



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

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JUN 8 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. Principi:

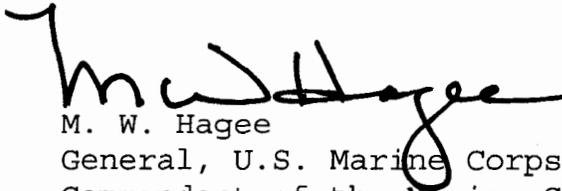
On Tuesday, May 17, 2005, I testified before your Commission in a Public Hearing entitled "Presentations of Recommendations and Methodology Navy." Also testifying with me at the Hearing were Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon England; Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Vern Clark; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Infrastructure Strategy and Analysis, Ms. Anne Rathmell Davis. During the course of my testimony, I provided comments on Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. I would like to amplify my testimony on this issue.

In compliance with the requirements of the BRAC law that the military services examine all U.S. installations equally for realignment/closure opportunities, the Marine Corps objectively assessed each of its installations to determine its overall capability to support the warfighter by first determining its mission carrying capacity and military value. This should not be construed that I was endorsing the closure of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

In the case of Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, we found the installation to be effective, efficient, and a force enabler. We determined, after exhaustive review in accordance with established criteria, that retention of the San Diego Recruit Depot provides significant training value, enables the western United States' recruiting mission, avoids single-point-of-failure pitfalls, allows for valuable surge capacity, properly maintains segregation of recruit training from the operating forces, makes the best use of available land assets, and also presents the best business value. I determined as a matter of military judgment that Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego should be retained. The Secretary of the Navy concurred in my finding and, ultimately, the installation was not recommended for closure by the Secretary of Defense. I continue to support this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this amplifying information. I stand ready to provide any additional information you may need on this or any other Marine Corps issue associated with the BRAC process.

Sincerely,



M. W. Hagee  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps