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News

City will consider fighting Onizuka station's closure

By Jason Goldman-Hall

Onizuka Air Force Station is home to a giant satellite dish used for tracking and communication, but the station has lived much of its life under the radar.

Much of the base's operations are classified, but since the 1960s, it has performed satellite monitoring and mission control for NASA missions. The boxy, light blue building at the center is affectionately referred to as the "Blue Cube" around the South Bay.

But due to the end of the Cold War, changing technology and a new communications facility in Colorado, Onizuka of late has been relegated to back-up duty. The 278 employees are less than 10 percent of what the base had in the mid-1990s.

Because of this, Onizuka is on the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure list and, if the president approves the list on Sept. 8, the base will begin closing, with all operations moving to Vandenberg Air Force Base on the Central Coast within six years.

On July 7, the city of Sunnyvale held a public meeting to discuss the possible closure and the city's options with residents. Reactions ranged from wanting to fight to keep it open to protect the area against terrorist strikes to wanting to close the base and use the site to develop technology.

"If that's the trade-off, I think it's a fair trade," said resident Arthur Schwartz, who feels closure is imminent. "That being said, I would like the city to find a reuse for Onizuka, not fight to keep it open."

Many residents also wondered about the continued honoring of Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka, one of the seven astronauts who died in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle explosion.

Economic impact to the city is not a primary concern. Although Sunnyvale would lose 278 jobs in town, the closure list also calls for a reserve unit of 253 people to be added to neighboring Moffett Field, almost making up the difference.

Assistant City Manager Robert Walker, who oversaw the meeting, said the council is planning to take the input from the meeting and decide what to do at a public meeting, possibly on July 19.

"Right now, we have a budget crisis, and the council will have to look at what resources we have for this fight, and if we want to challenge the list," City Manager Amy Chan said. "We need to see what would put Sunnyvale ahead of the other cities, and what does Onizuka have that other bases don't. That really is the bottom line."

Although the meeting was to gather information for the council, the only council member present was Julia Miller, and then only for a short time.

Although Onizuka is on the closure list, the decision is not final. According to the closure list website, the commission in charge of making the recommendation to the president is meeting in Los Angeles on July 14 to discuss the closure of western bases.

If the city council chooses to keep it open, the city can lobby, campaign and fight for the base until the president's approval.

If the city does not fight to keep it open, many have talked about using the space to encourage new technology development. The area around the station has become Sunnyvale's staging ground for the next technology boom, which many say will involve biotechnology and nanotechnology.

For more information on the Base Realignment and Closure process, visit www.brac.gov.

WHAT IS AT ONIZUKA TODAY:						
UNIT	OFF	ENL	CIV	Total		
SMC OL: AO	7	0	4	11	These are authorizations	
21 SPO SQ	14	2	168	184		
TOTAL:	21	2	172	195		
WHAT BRAC PLANS TO MOVE TO VANDENBERG:						
UNIT	OFF	ENL	CIV	Total		
SMC OL: AO	7	0	3	10	This is COBRA data.	
21 SPO SQ	0	0	18	18		
TOTAL:	7	0	21	28	VAFB WILL ALSO EARN 2 ADDITIONAL CIV BOS POSITIONS BASED ON INCREASED POPULATION (+28)	
WHAT AFSPC THINKS SHOULD MOVE TO VANDENBERG:						
UNIT	OFF	ENL	CIV	Total		
SMC OL: AO	7	0	3	10		
21 SPO SQ	4	0	29	33		
TOTAL:	11	0	32	43	VAFB SHOULD EARN 4 ADDITIONAL CIV BOS POSITIONS BASED ON INCREASED POPULATION (+43)	
					* IF 21 SPO SQ REQUIRES PRIORITY-ONE PROTECTION, VAFB WILL ALSO EARN 27 ENL SECURITY SPACES WHICH WILL DRIVE AN ADDITIONAL INCREASE OF 2 BOS SPACES	

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - Air Force
Base Structure Report - As Of 30 Sept 03

