

AUG 09 2005

**RIDGECREST REGIONAL HOSPITAL
FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET**



DATE: August 9, 2005

TO: BRAC Commission FAX: (703) 699-2735

ORGANIZATION: _____

FROM: DAVID MECHTENBERG

Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
1081 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Telephone: (760) 446-3551 Administration Office Fax: (760) 446-2254
Alternate Fax Number: _____ Dept: _____

RE: _____

- For Reply For Review As Requested
- Urgent Informational

Number of pages sent (including this copy) _____

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August 9, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chair
Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

I wish to express my support for the BRAC recommendations made by the Secretary of Defense to create a Naval Integrated Weapons and Armaments RDAT&E Center at China Lake and to realign the Sensors, Electronic Warfare and Electronics RDAT&E from Point Mugu to China Lake. These forward looking recommendations fully support the Secretary's goals to position the country's base infrastructure to meet our armed forces transformation needs for the 21st century.

RRH has just begun Phase I of an \$11.5 million construction project that will provide needed space for ambulatory surgical services and medical office space for new physicians. Phase II construction of a \$33 million project will begin in 2007 with the addition of new medical-surgical beds, a new Intensive Care Unit and Surgical Suite. These construction projects will provide additional space and service in anticipation of growth for the city of Ridgecrest.

RRH supports our Base and is here to provide the necessary medical care for China Lake and Ridgecrest. We urge your approval of the Secretary's recommendations regarding China Lake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Mechtenberg".

David A. Mechtenberg
Chief Executive Officer

DM/hm