facilities. A number of social problems, related to interaction of different age groups and interests, may arise from the mixture of troops and families.

In consolidated facilities, scheduling to separate user groups becomes complex, because a variety of activities are occurring at once, and ongoing use throughout the day on an informal drop-in basis is a primary goal of a successful center. In addition, the mixture of different user groups also builds a broader sense of community and encourages exposure to different programs. However, for MSA and community programs to be most effective, some provision of separate facilities for troops and families is desirable.

Local Centers can be programmed either for troops or families, or for both together, if necessary. The Centers should be located within the troop billeting or family housing areas they serve. While the overall types of functions in troop centers and family centers do not differ greatly, the specific activities taking place in each will differ because of divergent interests. For example, the arts and crafts area in a troop center might provide general handicrafts, tools and a photography lab; while in the family center, it might consist of a large general crafts area for home repair, ceramics, and sewing classes. A comparison of typical function programs for these two types of Local Centers is shown in table 4 - 1.

Main Post Centers serve the entire post population and should accommodate both families and troops. They should be designed to be convenient and accessible to both groups. Specialized facilities can be scheduled to accommodate both groups at different times, while ensuring that there are some activities available to both groups at the same time.

### c. Consolidation and Staffing

MSA programs, when accommodated in separate facilities, have generally included programmed activities (arts and crafts, drama, library, youth activities) which require supervision by technical program specialists. These technical program specialists are 'typically civilian professionals, who in addition to working in their specialty are required to perform duties in connection with facility operation and administration. The hours spent in administrative and operational tasks do not provide the best use of their technical expertise.

In a consolidated CAC, many of the programmed activities require specialists on a supervisory, non-resident basis only, and can largely be staffed by support staff with training in several technical areas. Under the consolidation concept, the roles of the support staff should be expanded to include operation and supervision of appropriate aspects of the specialized MSA programs, such as light crafts and household repair activities, sports not requiring instruction, and musical instrument checkout.

Community Activity Centers will also have facility management staff in addition to technical program specialists and support staff. The CAC management staff will be professional personnel assigned to the management of these multipurpose facilities.

The less specialized a facility is, the more easily it can be operated with support staff and fewer personnel. Additionally, support staff are more readily available and less costly than technical program specialists. Hence, using more support staff will allow centers to operate more economically and stay open longer. However, program quality will be lowered if technical program specialists are not used to staff appropriate activities.

In programming Community Activity Centers, it is the less specialized activities which are most readily consolidated. Local Centers are typically less specialized. For instance, arts and crafts areas would have self-directed handicrafts -leatherworking, macrame, sewing classes, model-making - but not heavy woodworking equipment. Less specialized activities, that do not require technical equipment, can more readily share general purpose spaces with other activities. Local Centers with some specialized activities might include a swimming pool or gymnasium near social recreation spaces, permitting supervision of both with fewer staff and fewer program specialists. In programming these centers, consideration should be given to the potential savings in shared activity and/or support space, in numbers of staff and increased use of support staff, and gains in longer operating hours, that can result from consolidation.

## d. Re-using Existing Facilities

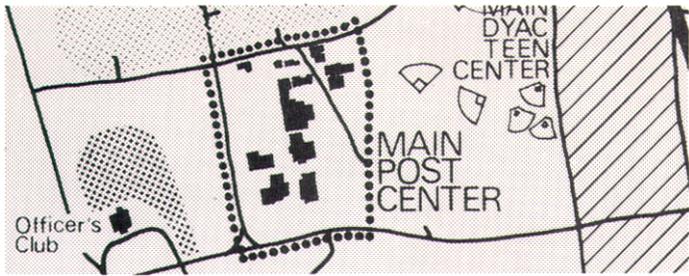
Considerations of renovation and re-use of existing structures for Community Activity Centers apply both to existing MSA facilities and to buildings previously utilized for other functions. Both may provide rapid and economical means of satisfying the major needs of the community.

Many well-designed recreation centers, gymnasiums, arts and crafts centers, and libraries already exist on many posts. When accompanied by music, theatre, commercial and other missing community functions accommodated through renovations or additions, these existing buildings can serve as excellent Community Activity Center complexes. If located nearby, enclosed linkage between the buildings may be possible. This approach is often more cost effective than new construction.

As posts expand and contract, their needs change and buildings inevitably become available for new uses. Many excellent permanent buildings, whether or not formerly used for community purposes, may be renovated to provide more cost-effective accommodation of community activities than new construction.

In programming existing facilities for re-use, the projected Community Activity Center functions and programs may need modification. Some activities may not be possible to accommodate, and consolidation of additional functions may be suggested by the available spaces. The existing space pattern may limit some of the openness and internal accessibility that permits coordinated program operation and staffing.

However, the use of existing space may be coordinated with a process of phased construction, in order to provide services quickly and to take advantage of small sources of funding. Programming for re-use of existing facilities must be particularly flexible in order to make the best match between available space and service needs.



4 - 3

## Main Post Center

### a. Description

The Main Post Center is the center of community life, the place to go for leisure activities, like a town center or the downtown of a small city. There is only one on an installation. It concentrates all major post-wide MSA facilities, post exchange, commissary, other commercial functions, and community service facilities in one central location. The co-location and mixture of commercial facilities, such as the PX, with the MSA and other community facilities, provides greater exposure, attraction and convenience for all the functions, and encourages their use. The Main Post Center should be a visible, identifiable focus for the community (see figure 4 - 1).

