

ELTON GALLEGLY
24TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
www.house.gov/gallegly/

2427 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0523
(202) 225-5811

2829 TOWNSGATE ROAD, SUITE 315
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91361
(800) 423-0023
(805) 497-2224

485 ALISAL ROAD, SUITE G-1A
SOLVANG, CA 93463
(800) 423-0023
(805) 686-2525

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0524

July 1, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners:

As several members of your commission and staff prepare for a site visit to Naval Base Ventura County as well as convening the regional hearing in Los Angeles on July 14, I would like to share a few concerns I have over the original Department of Defense recommendations for Naval Base Ventura County.

Specifically I am concerned with the Technical Joint Cross Service Group (TJCSG) recommendation to: *"Realign Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, CA by relocating all Weapons and Armaments Research, Development & Acquisition, and Test & Evaluation to Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, CA and Realign Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme, CA, by relocating all Weapons and Armaments Research, Development & Acquisition, and Test & Evaluation, except weapon system integration, to Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, CA."*

While I understand the concept of creating a Naval Weapons and Armaments RDAT&E Center, I am troubled that the TJCSG did not take Question #47 into consideration that would have allowed for personnel, equipment and facilities that were within the "Weapons and Armaments" category, but were an inextricable part of the remaining core mission, to be retained. In an attempt to understand the rationale of this decision, I sent an inquiry to Alan Shaffer, Executive Director of the TJCSG and I was even more troubled by his response which read in part, *"Naval Base Ventura County information was reviewed but not included in the final analyses due to expert military judgment."*

If the intended BRAC selection criterion is military value, the decision to ignore the issue of inextricable work in Naval Base Ventura County's case, will have a tremendous impact on operational readiness as well as increase the cost of doing business to the taxpayer. This point is illustrated in two areas, targets and range operations. First, since the airfield at NAS Point Mugu will stay open, why relocate aerial targets and aircraft to China Lake which is 150 miles away from their primary Sea Range operating area? This will surely increase response times to the range and ultimately increase their operating costs. Additionally, operational inefficiencies and operating costs will surely increase for VX-30. This Wing operates P-3, C-130 and F/A 18 Aircraft to provide surveillance, clearance, telemetry and other services to the sea-test range. Recurring costs of flying these aircraft from China Lake to Point Mugu are estimated to be over \$6.9 million per year as well as the wear and tear the additional flight hours will put on these aging airframes.

Second, Point Mugu just upgraded their Range Operations facilities with state of the art equipment at a cost of over \$20 million just a few years ago. Why duplicate this infrastructure at

- COMMITTEES:
- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- SUBCOMMITTEES:
- CHAIRMAN, INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS
- EUROPE
- JUDICIARY
- SUBCOMMITTEES:
- IMMIGRATION, BORDER SECURITY, AND CLAIMS
- COURTS, THE INTERNET, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
- RESOURCES
- SUBCOMMITTEE:
- NATIONAL PARKS, RECREATION, AND PUBLIC LANDS
- HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
- SUBCOMMITTEES:
- TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE
- INTELLIGENCE POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY
- TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY



RECEIVED

07052005

Mr. Anthony Principi, Chairman
July 1, 2005
Page two

another location, and how safe and efficient will operating a 36,000 square mile sea test range be from a remote location?

The second DoD recommendation I have a concern with is the TJCSG recommendation to:
"Realign Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division, Point Mugu, CA. Relocate the Sensors, Electronic Warfare (EW) and Electronics Research, Development, Acquisition, Test & Evaluation (RDAT&E) functions to Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division, China Lake, CA."

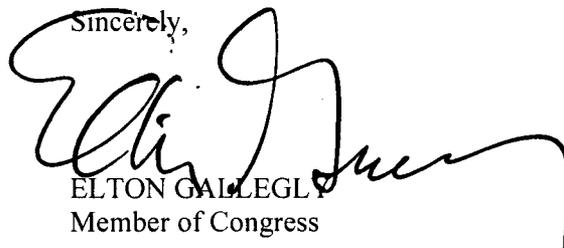
This recommendation simply does not make sense. Point Mugu is the existing recognized Center of Excellence for Electronic Warfare and is currently doing work not only for the Navy but the Air Force as well. The Electronic Warfare community at Point Mugu directly supports the war-fighter in Afghanistan and Iraq on an around the clock basis. Additionally, the Electronic Warfare community is very specialized and while they do work with their aircraft software development counterparts in China Lake, they possess very different skills and expertise.

Since the BRAC list was released over a month ago, numerous individuals who work in this area have contacted my office. Many indicated they would not re-locate to China Lake. Unfortunately, their intellectual capital would be lost and the program would suffer for many years if not decades. Furthermore, the costs and time of reconstituting the laboratories at China Lake would take a tremendous toll on our operational readiness.

Point Mugu is the only un-encroached oceanfront Navy airfield on the West Coast and is contiguous to the largest instrumented Sea Test Range in the world. It is home to the West Coast operational E-2 Wing, Channel Islands Air National Guard and is the optimum location for testing and basing future military weapons systems and unmanned aerial vehicles such as in the Coast Guard's Deep Water Program. With this invaluable DoD asset in place, it does not make operational or economical sense to move programs like targets, range operations and electronic warfare hundreds of miles from the area they primarily serve.

Finally, the Commander of Naval Aviation, Admiral Massenburg has contacted my office in support of keeping these critical activities at Point Mugu. As your Commission reviews the final recommendations submitted by DoD, please reconsider the movement of targets, range operations and electronic warfare out of Point Mugu. It is currently located at a facility that provides the greatest current and future mission capabilities to our nation's operational readiness.

Sincerely,



ELTON GALLEGLY
Member of Congress