SITE	COMPONENT	NAME NEAREST CITY	PHONE	ZIP CODE	BLDGS OWNED	BLDGS OWNED SQFT	BLDGS LEASED	BLDGS LEASED SQFT	TOTAL ACRES	ACRES OWNED	PRV (\$M)	MIL	CIV	OTHER	TOTAL
Tatalina Long Range Radar Site	AF Active	McGrath		99627	6	37,063			4,970	4,968	58.4				
Tin City Long Range Radar Site	AF Active	Wales		99783	5	79,853			723	708	52.5				
Wainwright Short Range Radar Site	AF Active	Fairbanks					7	19,160	1,519		32.7				
OTHER SITE(S) ¹: 41					45	93,950			15,685	15,548	47.1				
Alaska Total:					1,487	18,375,748	308	2,142,433	134,486	131,080	11,237.2	12,261	1,456	0	13,717
Arizona															
Air Force Plant No 44	AF Active	Tucson		85734	70	1,007,724			2,208	2,174	251.1				
Davis-Monthan AFB	AF Active	Tucson	520-228-3900	85707	1,370	5,914,927			10,613	6,035	1,605.4	6,145	1,122	0	7,267
Gila Bend AF Auxiliary Field	AF Active	Gila Bend	928-683-6200	85337	38	139,524			1,886	1,885	92.9				
Luke AF Auxiliary Field No 1	AF Active	Wittman		85361	1	600			1,105	400	83.3				
Luke AFB	AF Active	Litchfield Park	602-856-7411	85309	744	4,494,824			4,359	2,629	1,201.2	6,549	816	0	7,365
Luke Waste Annex	AF Active	Litchfield Park		85309	8	22,018			46	41	14.7				
Sky Harbor IAP	Air Natl Guard	Phoenix	602-302-9000	85034	17	290,382			51		71.2	879	0	0	879
The Barry M Goldwater AF Range	AF Active	Gila Bend		85337	7	10,411			2,671,680	2,671,675	119.5				
Tucson IAP	Air Natl Guard	Tucson	602-295-6210	85706	32	565,506			94	92	138.3	1,630	0	0	1,630
OTHER SITE(S) ¹: 11					60	211,144	1	9,736	1,064	970	71.5	1	2	0	3
Arizona Total:					2,347	12,657,060	1	9,736	2,693,106	2,685,901	3,649.1	15,204	1,940	0	17,144
Arkansas															
Fort Smith Municipal Airport ANG	Air Natl Guard	Fort Smith	501-648-5210	72903	51	362,933			141		80.3	1,005	0	0	1,005
Little Rock AFB	AF Active	Jacksonville	501-987-1110	72099	1,191	5,455,732			6,898	6,102	1,215.3	5,722	429	0	6,151
OTHER SITE(S) ¹: 6					9	54,911	1	100	4,308	3,472	9.1	122	0	0	122
Arkansas Total:					1,251	5,873,576	1	100	11,347	9,574	1,304.7	6,849	429	0	7,278
California															
Beale AFB	AF Active	Marysville	530-634-3000	95903	1,591	4,707,978			22,944	22,944	1,819.0	4,271	421	0	4,692
Channel Islands ANG	Air Natl Guard	Oxnard	805-986-8000	93041	20	342,271			206	206	120.8	1,251	0	0	1,251
Davis Communications Annex	AF Active	Davis		95616	2	27,289			316	316	21.7				
Edwards AFB	AF Active	Rosamond	661-277-1110	93524	2,140	9,544,394			300,723	300,723	4,131.9	3,434	2,738	0	6,172
Fort MacArthur Family Hsg Annex	AF Active	San Pedro		90731	413	1,450,018			156	155	212.3				
Fresno Yosemite Intl	Air Natl Guard	Fresno	559-454-5100	93727	44	352,544			126		123.2	965	0	0	965
Hayward Municipal Airport ANG	Air Natl Guard	Hayward	510-264-5600	94545	16	146,920			27		35.1	295	0	0	295
Lincoln Communications Annex	AF Active	Lincoln		95648	1	16,208			231	231	20.8				
Los Angeles AF Annex No 3	AF Active	Manhattan Beach		90266	2	30,168			13	13	15.7				
Los Angeles AFB	AF Active	El Segundo	310-363-1110	90245	37	1,344,130			102	99	441.3	1,554	1,161	0	2,715
Moffett Fld ANG	Air Natl Guard	Sunnyvale	650-603-9129	94035	9	148,521	30	167,409	142	142	94.5	916	0	0	916
Norwalk Defense Fuel Support Point	AF Reserve	Norwalk		90650	10	7,837			55	48	93.2				
Onizuka AFS	AF Active	Sunnyvale	408-752-4026	94088	21	405,919			23	20	219.7	127	184	0	311
Ozol Defense Fuel Support Point	AF Active	Martinez		94553	4	2,138			76	66	86.3				

¹ US Locations that do not meet criteria of at least ten (10) Acres AND at least \$10M PRV. US Territories and Non-US Locations that do not meet criteria of at least ten (10) Acres OR at least \$10M PRV.

DCN: 11948

City of Sunnyvale Office of the City Manager PO Box 3707 Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707

FAX Cover Sheet

To: Craig Hall
RE: Onizuka Air Force Station

Fax: 703-699-2735
From: Peter Bassett

Phone: (408) 730-7739
Fax: (408) 730-7696

Date: August 12, 2005
Pages (including cover sheet): 20

Hi Craig,

Attached are the two letters the City of Sunnyvale has developed re: Onizuka. I am also attaching the staff report and minutes in which the City Council decided not to challenge the recommendation that Onizuka be closed. Please feel free to call me if you have further questions.

Peter Bassett
Office of the City Manager
(408) 730-7739
pbassett@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us

DCN: 11948

FILE COPY

CITY OF SUNNYVALE

The Heart of Silicon Valley

456 WEST OLIVE AVENUE SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94086 (408) 730-7470

January 14, 2005

Dean J. Chu
Mayor

The Honorable Leon Panetta, Co-Chair

Ron Swegles
Vice Mayor

California Council on Base Support and Retention

Frederik M. Fowler
CouncilmemberOffice of Military and Aerospace Support
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
980 9th Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814-2719Melinda Hamilton
Councilmember**RE: Support for Retention of Onizuka Air Force Station**John N. Howe
Councilmember**SENT BY FAX**

Dear Mr. Panetta:

Otto Lee
Councilmember

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Sunnyvale, I am writing to you in support of retaining Onizuka Air Force Station during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

Julia E. Miller
Councilmember

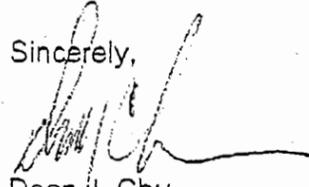
Onizuka's 21st Space Operations Squadron (21st SOPS) and the National Reconnaissance Office's (NRO) Operating Division - 4 (OD-4) are critical to the Department of Defense's operational readiness. The OD-4, although highly classified, is a key element in the country's intelligence community. The 21st SOPS manages specialized network operations systems including satellite communications. They play an integral role in maintaining contact with the country's satellites for purposes of defense, science and commerce.