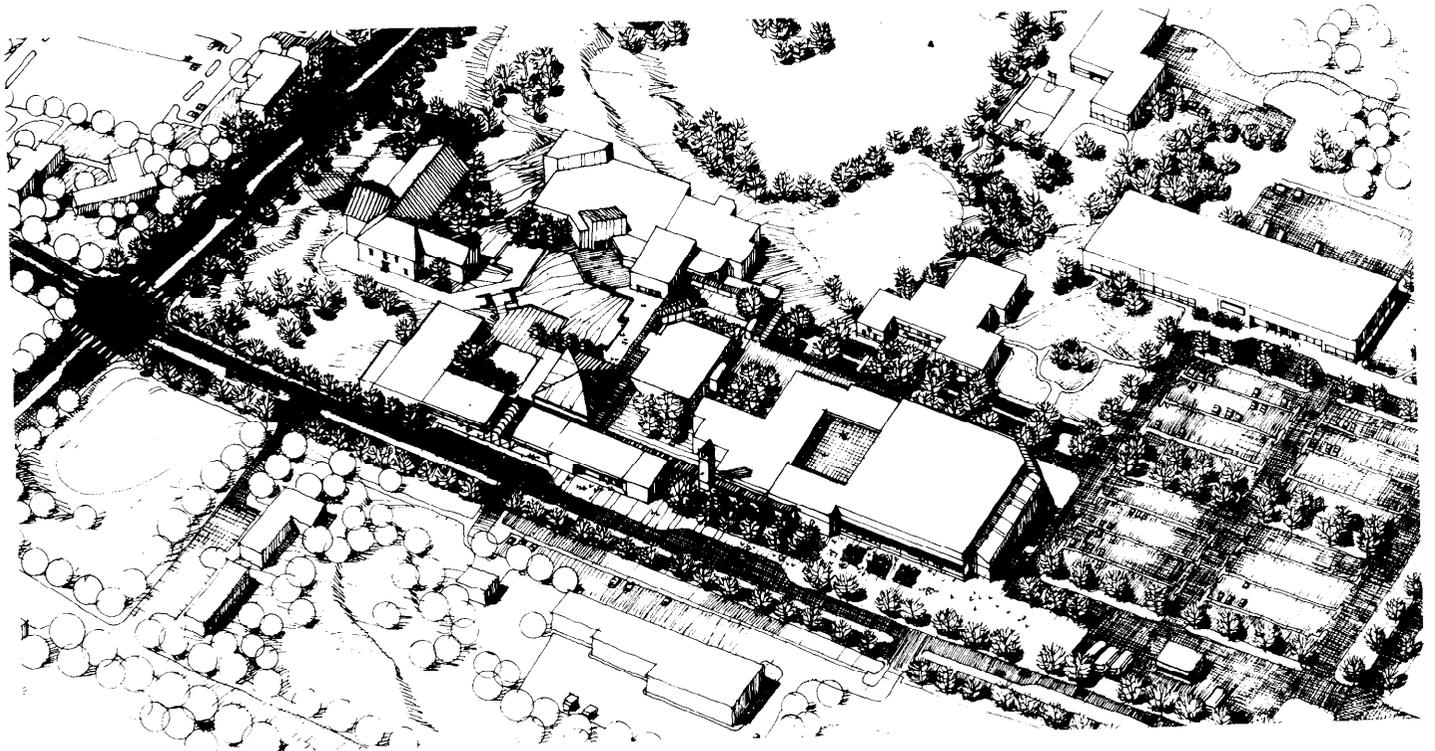


Figure 4 - 1 Main Post Center

## b. Population Served

Main Post Centers serve the entire population: all military personnel, on-post and off; families and dependents; eligible civilian employees; and retired military in the area. Main Post Centers for larger installations are discussed and illustrated in this section. For posts of military strength under about 3,000, Main Post Center facilities may be similar to the Local Centers described in section 4 - 4.

## c. Location

The Main Post Center should be located central to, and conveniently accessible from, all major areas of daily life functions - post administration, mission operations, housing for all user groups, main off post access. It should be highly visible, perhaps on the main entry road of the

post near the administrative center. Its location should not favor one area of the post over another. Locations of existing major facilities, such as a main exchange or partly developed post community center, may provide the logical starting point for the Main Post Center development (see figure 4 - 2).

## d. Size

The size of Main Post Centers varies widely, depending on the population served and the functions and facilities provided. A typical space program, illustrating a range of sizes for component facilities, is found in table 4 - 2.

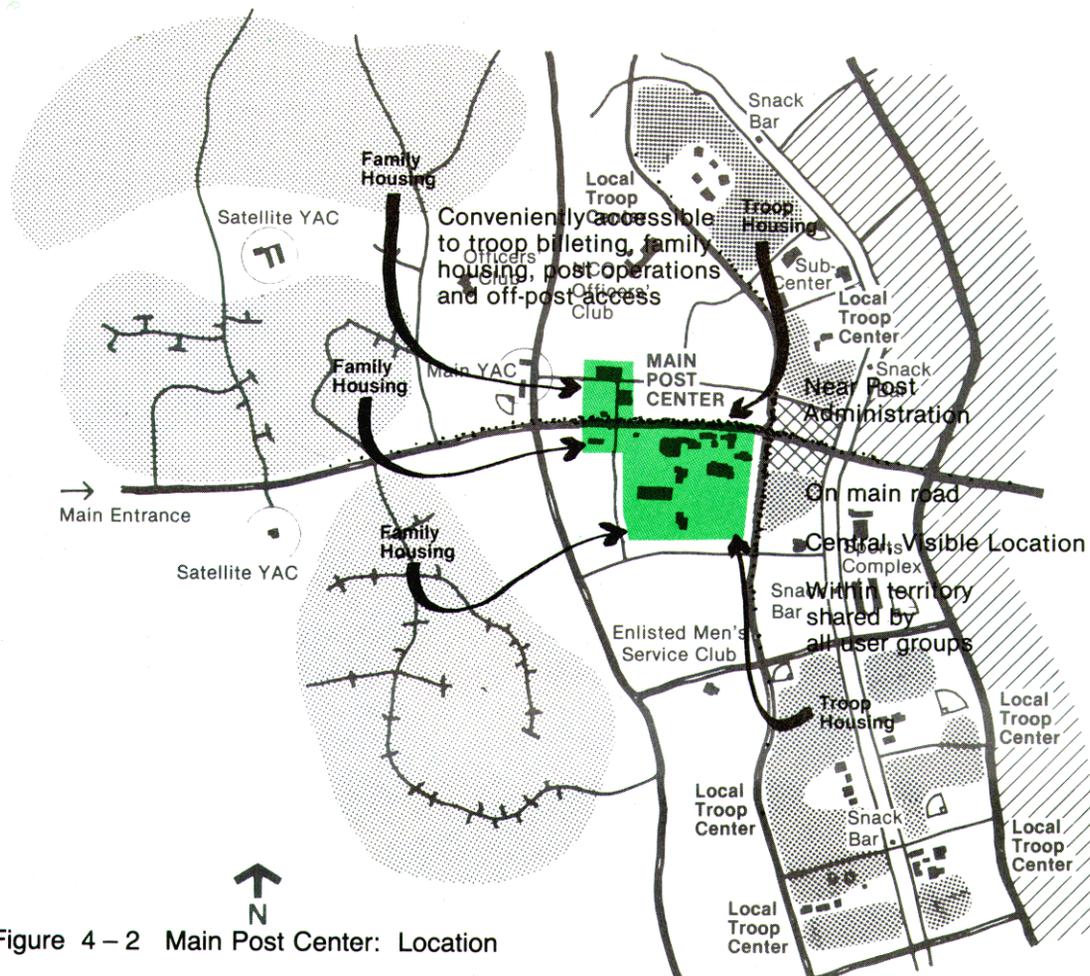


Figure 4 - 2 Main Post Center: Location

Table 4 - 2 Main Post Center: Typical Space Programs

Typical Space Programs for Centers Serving Military Strength of 10,000-25,000

<u>Function-Space</u>	<u>Area Ranges (Gross Square Feet)</u>	
<b>Social Activities</b>	<b>44,230-83,400</b>	
Large Group Activities	5330 -19200	
. Central Program Area	4200-13500	
. Platform	880-4950	
. Pantry	250-750	
Small Group Activities	19590 -36300	
. Active Games	4700-11500	
. Television Lounge	1000-3750	
. Table Games	2000-3500	
. Open Multi-Purpose	3020-3750	
. Enclosed Multi-Purpose	4510-7500	
. Telephone Lounge	600-900	
. Carrels	1510-1800	
. Special Interest	2250-3600	
Administration	2500 -4100	
. Offices	1600-2300	
. Information, Tour & Travel (ITT)	500-800	
. Control Center	400-1000	
Refreshment	14320 -20000	
. Snack Bar	4720-8000	
. Amusement Centers	9600-12000	
Support	2490 -3800	
<b>Arts and Crafts</b>	<b>10,300-20,650</b>	
General	4130 -8260	
. Pottery & Ceramics	800-1600	
. Glassblowing	300-600	
. Drawing & Painting	880-1760	
. Jewelry & Art Metal	600-1200	
. Weaving & Textiles	850-1700	
. Sculpture & 3D Design	700-1400	
Other	6170 -12390	
. Photography	830-2060	
. Woodwork & Repair	3140-6530	
. Crafts Supply Shop	600-1000	
. Crafts Store	800-1200	
. Support	800-1600	
<b>Music</b>	<b>14,000-20,000</b>	
Performance Halls	8000 -12000	
Practice Rooms and Modules	1200 -1600	
Listening Spaces	100 -200	

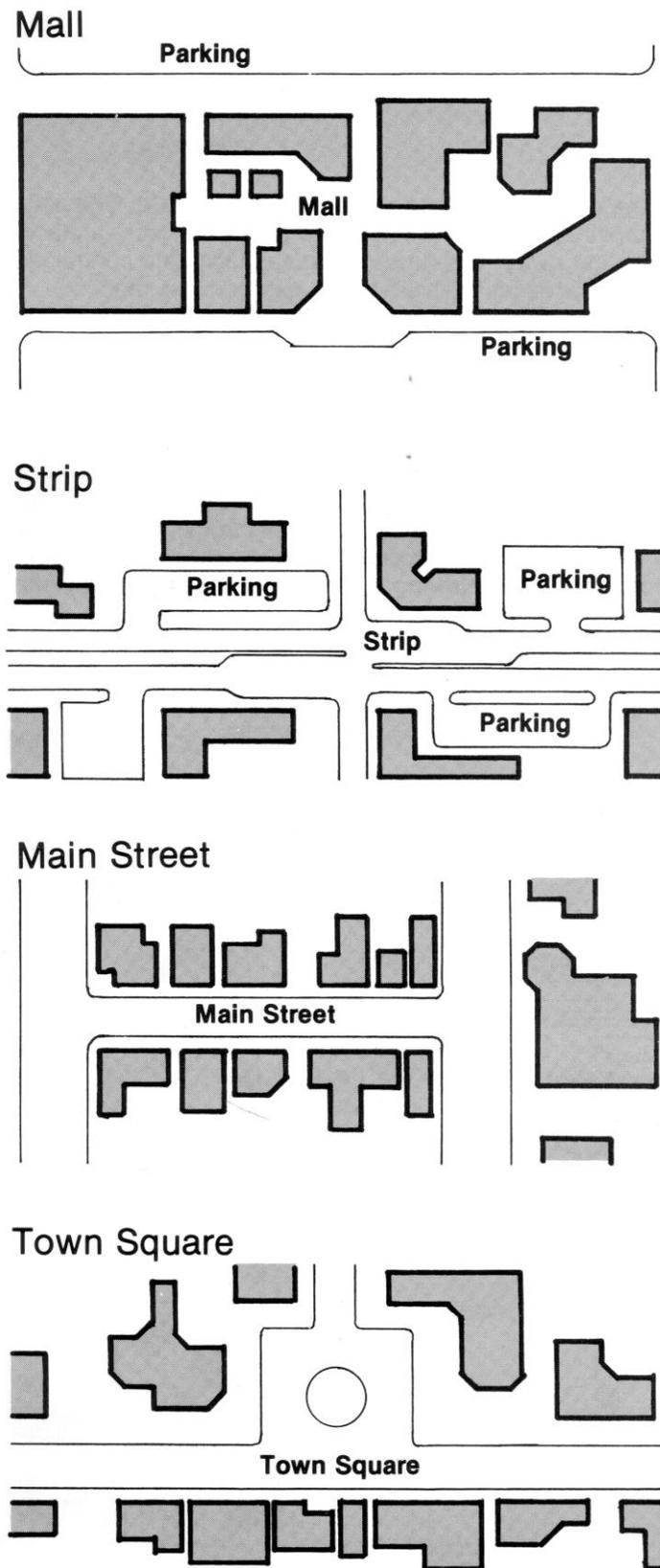
(Continued)

## Chapter 4

Table 4 - 2 (Continued)

Library		18,000-30,000
Primary Use		13710 -24050
• Card Catalogue	550-1390	
• Reference	1800-2770	
• Periodicals	440-2010	
• Children's Collection	2600-4270	
• Stacks	4200-6940	
• Reading & Study	4000-6400	
• Typing & Listening Booths	120-230	
support		4290 -5950
• Control & Offices	890-950	
• Extension Collection	300-420	
• Technical Services	1400-1800	
• Other Support	1700-2780	
Physical Fitness		50,000-62,000
Gymnasium	23230 -23230	
Platform	2070 -2070	
Swimming Pool	11560 -18260	
Handball/Racquetball	1830 -3910	
Exercise Rooms	4570 -6560	
Outdoor Swimming Pool (125 meter)		
Support	6740 -7070	
Child Care		11,560-19,390
Primary Indoor Activities	8020 -14460	
Support	3540 -4930	
Bowling Facility		38,700-46,250
Chapel and Religious Education		12,260-24,020
Family/Community Service Center		3,000-3,200
Military Recreation Supply/Support Facility		12,500-20,500
Commissary		See Note
Exchange Facilities		See Note
Amusement Center	6500 -11000	
Cafeteria & Snack Bar	12600 -18600	
Gasoline & Service Station	8860 -14550	
Car Wash	2560 -3480	
Main Retail Store	See Note	
Barber Shop	500 -960	
Coin Operated Laundry	2150 -3800	
Optical Shop	600 -780	
Personal Services	400 -460	
Portrait Studio	930 -1010	
Radio-TV Repair	1280 -1480	
Shoe Repair	500 -900	
Tailor	800 -900	
Valet	1300 -1500	
Watch Repair	400 -460	
Package Liquor Store		See Note
Post Office		6,325-12,525
Restaurants		up to 37,000
Theaters		See Note
Thrift Shops		5,300-6,300

Note: Determined by criteria other than military strength.



## e. Building Organization

The Main Post Center may assume a variety of configurations, based on models of community centers from civilian life. Selection of the appropriate model will depend on local factors such as climate, access patterns, and the location and organization of major facilities which already exist. Combinations of these design models may also be considered. Most of these models assume development of the Main Post Center as a complex of separate buildings, but the “under one roof” approach can be applied with the mall concept. Figure 4 - 3 diagrammatically illustrates these models.

- (1) **Mall.** This model is derived from the shopping mall, where individual facilities are accessible on foot, after arrival by automobile or transit system. It is a complex of separate or connected structures for retail, recreational and service functions, connected by open or closed pedestrian spaces. It could be constructed as a single building, or in successive phases of attached construction to create a complex of facilities under one roof, and is often seen in enclosed shopping malls in civilian life.
- (2) **Strip.** In this model, major facilities are concentrated along a major road, providing primarily vehicular-scaled activity and access. New facilities can be added to reinforce the commercial and service character of an existing strip, and provide continuity from one facility to the next.
- (3) **Main Street.** The main street model is similar to the strip model in its combination of automobile and pedestrian access. A street, not a major road, passes through the center; and the activity-density is pedestrian-scaled. Buildings are arranged continuously along one or both sides of the street.
- (4) **Town Square or Town Green.** In this model, the Main Post Center facilities surround or overlook a major open space. The open space might be a crossroads or street-widening in the case of a town square, or a parade grounds or large lawn in the case of a town green.

