



City Of Camarillo

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July 1, 2005



Mr. Anthony Principi, Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

07 05 2005

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

The City of Camarillo is hopeful that you will agree with us and reject the Department of Defense's recommendations to move weapons, range, and electronic warfare functions from Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) to China Lake for the following reasons:

First, the sea range and its supporting functions at Pt. Mugu and Port Hueneme are unparalleled, and cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the nation. Why would you want to relocate the range and aerial target functions and supporting aircraft to China Lake, which is 150 miles away from the primary operating range? This relocation would increase response time to range tasking, increase operating costs, while at the same time reduce on-range time and safety.

Additionally, most of the people who have worked on these projects for many years, and who are detailed to move, simply *will not* move to the China Lake/Ridgecrest area. As a result, it would take years to reconstitute that expertise, and, in the meantime, the projects they are working on will suffer greatly. Many of these people live in Camarillo. They are well respected, and an integral part of our community. They do not want to leave this area to live in the desert.

Finally, this loss of intellectual capital and interruption of work will be detrimental to our nation's global war on terrorism. Moving essential technology from its proximity to the sea range will be detrimental, as well.

Again, I am hopeful that you will agree with us and reject the DOD's recommendations to move weapons, range and electronic warfare functions from NBVC to China Lake.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kildee
Mayor