Located in Silicon Valley among leading businesses in the high-technology, communication, defense and aerospace fields (including Lockheed Martin), Onizuka Air Force Station is uniquely situated to carry out the missions of the OD-4 and 21st SOPS. Moreover, in 1997, Onizuka invested \$6.6 million to upgrade its two 60-foot Satellite Communications Antennas. Such capital investment in Onizuka's facilities would be extremely costly to replicate elsewhere.

DCN: 11948

The City of Sunnyvale is committed to retaining Onizuka Air Force Station in our City. Please let me know how our City can assist you and the California Council on Base Support and Retention in your efforts.

Sincerely,



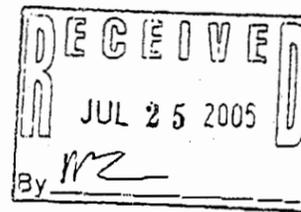
Dean J. Chu
Mayor

cc: Members, Governor's California Council on Base Support and Retention

DCN: 11948

CITY OF SUNNYVALE*The Heart of Silicon Valley*

456 WEST OLIVE AVENUE SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94086 (408) 730-7470



July 25, 2005

Dean J. Chu
MayorRon Swegles
Vice MayorFrederik M. Fowler
CouncilmemberMelinda Hamilton
CouncilmemberJohn N. Howe
CouncilmemberOtto Lee
CouncilmemberJulia E. Miller
Councilmember

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

**RE: BRAC Recommendation to Create New Armed Forces
Reserve Center at Moffett Field - Support**

Dear Mr. Principi:

On behalf of the Sunnyvale City Council, I am writing to applaud the Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendation to create an Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field, California.

Moffett Field has a long tradition as an important and valued part of the Sunnyvale community, and we are pleased that the Department of Defense understands and appreciates Moffett's military value. A consolidated Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field will enhance the military value of the California National Guard and improve homeland defense, training and deployment capability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dean J. Chu".

Dean J. Chu
Mayor

cc: Amy Chan, City Manager
Peter Bassett, IGR Manager

FINAL
July 19, 2005

SUBJECT: City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field

REPORT IN BRIEF

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the 2005 BRAC process and the implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field, and provide Council with options for responding to the BRAC recommendations.

This report:

1. Provides a history of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process and Onizuka Air Force Station;
2. Examines the current BRAC recommendation;
3. Summarizes the City's efforts in monitoring the BRAC process;
4. Reviews public input provided to staff at the July 7th community meeting on this issue;
5. Discusses factors to consider in responding to the BRAC recommendations;
6. Provides options for responding to the BRAC recommendations.

BACKGROUND

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) is a process whereby the federal government's Department of Defense (DoD) reorganizes its military installations to operate more efficiently and effectively. As part of the 2005 BRAC process, the DoD is recommending that Sunnyvale's Onizuka Air Force Station be closed and that it move its operations to Vandenberg Air Force Base. The DoD is also recommending the creation of a new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field which will consolidate a number of reserve facilities to improve homeland defense capabilities.

An independent BRAC commission is currently reviewing the DoD recommendations and is scheduled to report its findings by September 8. The president will then approve or reject the commission's recommendations by September 23.

Issued by the City Manager

**City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and
Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field**

July 19, 2005
Page 2 of 14

History and Status of Onizuka Air Force Station

In 1960, the Air Force purchased land from Lockheed for \$1 to create the Air Force Satellite Test Center. The "Blue Cube" (the main Onizuka building) was constructed in 1968, and in 1971, it became the Sunnyvale Air Force Station. In 1986 the facility was renamed in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Ellison Onizuka who died in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion. Onizuka Air Force Station currently occupies 23 acres of land at the corner of Mathilda Ave. and Highway 237.

Satellite communications is the primary function carried out at Onizuka. The Air Force's 21st Space Operations Squadron (SOPS) is the host unit at Onizuka. The 21st SOPS conducts specialized satellite communications and serves as a backup control node for the Air Force's Satellite Control Network. Onizuka is also home to the National Reconnaissance Office's OD-4. OD-4 conducts intelligence operations and these activities are highly classified. Finally, Onizuka hosts a small detachment from the Los Angeles Air Force Base that provides Onizuka with satellite acquisition and engineering support.

History and status of 129th Airborne Division at Moffett Field

In 1933 Moffett Field was commissioned as Naval Air Station (NAS) Sunnyvale and functioned as the home base for the U.S. Navy's West Coast dirigible (lighter-than-air) program. In 1942 the air station was renamed NAS Moffett Field and continued to serve as the focal point for U.S. Navy blimp activity in the Pacific. In 1947 the lighter-than-air program closed and the base remained active as an air-transport hub until 1962. That year, Moffett Field became home to P-3 squadrons conducting long-range reconnaissance and anti-submarine patrols in the Pacific. The P-3s remained operational at NAS Moffett until 1994, at which time the base was transformed into the Moffett Federal Air Station under the operational control of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the P-3 squadrons were transferred to other operational naval air stations.

Beginning in 1984, Moffett Field became home to the 129th Rescue Wing of the California Air National Guard. The 129th provides air-traffic control and security for the Moffett FAS, in addition to augmenting the local Coast Guard's search-and-rescue capabilities.

EXISTING POLICY

DCN: 11948

**City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and
Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field**

July 19, 2005

Page 3 of 14

Legislative Management Sub-Element, Goal 7.3C: Participate in intergovernmental activities, including national, state and regional groups, in order to represent the City's interests, influence policy and regulations, and enhance awareness.

Legislative Action Position 7.3 Ames (13): Support efforts to retain Onizuka Air Force Base at Moffett Field.

DISCUSSION

History of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)

BRAC is the process the DoD uses to reorganize its installation infrastructure to more efficiently and effectively support its forces, increase operational readiness, and facilitate new ways of doing business. The BRAC process had its origins in the 1960s when the DoD was forced to reduce its base structure (which had increased significantly during World War II and the Korean War). Since 1988 there have been four rounds of BRAC which resulted in the closure of 97 out of 495 major domestic installations. The previous rounds have eliminated approximately 20 percent of DoD's capacity that existed in 1988, and through 2001, produced net savings to the DoD of approximately \$17.7 billion. Recurring savings beyond 2001 are approximately \$7 billion annually.

Since this is the fifth BRAC round, most of the DoD's excess capacity (underused or unused facilities and/or infrastructure) is fragmented and often in the form of underused facilities. This BRAC round is characterized as placing a greater emphasis on reshaping the DoD as opposed to simple cost cutting.

1995 BRAC

In 1995, the DoD recommended that Onizuka Air Force Station be significantly realigned and that the 129th Rescue Wing at Moffett Field be closed. The City of Sunnyvale dedicated significant staff resources and retained lobbyists (at a cost of approximately \$250,000) to research and analyze the DoD's recommendations, and to develop and implement strategies to challenge those recommendations. Among other lobbying efforts, the City assembled a panel of community members and experts to testify at a BRAC regional hearing and to make a presentation during the Commission's site visit to Moffett.

As a result of the 1995 BRAC process, the BRAC Commission agreed with the DoD that Onizuka should be realigned. Consequently, Onizuka's 750th Space Group and Space and Missile Systems Center were inactivated and relocated to

DCN: 11948

City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field

July 19, 2005

Page 4 of 14

Falcon Air Force Base in Colorado. The Commission, however, rejected the DoD's recommendation to close the 129th Rescue Wing which currently remains at Moffett Field.

2005 BRAC

As part of the 2005 BRAC process, the DoD is currently recommending that Onizuka be closed and that it relocate its operations to Vandenberg Air Force Base in Central California. DoD is also recommending the creation of a new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field which will consolidate a number of reserve facilities to improve homeland defense capabilities.

The impact to Sunnyvale of DoD's recommendations is:

- A loss of 278 jobs at Onizuka (107 military and 171 civilian).
Note: Onizuka also has approximately 228 contractors who are not included in this figure because the contractors are not directly employed by Onizuka.
- A gain of 253 jobs (87 military and 166 civilian) with the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field.

BRAC Timeline

An independent BRAC Commission is currently reviewing the DoD recommendations and will publish a report containing its findings by September 8. The President can accept or reject the Commission's recommendations in their entirety by September 23rd. If accepted, the recommendations go to Congress where they have 45 days to reject them (through a joint resolution by both Houses). If rejected by the president, the recommendations are revised by the Commission and sent back to the President by Oct. 20. By Nov. 7, the President must accept the revised recommendations. If he chooses not to accept the recommendations, the BRAC process terminates.

Under the BRAC statute, actions to close a base must be initiated within two years of the date the President transmits the BRAC Commission's report to Congress, and must be completed within six years of that same date.

BRAC Commission

The BRAC Commission is an independent group of nine individuals, nominated by the president, to review the DoD's BRAC recommendations. The BRAC Commission may remove a base from the closure list (by a majority vote) or add a base to the list (by a super-majority vote). The Commission has accepted 85

City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field

July 19, 2005

Page 5 of 14

percent of DoD recommendations in past BRAC rounds. The Commission is currently holding regional hearings around the country to solicit testimony from communities impacted by the DoD recommendations. The California hearing was held on July 14 in Los Angeles. Since the current recommendation to close Onizuka is not considered "significant" in terms of job losses, the Commission will not be conducting a site visit to Onizuka during this BRAC round.

The Commission can only change a DoD recommendation if it finds that the DoD "deviated substantially" from the Force Structure Plan or the BRAC selection criteria. The Force Structure Plan is based on an assessment by the Secretary of Defense about the probable threats to the national security during the 20-year period beginning with fiscal year 2005, and the major military force units needed to meet these threats. The BRAC selection criteria (the criteria used by the DoD to create the BRAC list) is focused primarily on military value. According to the DoD, military value includes: current and future mission capabilities, availability and condition of land and facilities, the ability to accommodate future force requirements, and the cost of operations.

In the event that the BRAC Commission accepts the DoD recommendation to close Onizuka, and that recommendation is accepted by the president, the federal property disposal process will ensue. Attachment A, *Base Re-use and the Federal Property Disposal Process*, summarizes that process. As part of that process, as indicated in the attachment, a Local Redevelopment Authority will need to be created. A more detailed report on the federal disposal process will be provided to Council if the base closure is finalized. A representative from the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment is planning to attend the July 19 Council meeting in case Council has questions about the re-use process.

Monitoring the BRAC Process

The City has taken an active role in advocating for the preservation of the military installations at Moffett Field, in an effort to ensure that Moffett remain a federally secure airfield. Historically the community has overwhelmingly opposed any expansion of private aviation at Moffett airfield. Maintaining the airfield as a federally secure airfield deters expanded commercial use, and provides additional benefits to both the local community and region, including military preparedness in the event of an emergency.

After the 129th Rescue Wing proposed that it move its operations from Moffett Field to Castle Air Force Base in 2002, City staff and Council lobbied extensively against this relocation. The City worked in conjunction with the

City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field

July 19, 2005
Page 6 of 14

City of Mountain View and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's office, and in January 2005, the 129th Rescue Wing dropped its proposal to relocate.

In late 2004 and early 2005, staff closely monitored the BRAC process largely because of the potential impact to the 129th Rescue Wing. In May 2005, when the BRAC list was published, the City was pleased to see that the 129th Rescue Wing was not recommended to be closed or realigned. City staff has been researching and analyzing the implications of the BRAC recommendations, evaluating best responses for a successful outcome for the City, and gauging the impact to the community if Onizuka were to close. Council held a Study Session on June 7th on this issue, and staff conducted a public hearing on July 7th to solicit community feedback about the possible Onizuka closure. For more information on the City's efforts to monitor the BRAC process, see Attachment B, "Monitoring the BRAC Process."

Public Input on the Possible Closure of Onizuka

As mentioned above, a public hearing was held on July 7th in the City Council Chambers to gather public opinion on the BRAC recommendation to close Onizuka. The public was notified of this meeting in a variety of ways including: Quarterly Report article, posting on the City's website homepage, news release, KSUN-15, the online community calendar, and an email notice to neighborhood associations and other interested residents.

Nineteen community members attended the public hearing. Below is a sampling of some of the comments made at the hearing:

- The City should focus its resources on productive base reuse. We should not be spending money to keep Onizuka open.
- Why spend the money to move Onizuka to Vandenburg Air Force Base, when we have the infrastructure and technology here?
- There is a greater pool of talented employees here than in the Vandenburg area.
- The City should look at other federal uses for the property including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the Department of Homeland Security.
- Onizuka is worthless to the City. We should be focusing on base reuse.
- Onizuka is valuable to the community and it should be retained.
- It is doubtful there is sufficient time between now and September 8 to obtain the data necessary to overturn the DoD decision.
- We should be spending money trying to save Moffett Field - not Onizuka.
- If Onizuka were to close, we should continue to honor Lieutenant Colonel Ellison Onizuka in some way.

(X)

**City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and
Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field**

July 19, 2005
Page 7 of 14

Out of the 19 community members in attendance at the meeting, a few community members were adamantly opposed to the Onizuka closure. The majority of community members' comments at the meeting indicated that the City should not invest resources to "saving" Onizuka, and that it would be more worthwhile to invest resources in exploring base reuse options.

Responding to the BRAC Recommendations

Factors to Consider

There are a number of factors Council should consider in determining how to respond to the DoD recommendation to close Onizuka (not in priority order):

1. *Cost.* Challenging the DoD's analysis based on the required criteria will be expensive. Military value and Force Structure Plan analysis will require outside military expertise, as will an analysis of the DoD's COBRA (Cost of Base Realignment Actions). COBRA is a complex formula used by DoD to calculate and analyze the costs, savings, and return on investment, of proposed realignment and closure actions. Experts who are well-versed in COBRA will need to be retained by the City in order to make any meaningful arguments to prevent Onizuka from closing. During the 1995 BRAC process, the preliminary contract with the City's BRAC consultant was \$150,000 and costs increased over time to \$250,000. There is no funding at present budgeted for outside BRAC expertise and lobbyists.
2. *Economic impact to Sunnyvale.* Loss of Onizuka will not have a significant economic impact on Sunnyvale, and may help in advocating in the future for an expanded military presence at Moffett Field. While 107 military jobs will be lost at Onizuka, there will be an increase of 87 military jobs at Moffett Field. Additionally, there is likelihood that many of the individuals holding the civilian and contractor jobs have transferable skills that can be absorbed into Sunnyvale's (or Silicon Valley's) high tech industry. Finally, should Onizuka close, this closure would build a stronger case for future advocacy for expanding state-of-the-art military and security forces in Sunnyvale.
3. *City's current financial situation.* Unlike the 1995 BRAC economic environment, the current financial situation for the City is very tight. In 1995 the potential negative impact of the BRAC recommendations to Sunnyvale was quite serious. In 2005, the potential impact of the closure of Onizuka does not appear to be significant. The City's current financial situation makes the conservative stewardship of City resources especially important.

City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field

July 19, 2005

Page 8 of 14

4. *Time constraints.* Staff has been working to retain the 129th Rescue Wing at Moffett Field for several years, and has been closely monitoring the BRAC process to ensure that BRAC does not undermine Moffett Field or its federally secure airfield. At this point, time constraints further reduce the likelihood of overturning the DoD recommendation to close Onizuka.