Figure 4 - 3 Main Post Center: Building Organization-Alternative Models

## f. Functions

The Main Post Center accommodates commercial, MSA and other community functions. It provides the major facility for each function, to serve the whole post population. These typically include specialized or highly technical activities requiring specialist staff and equipment. A Main Post Center may include, but is not limited to, the functions described below. The program of facilities and sub-spaces for a typical Main Post Center are presented in table 4 - 2, the building plan for which is illustrated in figure 4 - 4.

**(1) Social Activities.** Drop-in lounging, eating, meeting and games (commonly found in a recreation center) are

the primary functions of a Main Post Center. The center provides a place for relaxation and socializing, a place "to get away." Its functional areas include a central program area for special events, games area, meeting rooms, information center, information/tour/travel (ITT) operation, snack bar and amusement center.

**(2) Arts and Crafts.** The type of arts and crafts activities included in the Main Post Center are those requiring highly technical, expensive equipment, and specialist staff supervision, often provided at only one location on post. These may include art activities such as painting and drawing, sculpture and photography, as well as multiple crafts, including pottery and ceramics, jewelry and lapidary, glassblowing, and heavy and light woodworking.

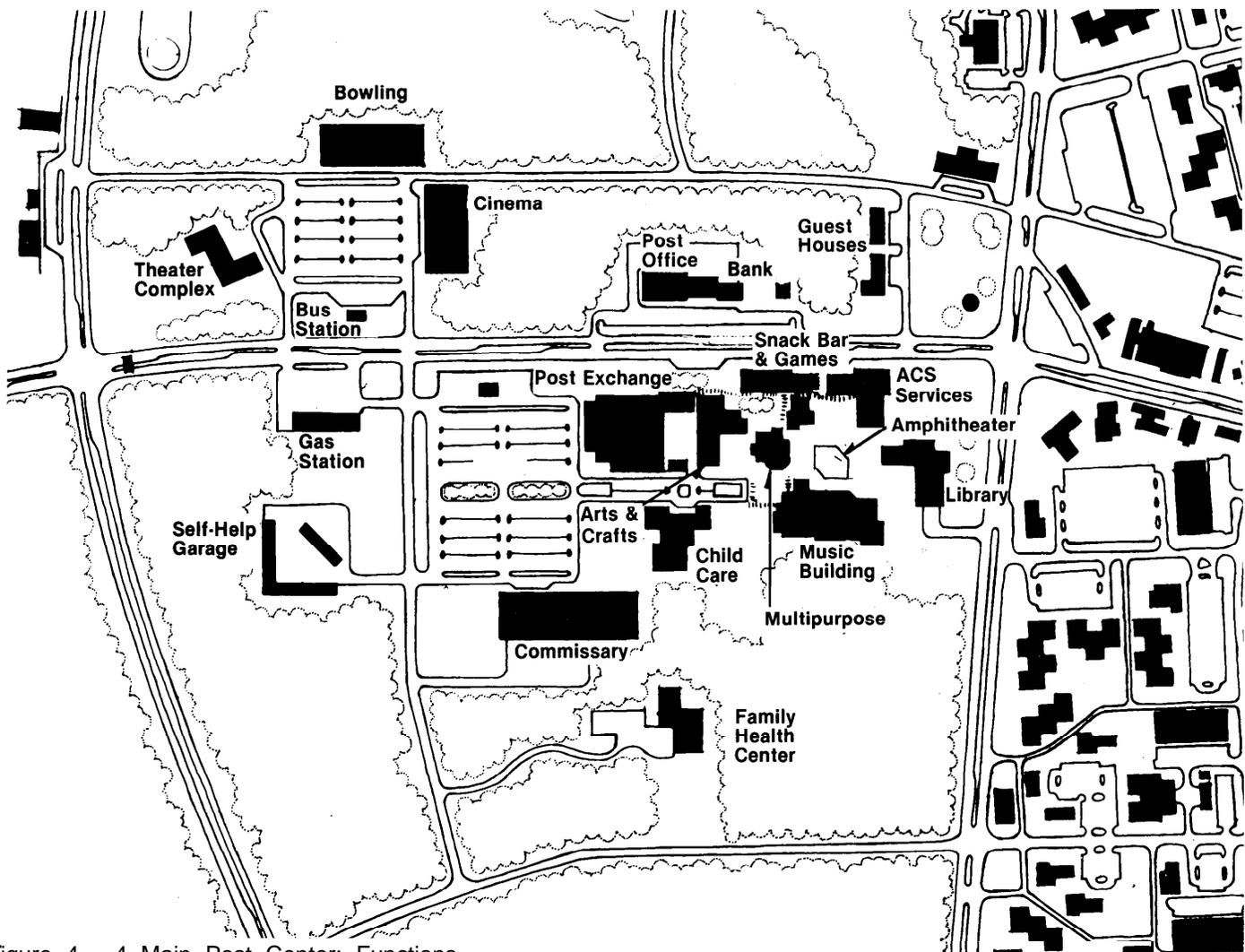


Figure 4 - 4 Main Post Center: Functions

**(3) Music.** The Main Post Center should include a number of small practice rooms, larger rooms for jam sessions and small performances, large and small performance halls, an instrument checkout and storage area, as well as support spaces such as backstage, lounge, and vending areas.

**(4) Drama.** Drama activities may share performance spaces, or be programmed as separate theater facilities, which include flexible performance space, rehearsal rooms, workshop/storage area, dressing rooms, and green room.

**(5) Library.** The Main Post Center may be the location for the main post library, if it is not located elsewhere to be more convenient to the post administrative and educational functions. Even a branch library at this location should include a large stack area, periodicals area, catalog of the entire post collection, reading area, and staff work space.

**(6) Physical Fitness.** Physical fitness facilities are major attractions and generate activity for the whole Center. They are heavily used by both troops and families, and should include a large gymnasium, indoor swimming pool, handball/racquetball courts, exercise rooms, saunas and necessary support facilities.

**(7) Outdoor Sports.** Often it is not possible to provide playing courts and fields for outdoor sports at a Main Post Center, due to the density of building. However, where possible, it is desirable to include tennis courts, a playing field, basketball courts, and their related support and equipment storage facilities. Central administrative and support facilities for other outdoor sports, such as golf, swimming and team sports, might be located here, although they may function better at a separate comprehensive post sports complex.

**(8) Auto Crafts.** An Auto Crafts facility may be programmed at a Main Post Center. This is an actively used facility and would be a user attraction. However, because of potential visual, noise and exhaust pollution, it should be in a separate, visually screened structure. It requires good vehicular and service access, and large parking and outdoor service space.

**(9) Bowling.** This is another important activity generator that will yield mutual exposure, interaction and sharing benefits with other functions located together at the Main Post Center.

**(10) Child Development.** Child development facilities may or may not be located at the Main Post Center. This depends on development of a post-wide pattern which provides all three major components - full day care, part day and hourly care - adequately on the installation. The provision of hourly care at the Main Post Center would permit greater use of the other functions by families. Full and part day care must be conveniently located for the families; whether they should be in the Main Post Center depends on its relationship to family

housing and activities. Whatever child development facilities are provided, they must include indoor and outdoor spaces for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and schoolage children.

**(11) Commissary.** The commissary is a primary facility in the Main Post Center. It attracts a major clientele for the Center, thereby providing exposure to and encouraging use of the other facilities. The commissary should be accompanied by other related commercial facilities.

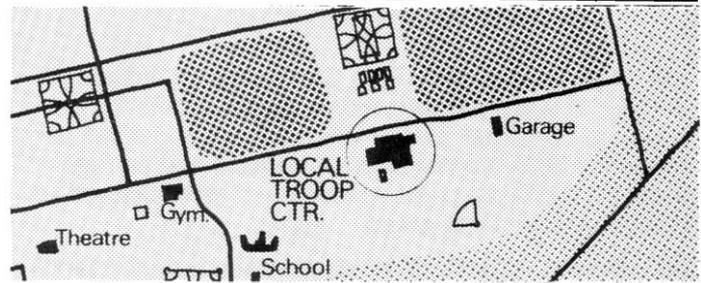
**(12) Exchange Facilities.** The exchange facilities at the Main Post Center should include most of the other central commercial functions on the post. These include main retail stores, amusement center, movie theatre, gasoline station, car wash, cafeteria, laundry, barber shop, tailor, repair shops and other service outlets. As with the commissary, these are critical attractors and activity generators.

**(13) Other Non-MSA Functions.** Other facilities possibly located at the Main Post Center include the following:

- Open Messes (or Clubs) for enlisted personnel, non-commissioned officers, and officers - usually self-contained and detached from other activities, separation may be to the advantage of both the clubs and the CAC.
- Package Liquor Store - a useful retail addition to the Main Post Center, like the exchange facilities.
- Post Office, banks, credit union, restaurants, and the thrift shop - appropriate service components of the Main Post Center that combine well with the commercial and activity mix.
- Chapel and Religious Education - typically preferred as separate, independent operations; co-location at the Main Post Center would produce little mutual benefit, except at very small posts where the chapel functions could share meeting spaces with other activities.
- Army Community Services Center - may or may not be appropriate at the Main Post Center, depending on design and post-wide service pattern. The users of the human services programs desire shielding from excessive exposure which argues for a separate site; however, convenient access and availability of ACS would benefit from co-location.

## 4 - 4

## Local Centers



## a. Description

The Local Center is the focus of neighborhood life - the place to go for community, commercial and service activities, within walking distance in the neighborhood. Local Centers serve geographical subareas or population subgroups of the post. They are typically programmed separately for troops or for families, although in some circumstances they may serve both. These centers range from small facilities which accommodate only non-specialized activities, primarily recreational for a small population, to much larger facilities including diverse and variable specialized activities. The Local Center should be an evident, inviting place, convenient to the daily life of its users (see figure 4 - 5).

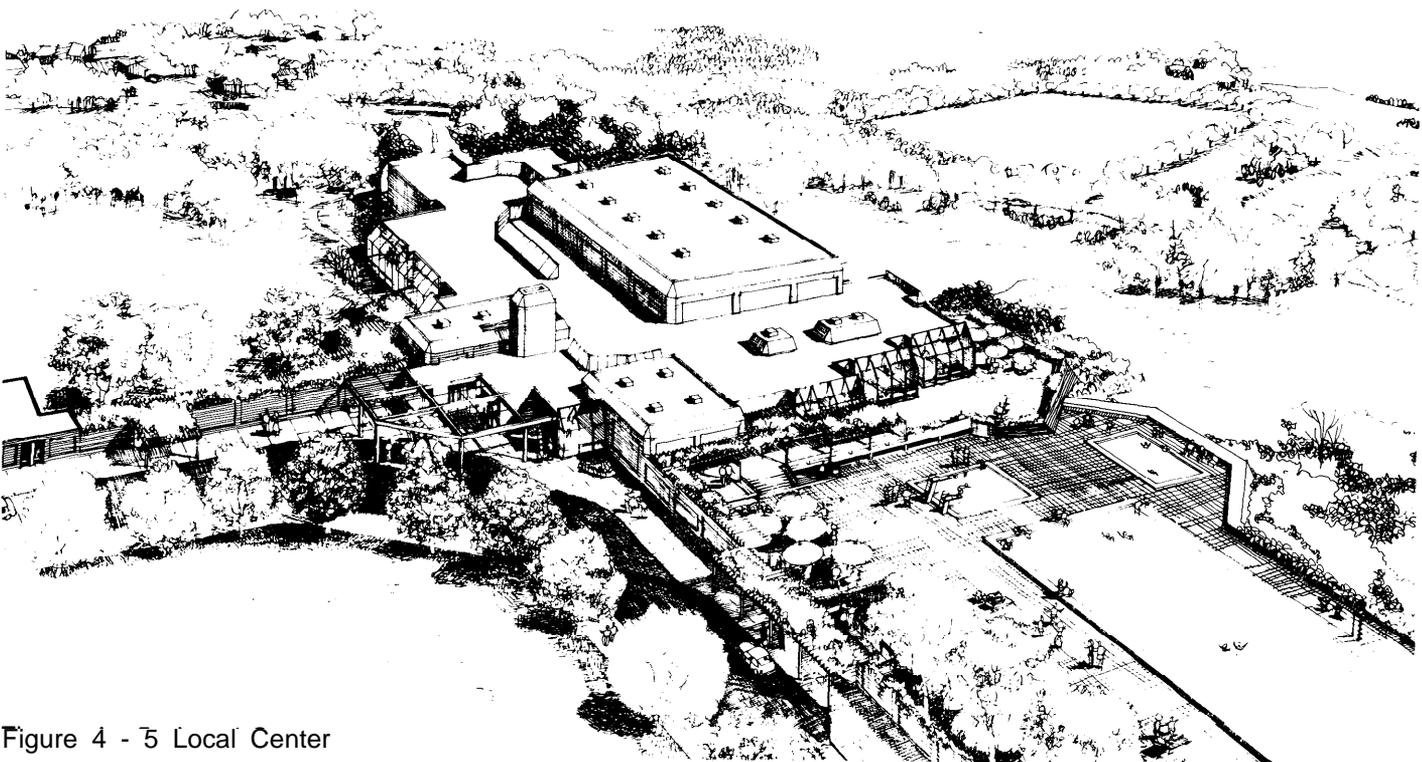


Figure 4 - 5 Local Center

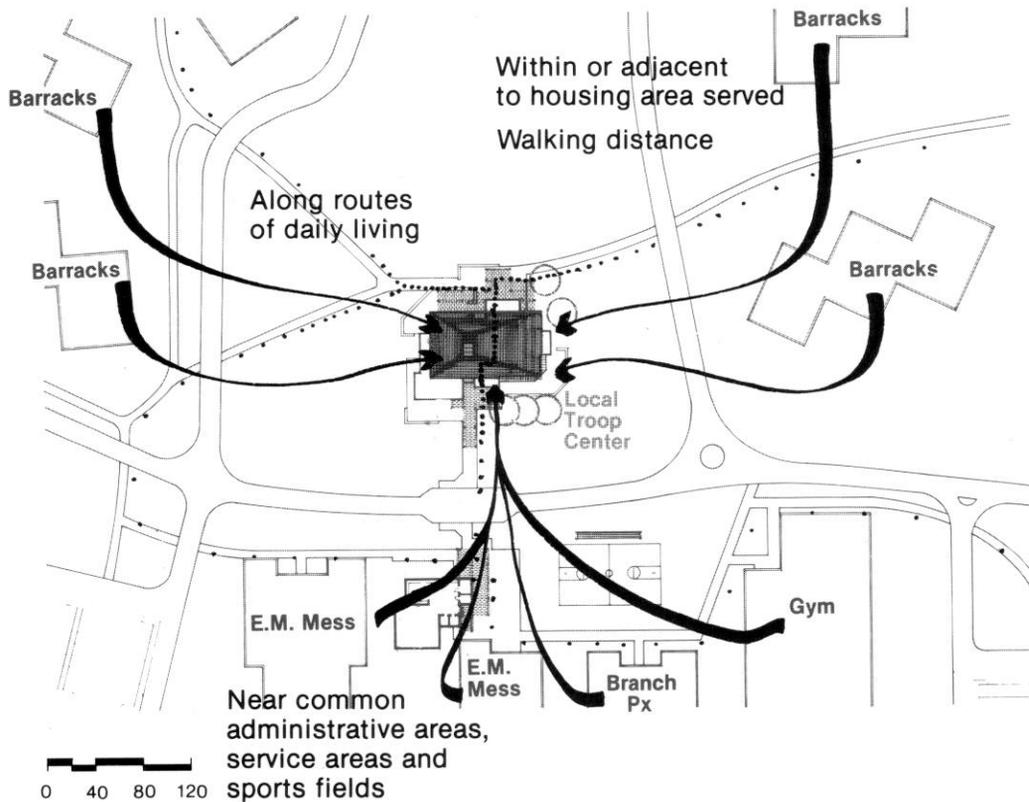


Figure 4 – 6 Local Center: Location

## b. Population Served

Local Centers serve local geographic and population communities on an installation-troop billeting areas, brigade or other units, family housing areas. The served population may range approximately from 1,000 to 7,000. This could be one to two brigades or comparable troop units with a total of 1,000 to 7,000 troops; or it could be family housing areas for roughly 400 to 2,500 families, which include 1,000 - 7,000 persons, depending on family size; or a mix of troops and families with an equivalent total population. If a center is programmed to serve both troops and families, there must be effective scheduling of activities for separation of use, as necessary. In Local Centers with specialized activities, some broader post-wide population will be served by specialized functions unique to the installation.

## c. Location

Local Centers should be located along the routes of daily life of the people they serve. They should be within, or adjacent to, the geographical areas they serve. For Troop Centers, the best location would be amid the brigade administrative and common areas, or in the open space between the two brigade billeting areas near existing playing fields and courts. Family Centers should be located at the heart of the family housing area. The centers should be within walking distance of all the billeting or housing units served, amid other support facilities if they exist (see figure 4 - 6).

## d. Size

The size of Local Centers varies greatly, depending on the size of the population served, the functions accommodated, and the degree of specialized activities included. They may be as small as 6,000 square feet, or as large as 80,000 square feet, in area. Typical space programs for such Centers are found in table 4 - 3.

Table 4 – 3 Local Centers: Typical Space Programs

Function-Space	Area (Gross Square Feet)		
	Local Troop Center w/Spec. Activities serving 7,000 troops	Local Family Center w/Spec. Activities serving 3,000 families	Local Troop Center Serving 3,000 troops
Social Activities	15,470	10,530	3,520
Small Group Activities	10,800	7,720	2,570
• Active & Electronic Games	2050	2830	910
• Table Games	950	1400	310
• Television Lounge	1680	880	280
• Open Multi-Purpose	1250	560	530
• Enclosed Multi-Purpose	3080	2050	540
• Telephone Lounge	160	-	-
• Meeting/Rehearsal	1630	-	-
Administration	1,160	810	400
• Offices	600	250	-
• ITT	200	560	-
• Control Center	360	-	400
Refreshment	3,510	2,000	550
• Snack Bar	2740	1200	550
• Kitchen	770	800	-
Arts and Crafts	5,950	8,230	1,500
General Crafts/Woodwork	4450	6000	1200
Photography	500	500	300
Support & Supply	1000	1730	-
Music	2,470	1,340	240
Practice & Listening	1920	1020	240
Instrument Checkout	550	320 (in control)	-
Drama	11,610	5,600	-
Theatre	7960 (in gym)	-	-
Stage	3650	2560	-
Dressing/Rehearsal	(in general)	480	-
Storage		2560	-
Library/Reading Area	4,950	2,440	960
Card Catalogue	120	80	-
Control & Office	930	150	-
Periodicals	750	360	960
Stacks	1010	890	-
Reading	2140	960	-
Physical Fitness	28,340	15,460	-
Gymnasium	9400	7650 (nearby)	-
Swimming Pool	9000 (outdoor)	-	-
Handball/Racquetball	3200	2400	-
Exercise	2480	1300	-
Support & Office	4260	4110	-
Child Development	-	6,640	-
Primary Activities	-	3490	-
Support	-	3150	-
General Support	5,220	1,800	400
Office/Maintenance	100	100	100
Toilets	1000	700	200
General Storage	4120	1000	100
Total	74,010	52,040	6,620

## e. Building Organization

Local Centers consolidate a set of non-specialized activities together with a varying range of specialized activities. The organization of the building should maximize the ability of the facility and its activities to be operated, supervised by support staff from a central control position. This should be predominantly the case in a small, non-specialized Local Center (see figure 4 - 7), which

should be designed for minimum supervision, with most areas of the building open and accessible whenever the center is in operation. But, even in a larger center (as in figure 4 - 8), support staff should be able to operate some of the functions, without program specialists, so these spaces can be accessible whenever the center is open. The more highly specialized functions may require separate, closed spaces, accessible only with program specialists present.

