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## 2005 BRAC Commission Schedule

Base Realignment and Closure Commission

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
8 JULY 2005**

Contact: Robert McCreary  
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### Media Advisory for 2005 BRAC Regional Hearing in Los Angeles, California

**HEARING DATE: Thursday, July 14 at 1:00PM**

**TIME: Doors Open to Public at 12:30PM**

**Hearing Coverage- Westchester High School Auditorium  
1:00PM / PRE-SET 11:30AM No later than 12:30PM**

**Media Availability – Designated press room across from auditorium**

As each State completes their presentation they will hold a media avail. The BRAC Commission's media avail will begin promptly 15 minutes after the end of the hearing.

**LOCATION:**

Westchester High School  
7400 West Manchester  
Los Angeles, California 90045

**PARTICIPATING STATES:**

California, Guam

**BRAC COMMISSIONERS: Chairman Anthony J. Principi, Admiral Harold Gehman ( USN, Ret. ), General Sue Ellen Turner ( USAF, Ret. ), Honorable James H. Bilbray, Honorable Philip Coyle**

**Logistical information for media**

- Satellite truck parking available in High School Parking Lot
- 300 ft. Cable run to press risers
- 65 ft. Max camera throw
- TV quality sound and lighting
- Internet will be available

**Credentialing and Media Inquiries: Please register online at [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov) under Media. Contact Robert McCreary for inquiries: 703-901-7835**

**For more information, schedules and future updates.**

**Please visit our website, [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov).**

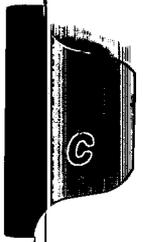
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**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to realign Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Barstow**
  - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest the MCLB Barstow for realignment is military value.
  - The Commission recognizes Barstow's commitment to the current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The depot's role in servicing and maintaining the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, HUMVEE, and various weapons systems has been integral to the nation's success in those theaters.
  
- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to realign the MCLB Barstow could have and is taking this into consideration.**
  - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
  - The Commission will evaluate the economic and social impact that the depot's realignment would have on the surrounding community, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
  - The Commission is aware of the economic impact that a loss of roughly 419 jobs can have on a local community.
  
- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
  - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
  - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov).

*Facts compiled from included press clippings.*



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
Suggested Q's & A's for Visit to Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow**

**Q1. In November, Governor Schwarzenegger formed the California Council on Base Support and Retention. The co-chairman of the Council is Washington insider Leon Panetta—former member of Congress and White House chief of staff. Will Mr. Panetta influence the Commission's analysis of the DoD BRAC recommendations?**

**A1.** The Congress established the BRAC Commission as an entirely non-partisan and non-political entity to independently evaluate whether DoD made its recommendations in accordance with the law. The Commission will serve to provide accountability to the public and ensure that all suggestions have been based upon the criteria set forth by statute. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis, in a completely open and transparent manner, which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of MCLB Barstow, but will also consider the economic, environmental and other effects that the realignment of the installation would have on the surrounding community.

**Q2. Under the BRAC recommendations, realignment of the MCLB Barstow will result in a loss of roughly 419 jobs. This number accounts for roughly 9 percent of the city's jobs and 11 percent of its overall economy. Will the Commission consider the economic impact on the local communities?**

**A2.** The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of MCLB Barstow. Military value is determined through three primary criteria—jointness, ease of mobility, and role in the changing global threat structure. The Commission will also evaluate the economic impact of the Pentagon's proposal. In the case of MCLB Barstow the Commission is fully aware that the economic impact of realignment will be strong and will affect a sizeable portion of the community.

**Q3. Some of Marine Corps Logistic Base Barstow's commodity depot-level functions will be relocated to MCLB Albany, GA. Will the Commission review MCLB Albany's ability to support the suggested requirement?**

**A3.** In addition to reviewing MCLB Barstow according to standards set forth in statute, the Commission will also analyze installations slated to receive new missions, personnel, and resources. In doing so, the Commission will evaluate MCLB Albany based upon its current infrastructure and will determine whether the installation is capable of assuming an additional role.

**Q4. The MCLB Barstow provides support and maintenance for some of the nation's most critical weapons systems and vehicles including the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and Multiple Launch Rocket System—both of which have been integral to our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Will the Commission consider the broader ramifications on the recommendation for realignment on the overall war efforts in those locations?**

**A4.** The Commission will evaluate the DoD's recommendations primarily through the lens of military value. Military value is determined through three primary criteria—jointness, ease of mobility, and the role in the changing global threat atmosphere. The Commission is aware of the role that MCLB Barstow plays in current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and will evaluate the effect of the DoD's recommendations on those efforts.

