



**DICK MURPHY**  
MAYOR



June 29, 2005

07052005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing to convey the City of San Diego's complete and unqualified support for the Secretary of Defense's decision to maintain Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego as an active and vital recruit training base.

San Diego is a Navy and Marine Corps town, and is home to fourteen major Navy and Marine Corps bases and activities that comprise the largest Navy-Marine Corps Complex in the world. San Diego has a long and distinguished record of supporting the Navy and the Marine Corps and is justifiably proud of its historic association with the Naval Services.

During the course of the last three years, the City of San Diego assessed the Navy and Marine Corps bases and activities here in light of the military value standards set forth in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990. We also engaged in detailed discussions with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Department of the Navy about the military value of the Navy and Marine Corps bases and activities in San Diego. During these discussions, the Marine Corps expressed its need for MCRD San Diego and emphasized its high military value, which we also recognized in our assessment.

There are seven reasons why the Commission should accept the Secretary of Defense's recommendation to maintain MCRD San Diego as an active base.

First, the Marine Corps must maintain two Recruit Depots at San Diego, California, and Parris Island, South Carolina, because neither has sufficient property and facilities to absorb the other, and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton lacks sufficient available property to accommodate the construction of a new Recruit Depot on its already-constrained and very busy operational base.

Second, the Marine Corps has clearly stated that it does not want to mix the basic training of recruits with the operational training of Marine Corps units at Camp Pendleton.

Third, even if there were sufficient property at either Parris Island or Camp Pendleton to build new basic training facilities, the cost would be prohibitive. The Marine Corps has estimated this cost at \$650 Million.

Fourth, in order to effectively recruit Marines from the western part of the United States and the Pacific region, it is essential that the Marine Corps maintain a basic training activity on the West Coast of the United States.

Fifth, strategically, it is essential that the Marine Corps maintain two basic training facilities in the event of a natural disaster or a medical condition that disables one of the Recruit Depots and to provide surge capacity in the event of increased national security requirements.

Sixth, MCRD San Diego also hosts the Headquarters of the Marine Corps' Western Recruiting Region. This region covers the western two-thirds of the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Japan and Korea, which are important sources of recruits for the Marine Corps.

Seventh, in addition to the Recruit Training Regiment, MCRD San Diego hosts two other important training activities; the Marine Corps' Recruiters School and Drill Instructors School.

In summary, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego has very high military value, and the cost of replicating it elsewhere would be prohibitively high. Accordingly, for all the reasons cited in this letter, the City of San Diego urges the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission to accept the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense and the decision of the United States Marine Corps to maintain Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego as an active and vital base.

Sincerely,



Dick Murphy  
Mayor  
City of San Diego

DM:ap/cb