Once the BRAC data is collected and compiled, significant research will need to be done to show without doubt that the DoD decision to close Onizuka substantially deviates from the BRAC criteria or fails to support the Force Structure Plan. Finally, a report will need to be developed and presented to BRAC Commission staff in Virginia. Information that the City provides to the Commission staff about Onizuka will be incorporated into the "public record." However, there is no guarantee that Commission staff will incorporate the City's information into the Commission's final report.

The BRAC Commission's final deliberations will take place August 23 - 24. The last date that the Commission will take public input is on or around August 12. This gives the City exactly three and a half weeks to hire a consultant, set up meetings in Virginia, review the data relied upon by the DoD to make its recommendation, collect and compile information from Onizuka, develop a report, and present the report to the BRAC Commission staff. Clearly, there is not a lot of time to make a meaningful advocacy effort on behalf of Onizuka.

5. *Longstanding part of Sunnyvale community.* Onizuka Air Force Station has held a long and respected place in the Sunnyvale community, and is important recognition for Lieutenant Colonel Ellison Onizuka. The Air Force Station's work over the past twenty years in satellite technology was important to the nation's military/communications progress. This history should continue to be honored.

6. *Impact on Moffett Field.* It is important to note that the BRAC Commission still has an opportunity to add or remove military installations from the list. While it is distressing that Onizuka is on the BRAC list, our community is fortunate that Moffett Field will recognize a gain in both personnel and military assignments. Some community members have expressed a concern that if the City were to lobby against the closure of Onizuka, this could potentially jeopardize the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett, or even the 129th Rescue Wing.

7. *Community feedback.* The community has not actively lobbied the City to challenge the DoD recommendation. In fact, the City only received a few messages from residents about the importance of Onizuka to the community. In addition, of the nineteen community members attending the July 7 public

DCN: 11948

**City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and
Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field**

July 19, 2005

Page 9 of 14

hearing, most believed that the City should focus its efforts on base reuse, as opposed to expensive advocacy. For almost a decade Onizuka has been following a realignment plan that has already relocated the bulk of its operations. Sunnyvale's 1995 BRAC advocacy efforts focused on stopping that realignment, and were unsuccessful. It is unlikely that new information will be uncovered or that new advocacy efforts will overturn a decision and direction that have been set for over ten years.

8. *Military value.* Some community members have voiced a concern about the security of the Bay Area, and the degree to which Onizuka's military value contributes to that security. Others have indicated that Onizuka's security value is limited. Since much of Onizuka's current operations are secretive and highly classified, staff is unable to make a verifiable determination on this point. Due to the classified nature of Onizuka's operations, even with the help of outside experts, it will be difficult to develop substantive arguments for the BRAC Commission about the military value of the installation.

9. *Odds of success are low.* Advocacy at this point is unlikely to change the BRAC list. Since 85% of the BRAC recommendations are final, there is a strong likelihood that Onizuka will be closed.

10. *Early planning of base reuse is important.* Historically, cities that have begun planning early for base reuse have been most successful.

Options for Responding to the BRAC Recommendation

As listed below, the City Council has several options for responding to the BRAC recommendation. In all cases staff would continue to closely monitor the BRAC process to ensure that no other local military installation (particularly the 129th Rescue Wing) is being considered for realignment or closure.

Option #1: Full Advocacy

A. Full advocacy to retain Onizuka Air Force Station

The City Council could decide to challenge the DoD recommendation to close Onizuka. Hyjek & Fix Inc., the lobbyists who worked with the City during the 1995 BRAC, would be available to assist the City with its advocacy efforts. The cost for two months of work would be approximately \$50,000. Hyjek and Fix Inc. would collect and analyze the BRAC data, develop arguments to challenge

DCN: 11948

City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field

July 19, 2005

Page 10 of 14

the DoD recommendation, draft a report outlining these arguments, and meet with BRAC Commission staff.

B. Full advocacy to support the creation of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett

Again, the City could contract with Hyjek & Fix Inc. to lobby in support of the creation of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field. The cost for two months of work would be approximately \$50,000.

Option # 2: Limited Advocacy

A. Limited advocacy to retain Onizuka

The City Council could decide to engage in limited advocacy for the retention of Onizuka. Under this option, outside expertise would be retained if so directed by Council, expending any amount less than \$50,000.

Council could also choose ^{to} draft a letter(s) to the BRAC Commission explaining why Onizuka Air Force Station should not be closed. The letter(s) would highlight the economic impacts of the base closure and the importance of Onizuka to the Sunnyvale community.

B. Limited advocacy to support the creation of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett

The City Council could decide to engage in limited advocacy in support of the creation of the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field. Under this option, outside expertise would be retained if so directed by Council, in any amount less than \$50,000, for the creation of the New Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Council could also choose to draft a letter from the Mayor (and other elected officials as are willing) applauding the recommendation to create the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field.

Option #3: No Advocacy

Under this option, staff would not challenge the BRAC recommendation to close Onizuka. Staff would continue to closely monitor the BRAC process to ensure that no other local military installation (particularly the 129th Rescue Wing) is being considered for realignment or closure.