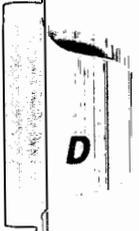
**Q5. MCLB Barstow is the Marine's only repair depot west of the Mississippi River. Does the Commission recognize the strategic importance of MCLB Barstow?**

**A5.** The Commission will evaluate MCLB Barstow primarily on its military value. Military value is determined through the following three criteria: jointness, ease of mobility, and the installations role in the changing global threat paradigm are of paramount importance. The Commission is aware that MCLB is the Marines only depot west of the Mississippi River and will evaluate the ramifications of its realignment.

**Q6. How can the Community inform the Commission of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?**

**A6.** The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov).

*Facts compiled from included press clippings.*



## MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE BARSTOW, CA

### National News Articles

BRAC RECOMMENDATIONS SIGNIFY CHANGES AHEAD FOR MARINE CORPS

### Local News Articles

L.A. BASE ESCAPES ROUND OF CLOSURES

Local bases could expand California does not avoid proposed military closures.

EXPERTS EVALUATE LIKELY ECONOMIC IMPACT OF POSSIBLE CALIFORNIA BASE CLOSURES

The Nation; State Would Lose One Major Base Under Proposal;

Net job loss would be 2,018; previous rounds of cuts hit California harder than other states.

Depot action will get a fight; BARSTOW: Officials lament the decision to downsize the base, eliminating 419 jobs.

### Editorial/Opinion Articles

OUR VIEWS; Bitter BRAC

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### National News Articles

**BRAC RECOMMENDATIONS SIGNIFY CHANGES AHEAD FOR MARINE CORPS**

US Fed News

May 19, 2005

The U.S. Marine Corps issued the following official news story:

Months of rumors and nationwide speculation were finally put to rest when Secretary of Defense, Donald H. Rumsfeld formally submitted the Department of Defense's Base **Realignment** and Closure recommendations to the BRAC Commission here May 13.

Minutes after uniformed service members were televised distributing hard copies of the list to members of Congress, word of major closings spread rapidly.

In contrast to previous BRAC rounds in the mid-90s, the Marine Corps will not have an active base completely closed. However, it will see significant transformation across many types of installations and installation functions within both the reserve and active communities. Changes range from relocation of reserve units and functions to major **realignments** of supply, storage and industrial capacity functions, to becoming a "receiver site" for another service organization.

"The Marine Corps was strategically positioned fairly well in advance of the 2005 BRAC process," said Brig. Gen. Willie J. Williams, assistant deputy commandant for Installations and Logistics. "These recommendations will improve our organizational alignments, and help us achieve a more efficient base infrastructure. We look forward to working with the BRAC Commission in their further analysis of these recommendations, and ultimately implementing the decisions made by the president and the Congress."

If the recommendations are approved, nine Navy-Marine Corps reserve centers in California, Ohio, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Alabama will close. Two inspector-instructor sites in Rome, Ga., and West Trenton, N.J., will be shut down as well. In a move designed to further joint interoperability among the services, personnel operating out of these facilities will be primarily reassigned to Armed Forces Reserve Centers located nearby in their respective states.

The Marine Corps Support Activity in Kansas City, Mo., will close and move its Mobility Command to Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans, but retain an enclave for the 9th Marine Corps District and the 24th Marine Regiment. Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters is scheduled to follow suit, moving out of its current location at the Naval Support Activity, New Orleans, also recommended for closure.

Four Marine Corps reserve aviation squadrons and other select aviation support units are recommended to make eventual moves from installations slated to close. Naval Air Station Atlanta will see its reserve Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 142 relocate to NAS Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas. Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 will relocate to nearby Robins Air Force Base. The reserve Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 out of NAS Willow Grove, Pa., will eventually move to McGuire AFB, and HMLA-775, Detachment A, from Johnstown, Pa., will also be relocated to McGuire AFB.

To eliminate excess infrastructure and functional redundancy, brigades on three major bases are being consolidated under the central management of joint correctional facilities - one on each coast. Inmates and staff members aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., will be relocated to a mid-Atlantic Joint Regional Correctional Facility at the Naval Support Activity in Chesapeake, Va., while those aboard MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., will eventually relocate to a joint correctional facility at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. Each of the bases closing their brigades will maintain at least some pre-trial confinement capability.

Marine Corps Logistics Base **Barstow** in California will maintain its west coast presence to provide a close, responsive source for heavy depot maintenance support, while some of its selected commodity depot-level functions to be relocated to MCLB Albany, Ga. MCLB Albany will expand to meet the additional support requirement.