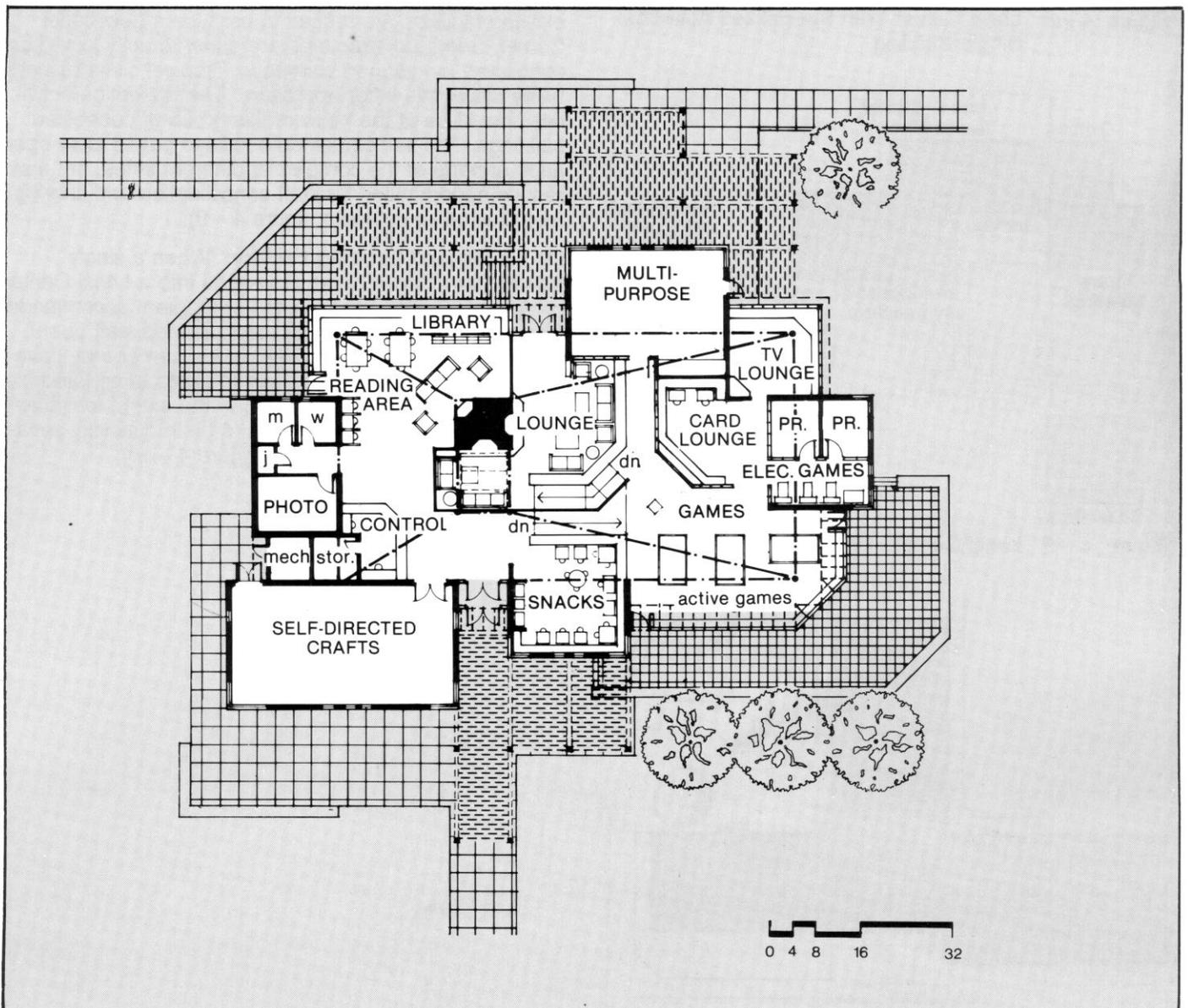


Figure 4 - 7 Small Local Center: Single Building

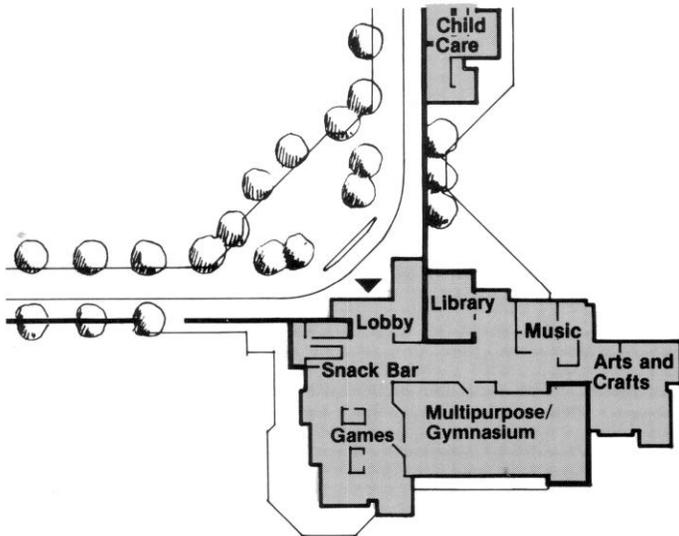


Figure 4 – 8 Local Center With Specialized Activities: Single Building

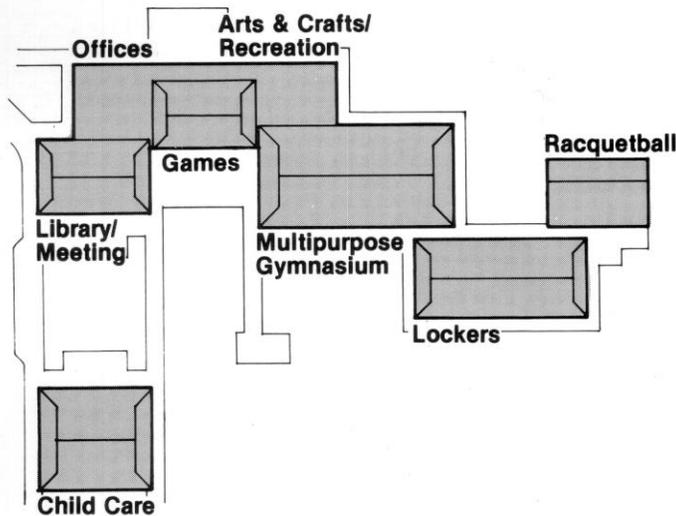


Figure 4 – 9 Local Center: Complex of Buildings

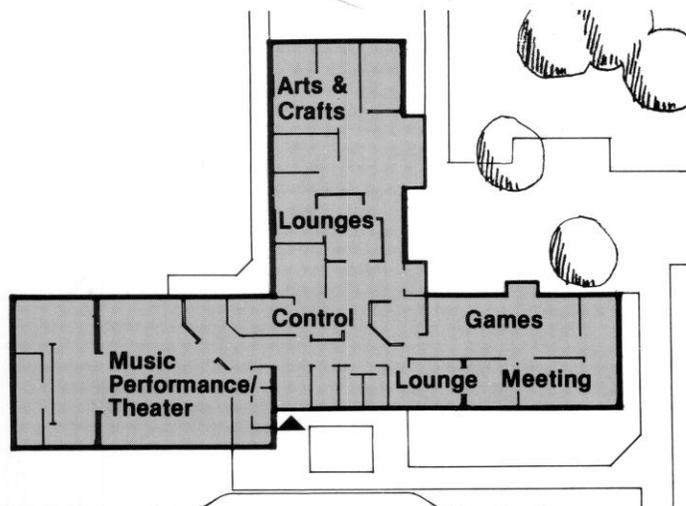


Figure 4 – 10 Local Center: Reused Existing Facility

The consolidation of these varied activities may take the following forms:

**(1) A Single Building.** This approach is the most common for new construction. All activities are combined within the same building. The nonspecialized drop-in, social activities and control spaces are in the center of the building and the more specialized activities surround this core (illustrated in figure 4 - 8).

**(2) A Complex of Connected Buildings.** This model may be used in new construction or when several existing facilities are reused to produce a new Local Center. Separate structures are either directly joined or connected by covered walkways. Tropical climates particularly justify this latter approach. The recreation activities should be at the heart of this group of connected buildings. The self-contained buildings permit easy operation of parts of the complex at different times, but may reduce opportunities for staff consolidation and sharing (see illustrative example, figure 4 - 9).

**(3) A Reused Existing Facility.** When a single existing structure is being renovated into a Local Center, compromises may be expected in program accommodation, openness, visibility, and consolidated staff operation. Programming of activities for the center may have to be adjusted. Nonetheless, the principles of consolidation should be applied in the design, to the extent feasible. Specialized functions may have to be in distinctly separate wings of the building (see figure 4 - 10).

## f. Functions

Local Centers include mostly Morale Support Activities and closely related functions. They may accommodate primarily nonspecialized activities or a mix of nonspecialized and specialized, from among the following functional areas: (See table 4 - 3 for typical Local Center programs with subspaces, and figure 4 - 11 for a sample facility plan.)

**(1) Social Activities.** As in the Main Post Center, the social activities - drop-in, lounging, eating, meeting, and games - are an important focus for the Local Center. Spaces for these should be central, open, readily accessible, and closely intermixed with other functional areas. Essential elements are a lounge, snack area, multipurpose meeting rooms, amusement and games rooms, and television room. In larger centers, there would be a large

central program area for performances, or a theater, large music room or multipurpose gym which can serve this function. In smaller centers, with no large program space, the lounge/lobby area should be able to accommodate large group meetings and small performances.