DCN: 11948

**City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and
Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field**

July 19, 2005
Page 11 of 14

Option #4: Begin Exploring Base Re-Use

Begin exploring options for base re-use processes and resources to maximize the benefit to our community should Onizuka be closed.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact of each option is outlined below. Staff hours estimates are "ballpark" estimates only, and will be absorbed in the FY2005/06 operating budget. Actual staff hours may vary according to work required.

Option	Option Description	Cost	Impact to Budget
Option 1A	Full advocacy to retain Onizuka Air Force Station	Approximately \$50,000 for the lobbyist plus staff time of 40 hours	A budget modification for FY05/06 would be required.
Option 1B	Full advocacy to support the creation of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett	Approximately \$50,000 for the lobbyist plus staff time of 30 hours	A budget modification for FY05/06 would be required
Option 2A	Limited advocacy to retain Onizuka.	Amount to be identified by Council, plus staff time of 30 hours	A budget modification for FY05/06 would be required if expenditures directed
Option 2B	Limited advocacy to support the creation of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett	Amount to be identified by Council, plus staff time of 30 hours	A budget modification for FY05/06 would be required if expenditures directed
Option 3	No advocacy. Closely monitor BRAC process.	10 hours of staff time	
Option 4	Explore options for base reuse	20 hours (July-August). Additional hours beginning in September (TBD).	

CONCLUSION

This report provides Council with an overview of the 2005 BRAC process and with options for responding to the BRAC recommendation to close Onizuka Air Force Station.

PUBLIC CONTACT

**City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and
Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field**

July 19, 2005
Page 12 of 14

Public contact was made through posting of the Council agenda on the City's official bulletin board, posting of the agenda and report on the City's web page, and the availability of the report in the Library and the City Clerk's Office.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council directs implementation of *Option #2B: Limited advocacy to support the creation of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett*, with no designated funding for external assistance or expertise. Advocacy limited to drafting a letter from the Mayor (and other elected officials as are willing) applauding the BRAC recommendation to create the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field.
2. Council directs implementation of *Option #4: Begin exploring base re-use*.
3. Council ~~designates itself~~ ^{just to seek designation} as the Local Redevelopment Authority for base reuse purposes to be recognized by the Department of Defense once a final determination is made regarding Onizuka.
4. Council directs implementation of *Option #2A: Limited advocacy to retain Onizuka*.
5. Council directs implementation of *Option #1 (A or B): Full Advocacy*.
6. Council directs implementation of *Option #3: No Advocacy*.
7. Other action as directed by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Alternatives 1, 2, and 3:

1. Council directs implementation of *Option #2B: Limited advocacy to support the creation of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett*, with no designated funding for external assistance or expertise. Advocacy will be limited to drafting a letter from the Mayor (and other elected officials as are willing) applauding the BRAC recommendation to create the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field.
2. Council directs implementation of *Option #4: Begin exploring base re-use*.

DCN: 11948

City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field

July 19, 2005

Page 13 of 14

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3. Council ~~designates~~ itself as the Local Redevelopment Authority for base reuse purposes to be recognized by the Department of Defense once a final determination is made regarding Onizuka.

Staff is recommending that Council focus its efforts on protecting Moffett Field through limited advocacy in support of the creation of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett. Staff is not recommending that any funding be designated for external expertise or assistance. Advocacy would be limited to drafting a letter from the Mayor (and other elected officials as are willing) applauding the BRAC recommendation to create the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's office has also agreed to draft a letter to this effect.

Onizuka has a long tradition as an important and valued part of the Sunnyvale community. However, it is widely thought that the BRAC Commission will not vary from the DoD's recommendations unless there is a very compelling case for doing so. Therefore, staff is not recommending full advocacy challenging Onizuka's closure due to the high cost and low probability of achieving a successful outcome. Hyjek & Fix have indicated that they would not recommend advocacy given that, in their opinion, the BRAC recommendation to close Onizuka is likely to be upheld. Finally, as noted earlier, even limited advocacy to retain the Onizuka Air Force Station could potentially have a negative impact on the BRAC recommendation to create a new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field.

Staff does not recommend full advocacy in support of the creation of the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett because there has been no indication that the BRAC Commission is considering reversing the recommendation to bring the Armed Forces Reserve Center to Moffett.

Since it is unlikely that the City could develop an effective advocacy campaign with full advocacy, it is even less likely that more limited funding would result in a positive outcome. Therefore, while staff is recommending limited advocacy, staff is not recommending that any funds be designated for external expertise or assistance.

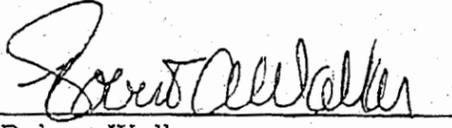
Staff is also recommending that the City Council designate itself as the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) for base reuse purposes. This could expedite the DoD's recognition of the Council as the official LRA once a final determination is made regarding Onizuka.

DCN: 11948

City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field

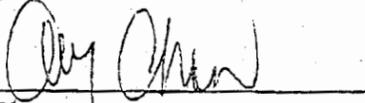
July 19, 2005
Page 14 of 14

Reviewed by:



Robert Walker
Assistant City Manager
Prepared by Peter Bassett, Management Analyst

Approved by:



Amy Chan
City Manager

Attachments

- A. Base Reuse and the Federal Property Disposal Process
- B. Monitoring the BRAC Process

DCN: 11948

(MINUTES)

Staff Recommendation: Adoption of a policy identifying three targeted geographic areas of Downtown, El Camino Real and Tasman/Fair Oaks for TDM emphasis. The policy includes provisions for mandatory site design techniques in targeted areas and guidelines for other high density areas.

Kelly Diekmann, Associate Planner, presented the staff report and with the assistance of Trudy Ryan, Planning Officer, responded to questions from Council regarding: clarification of site design changes, cost benefits, identifying high activity bus stops in the future, Tasman/Fair Oaks TDM requirements, new development TDM requirements, and commercial TDM areas.

Mayor Chu opened the public hearing at 9:27 p.m. and there being no public testimony, closed the public hearing at 9:28 p.m.

Councilmember Howe moved and Councilmember Miller seconded to approve staff recommendation to adopt a policy identifying three targeted geographic areas of Downtown, El Camino Real and Tasman/Fair Oaks for TDM emphasis. The policy includes provisions for mandatory site design techniques in targeted areas and guidelines for other high density areas.

Councilmember Hamilton offered a friendly amendment to increase the unit threshold to 8-10 units and keep design elements (i) and (ii). After discussion, Councilmember Hamilton withdrew her friendly amendment.

After discussion between council and staff, Councilmember Howe and Councilmember Miller agreed to increase the threshold to 25 units or on-site manager (whichever is less) for any new development and staff to come back to Council in three years to determine effectiveness of this approach.

Mayor Chu offered a friendly amendment to set the threshold at 20 instead of 25. The friendly amendment was accepted.

The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Mayor Chu requested a study issue: explore TDM along Mathilda corridor between 101 and downtown connecting TDM areas in Moffett Park to TDM areas along El Camino Real and downtown and to explore other TMD options for industry in the City.

4.

MOTION
RTC 05-217

City's Response to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Recommendations and Implications for Onizuka Air Force Station and Moffett Field.

Staff Recommendation: Alternative Nos. 1, 2 and 3: 1) Directs implementation of Option 2B: Limited advocacy to support the creation of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett, with no designated funding for external assistance or expertise. Advocacy limited to drafting a letter from the Mayor (and other elected officials as are willing) applauding the BRAC recommendation to create the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field; 2) Council directs implementation of Option #4: Begin exploring base re-use; and 3) Council seeks designation as the Local redevelopment Authority for base reuse purposes to be recognized by the Department of Defense once a final determination is made regarding Onizuka.

Peter Basset, Management Analyst in the Office of the City Manager, presented the staff report and responded to questions from Council regarding: clarification, additional base closures, economic impact, and military presence.

Mayor Chu opened the public hearing at 9:50 p.m.

Arthur Schwartz, a member of the public, referred Council to his recommendations that were

DCN: 11948

covered in his letter to Council last week and in response to a question from Councilmember Fowler regarding ideas for re-use possibilities, stated he would prefer to wait and see further information as it becomes available on the internet.

Councilmember Lee moved and Vice Mayor Swegles seconded a motion to approve staff recommendation to accept Alternative Nos. 1, 2 and 3: 1) Direct implementation of Option 2B: Limited advocacy to support the creation of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett, with no designated funding for external assistance or expertise. Advocacy limited to drafting a letter from the Mayor (and other elected officials as are willing) applauding the BRAC recommendation to create the new Armed Forces Reserve Center at Moffett Field; 2) Council direct implementation of Option #4: Begin exploring base re-use; and 3) Council seek designation as the Local redevelopment Authority for base reuse purposes to be recognized by the Department of Defense once a final determination is made regarding Onizuka.

Councilmember Lee stated he recognizes futility and expense in trying to fight closure, but wants to be sure Moffett is maintained as a secure federal military air field and not expanded to include commercial purposes.

Vice Mayor Swegles agreed with Councilmember Lee and commented on Congresswoman Boxer's address to the BRAC committee.

Councilmember Fowler supports the motion and stated that in March he attended a briefing by BRAC officials in Washington DC which answered many of the questions he had about their actions and he now encourages the community to focus instead on some other public use for that land should it fall under the City's control

Councilmember Miller expressed her support for the motion and stated the BRAC process is based on mission and the Onizuka mission is complete; that she attended the briefings in Washington DC along with the City Manager and the City will have an input as the land use authority, but not until military decides it is totally releasable.

Councilmember Lee offered a friendly amendment to his own motion by adding consideration of a naming opportunity to honor Lt. Colonel Ellison Onizuka. The friendly amendment was accepted.

The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

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5. MOTION Status Report on Implementation of Multicultural Outreach Task Force
RTC 05-220 Recommendations.

Staff Recommendation: Accept status report as presented.

Coryn Campbell, Manager of the Neighborhood Community and Resource Division in the Office of the City Manager, presented the staff report and received comments from Council.

Mayor Chu opened the public hearing at 10:05 p.m. and there being no public testimony, closed the public hearing at 10:06 p.m.

Councilmember Hamilton moved and Councilmember Lee seconded to approve staff recommendation to accept status report as presented.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0

6. MOTION City of Sunnyvale and Sunnyvale School District School Facilities Planning
RTC 05-219 Study

Staff Recommendation: Accept the Study as prepared.

Trudy Ryan, Planning Officer, introduced Ben Picard, Deputy Superintendent of Sunnyvale School District, presented the staff report and responded to questions from Council regarding the area