Other notable recommendations involve the eventual consolidation of service investigative departments aboard MCB Quantico. The base will become the host installation for Counterintelligence Field Activity and Defense Security Service, Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Army Criminal Investigation Command. Such a move is expected to warrant an influx of more than 3,000 additional personnel to the base.

"This will facilitate multi-service missions by creating a joint organizational and basing solution that will not only reduce waste but also maximize military effectiveness," said Col. James Lowe, base commander, in a recent press statement.

In testimony to the BRAC commission May 17, Secretary of the Navy Gordon England summed up his view of the recommendations, "As I look at the infrastructure footprint, I'm confident that it is more than sufficient to support the Navy and Marine Corps force structure."

The Department of Defense's recommendations are by no means final. The BRAC Commission will review the recommendations and forward their report to President Bush by Sept. 8. He must approve or reject them on an all-or-nothing basis. By Sept 23, the president must send his

decision to Congress, which in turn has 45 legislative days to accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety. When that occurs, the recommendations then become law and must be implemented within 6 years.

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### Local News Articles

#### **L.A. BASE ESCAPES ROUND OF CLOSURES**

Lisa Friedman and Charles F. Bostwick

The Daily News of Los Angeles

May 14, 2005

WASHINGTON - Los Angeles Air Force Base and other major military installations in California survived the Pentagon's closure list Friday, but Ventura County took the state's biggest hit with the potential loss of 1,500 military and civilian jobs.

The Pentagon's Base **Realignment** and Closure plan recommends the cut in jobs at Naval Base Ventura County, but officials at Los Angeles and Edwards Air Force bases as well as Fort Irwin National Training Center in the Mojave Desert breathed sighs of relief.

The Pentagon recommended leaving those facilities untouched or even adding new military operations.

"Bottom line, it's not too bad," Sen. Dianne Feinstein said of the Pentagon recommendations' potential impact on California.

Other job losses in California would occur in San Diego and Riverside counties, where each could lose about 1,000 positions. San Bernardino County could lose more than 500 jobs, mostly in **Barstow**.

Overall, California stands to lose 2,018 military and civilian jobs and could face the closure of 11 installations. State leaders noted that the loss is a fraction of what California suffered in four earlier rounds of base closings:

California has lost more than 93,000 jobs and 29 bases since the first round of closures in 1988. More than 15,000 jobs drained out of California just in the latest one, in 1995.

"To some extent, California paid at the office. The bases that we have now really do play a very important role in terms of our national security. That's frankly what saved us," said Leon Panetta, co-chairman of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's commission that investigated how to support the state's bases.

The federal Base **Realignment** and Closure commission will hold hearings on the Pentagon recommendations until Sept. 8, when it will forward its own list to President George W. Bush.

Panetta noted that many of the Pentagon's recommended **realignments** in California actually moved jobs from one part of the state to another - including the 2,300 Ventura County jobs that could transfer to Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake in the Kern County desert or the 850 Corona jobs that could come to Ventura County.

California installations that could gain positions include Edwards Air Force Base (51 jobs); the Marine Corps Reserve Center in Pasadena (25 jobs); and Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara County (145 jobs).

Tom Nielsen, spokesman for the Ventura County BRAC task force, said the news could have been worse.

"It's not as grim as potentially it could have been," he said. "It could have been a 'lock the doors and give us the keys as you walk out.'"

But he also worried that the recommendations to move weapons and electronic warfare research and test work to Kern County could "realign us into obscurity."

Both Rep. Elton Gallegly, R-Thousand Oaks, and Ventura County Supervisor John Flynn noted that the base employs more than 18,000 people and said the potential losses must be put into perspective.

"The base remains open, and if you count 1,500 jobs out of 18,000, I think we came out of the whole thing very well. But I'd have to say that 1,500 jobs lost is 1,500 people," Flynn said.

Gallegly said Channel Islands Air National Guard Station will add 19 jobs by replacing E model C-130 cargo planes with more modern J models.

Overall, assuming no economic recovery, the Pentagon estimates the total loss of Ventura County jobs, both directly from the military transfers and indirectly from job losses at other affected businesses, would be more than 6,000 over the next five years.

That is about 1.5 percent of the area's present total employment.

Mark Schniepp of the Goleta-based California Economic Forecast said the job losses, if they occur, will be virtually unnoticeable in a metropolitan area. They are no greater, he said, than what has occurred for a number of years through low-key defense cuts.

"It really is irrelevant to the economies here," Schniepp said.