**(2) Arts and Crafts.** Local Centers will primarily accommodate multiple crafts, possibly with some at-t activities. They should include at least a general self-directed crafts area and small photography lab. Some specialized crafts areas may be included, with different preferences for troops and families, as suggested below. Classrooms, galleries and support spaces are assigned to the consolidated central areas, shared with other programs.

- Troop Centers: woodwork, leather.
- Family Centers: ceramics, household repair, sewing and home arts classes.

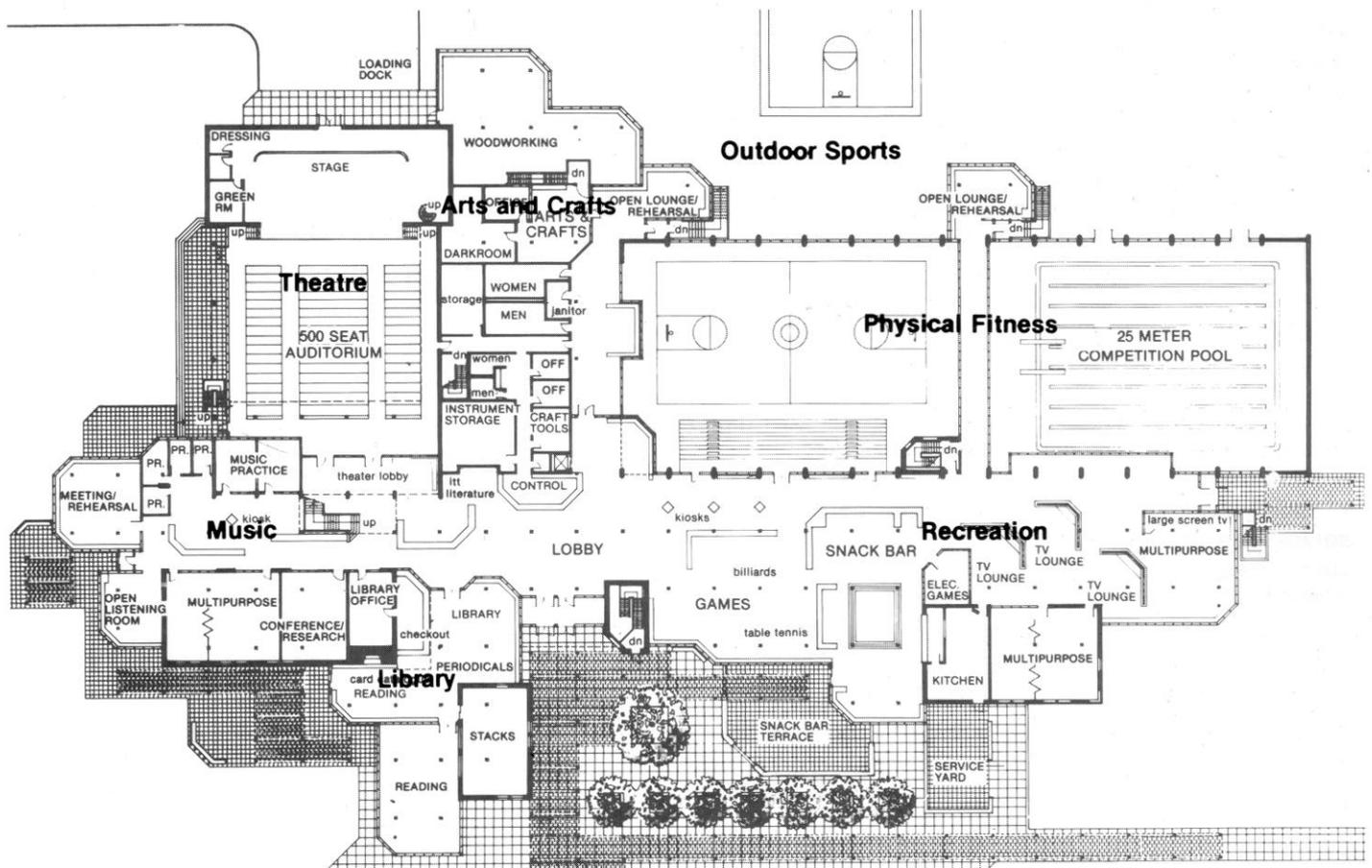


Figure 4 - 11 Local Troop Center: Functions

**(3) Music.** Instrument storage and checkout, music practice rooms, listening rooms, and spaces for jam sessions and small performances are essential to all Local Centers. Larger Centers may also have a large performance hall, although the large program area in the social activities spaces may suffice.

**(4) Drama.** Drama activities may take place in the central program area or multipurpose rooms. Support spaces are required if drama is to be an important function in the center. In addition to an auditorium with stage, support spaces include dressing rooms, rehearsal rooms, and a workshop/storage area. The scene shop area can often be combined with the arts and crafts wood shop area.

**(5) Library.** Branch libraries may be included in larger Local Centers. They have a general collection, card catalogue, reading area and periodicals area. In Family Centers, a children's room should be included. Although there is generally a separate library control desk, some of the supervision functions can be performed at the main control desk when library program specialists are not available. In a small center without a branch library, a small magazine, recreational reading, and paperback rack may be programmed for the lounge.

**(6) Physical Fitness.** Small Local Centers commonly do not have gymnasiums, but should be sited near existing gymnasiums and other such facilities. Physical fitness spaces are major generators of activity for larger Local Centers. They are heavily used by the troops. Due to funding priorities, swimming pools and other specialized facilities may or may not be programmed for the Family Centers. The physical fitness spaces in each type of center are as follows:

- Troop Centers: Three-module gymnasium, 25 - meter indoor or outdoor swimming pool, handball/racquetball courts, exercise and fitness rooms, and support spaces.
- Family Centers: multipurpose gymnasium which also serves as a performance space, handball/racquetball courts, exercise and dance rooms, possible outdoor swimming pool, and support spaces.

**(7) Outdoor Sports.** Troop Centers are often located near unit-oriented playing fields and courts. Family Centers include some playing fields and courts.

- Troop Centers: tennis courts, a track, baseball fields, a softball field, badminton courts, and basketball courts.
- Family Centers: tennis courts, a softball field, basketball courts.

**(8) Youth Activities.** Local Family Centers may include provisions for youth activities, unless they are separately housed locally for their independent identity. For program space, they will share all the functional areas described above. They should have their own administrative and equipment storage space, and possibly some dedicated meeting rooms.

**(9) Child Development.** Location of child development facilities is a matter of assuring an adequate post-wide provision of these services. However, Local Family Centers are very appropriate for full day, part day and hourly programs. Hourly care should be provided for the convenience of parents using the other facilities at the center, or other MSA and non-MSA services on post. Full day and part day programs located here, would benefit from the proximate location to family housing. Both hourly, full day and part day programs require separate spaces for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children.

**(10) Other MSA and Non-MSA Functions.** Bowling facilities, chapel, and Army community service facilities might be included at large Local Centers, if this fits the post-wide program. But, they are more likely appropriate at the Main Post Center. Some small commercial facilities are desirable, perhaps including a branch PX, retail store, small snack area, and postal service booth.