Southern California officials said they were particularly grateful that Los Angeles Air Force Base, south of Los Angeles International Airport, was spared. Lewis said he personally spoke with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Richard Cheney about the base's importance, conversations that other lawmakers said directly helped save the base.

"This was the biggest battle in the war and I'm very pleased that we were successful," said Rep. Jane Harman, D-El Segundo.

Los Angeles Air Force Base supporters spent more than \$1 million on consultants to lobby for the base's survival.

Home to the Air Force's Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles AFB employs 4,439 military and civilian workers and has authority over about \$60 billion worth of defense contracts. The base was long feared to be on the Pentagon's hit list, with its jobs likely to move to Colorado or New Mexico.

Others warned the fight isn't yet over.

"This is no time to let our guard down," Assemblywoman Jenny Oropeza, D-Carson, said in a statement. "Those bases now on the closure list will be lobbying to be spared. Should that occur, L.A. Air Force Base may again be targeted. We must not let that happen," she said.

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### **Local bases could expand California does not avoid proposed military closures.**

Denny Boyles  
Fresno Bee  
May 14, 2005

Lemoore Naval Air Station and the Air National Guard's 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno should survive -- and expand -- Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld proposed Friday.

The Defense Department released a report Friday recommending the closing of 180 military installations from Maine to Hawaii. The Pentagon said the proposed changes would save about \$50 billion over the next 20 years. **Realignments** at overseas bases will save an additional \$12 billion. Rumsfeld said the changes will better position the U.S. to confront new threats.

Nationwide, 33 major bases would close, and 29 others would realign. The report also recommends moving 13,500 military personnel from overseas bases in Korea and Germany back to the United States.

A base closure committee will spend four months reviewing the report, then forward it to the Congress and President Bush for approval.

The two local bases would add nearly 400 new jobs and bring newer, updated aircraft to the Air Guard base under Rumsfeld's plan.

Fresno City Council Member Larry Westerlund, who led a local effort to support the Air Guard base, said he was thrilled to learn the base would grow.

"It appears that the decision makers are looking at the Valley and seeing that we do fill a vital national security role. They also see that this is an area that supports the military, and is a great place for people to live on a military budget," Westerlund said.

Fresno Mayor Alan Autry credited the work done by leaders at every level for the military growth at both Lemoore and in Fresno.

"This is a total team victory. There is still some uncertainty in terms of actual numbers of personnel that will come, but we went from a situation where we could be less secure, to knowing that we will be more secure. That's a significant victory, and a big turnaround," Autry said.

"This is a great day for Fresno, a great day for the Central Valley, and a great day for California."

Under Rumsfeld's plan, the 144th Fighter Wing would add more than 300 military and civilian personnel to the nearly 1,000 working there. Lemoore would gain 51 military and civilian jobs.

The Pentagon report also calls for the 144th to retire its fleet of 15 F-16C fighters, which would be replaced by 24 newer aircraft transferred from other bases.

Air wing officials aren't yet sure of the exact numbers or positions of the people who will be added, said 2nd Lt. Heather Pratt, 144th spokeswoman.

"I would imagine since we're getting additional aircraft, we would be getting pilots and aircraft maintainers," Pratt said.

Dennis McGrath, spokesman for Lemoore Naval Air Station, said every military base was required to provide information for the report, focusing primarily on mission capabilities and military value. But, McGrath said, other factors were also considered by the Pentagon.

"Things such as encroachment, community support and ability to grow were also important," McGrath said.

He added that while both military and community leaders were relieved that Lemoore was not proposed for closure, the process isn't over.

"The commission can change the list before it goes to the president, and that has happened in every BRAC [Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission] round. Until the list is approved by the Congress and the president, nothing is final," he said.

While the news was grim for many states, California leaders were relieved that the state appeared to fare much better than in past years, when California lost 25 major bases in four rounds of closures.

Ten other California sites also are slated to grow, including Edwards Air Force Base, Naval Air Weapons Station in China Lake and the Marine Corps Logistics base in **Barstow**.

California didn't escape unscathed. Some military bases are recommended for closure, including Onizuka Air Force Base in Sunnyvale, Naval Support Activity Corona, and separate military finance centers in Oakland, San Bernardino, San Diego and Seaside.

Other bases will be realigned, including a naval hospital in San Diego, the Marine Corps base at Camp Pendleton and March Air Reserve Base.

If the list is approved without changes, California would lose 785 military jobs and 1,200 civilian positions.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

#### INFOBOX

Commission recommendations

Local changes recommended by the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission:

California Air Guard

144th Fighter Wing

Add 57 military positions, including pilots and aircraft maintainers

Add 254 civilian positions

Retire current fleet of 15 aging F-16C, Block 25 fighters

Transfer 24 newer F-16C, Block 32 fighters from bases in Arizona, Arkansas and Nevada to Fresno

Lemoore Naval Air Station

Transfer 39 military positions

Add 44 military positions, mainly aircraft maintenance personnel from bases in San Diego

Add 35 civilian positions, mainly aircraft maintenance

California bases recommended for closure

Armed Forces Reserve Center, Bell

Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Oakland

Defense Finance and Accounting Service, San Bernardino

Defense Finance and Accounting Service, San Diego

Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Seaside

Naval Support Activity, Corona

Naval Weapons Station, Concord

Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Center, Encino

Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Center, Los Angeles

Onizuka Air Force Station, Sunnyvale

Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant

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**EXPERTS EVALUATE LIKELY ECONOMIC IMPACT OF POSSIBLE CALIFORNIA BASE CLOSURES**

KRTBN Knight-Ridder Tribune Business News - The Press-Enterprise - Riverside  
Phil Pitchford

May 14, 2005

The latest round of military downsizing could take more than 1,500 Inland residents off the government payroll, but it won't have the catastrophic effect on local communities that followed a much more severe round of cuts a decade ago, experts said Friday.

If Congress in the coming months approves the **realignment** of four military facilities in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, the region could lose more than 3,500 military and related civilian jobs. It could also take more than \$ 308 million a year out of the region's economy, according to estimates by Inland economist John Husing.

"About half those people will lose their jobs and not know why," said Inland economist John Husing. His estimate not only includes the military and related civilian job cuts, but the reduced spending for services ranging from accounting to janitorial.

Nearly 900 jobs will be lost at Navy facility in Norco, but workers at that site are expected to shift to other jobs rather than move out of state. Another 265 jobs at Computer Science Corp. will likely follow since the company relies on the Navy center, Husing said.

Together, those jobs have an average salary of \$ 70,000, twice the region's median income level, according to Husing's 2004 economic impact study of a possible closure of the Norco facility.

"These are highly specialized, very technical jobs," Husing said. "This is not average work."

He said most of the employees likely would seek high-tech employment elsewhere in the region, mostly in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

The Base **Realignment** and Closure process could also include about 120 jobs at an accounting facility in San Bernardino; 111 jobs at March Air Reserve Base; and 419 at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in **Barstow**.

While the job losses will be painful, the region will not be hurt as badly as an earlier round of base closures when about 10,000 jobs were lost in the San Bernardino area when Norton Air Force Base closed and more than 4,000 were disappeared when March Air Force Base in Moreno Valley shifted to reserve status.

That round of closures, which included George Air Force Base in Victorville, had an economic hit of about \$ 3.1 billion, Husing said.

Working in the Inland area's favor this time is the relative health of the local economy.

When the first round of closures hit, Southern California was reeling from a sour housing market, Kaiser's steel operations had closed about a decade earlier, Santa Fe Railway closed its repair facility in San Bernardino few years earlier and the end of the Cold War led to huge cuts in the region's aerospace industry.

Now the housing market is booming, job growth in the Inland region is the envy of the state and a burgeoning market for office space means most office buildings being used by the military will not sit empty very long.

In San Bernardino, for example, a group of local governments that is overseeing the

redevelopment of the former Norton base already is eyeing offices now occupied by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

If the employees there are relocated to three other facilities around the country, the Inland Valley Development Agency could gain a \$ 12 million asset in the process, said interim executive director Don Rogers. The military sank that much money into the offices at Mill Street and Tippecanoe Avenue a few years ago, making it prime real estate.

"We hate to lose the jobs, but we gain a \$ 12 million asset that we can rent out to generate funds for other projects," Rogers said.

The spot cannot compete with the most desirable office spot in the immediate area--Hospitality Lane--but it does offer close access to interstates 10 and 215, said Rick Lazar, president and managing partner of Lazar & Lauer Commercial Real Estate in Redlands.

"There's absolutely zero impact," Lazar said. "The county of San Bernardino is constantly looking for space, which would make them an ideal tenant for the place."

The development agency had toyed with the idea of asking the accounting agency to move from the site if it could have found a user for two buildings, instead of just one, Rogers said. That's a far cry from 10 years ago, when such a move would have been anathema.

The closure of Norton sent San Bernardino into a tailspin from which it only now is starting to recover.

"That was a horrendous time," said Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Redlands. "It was a huge pulling of the plug, to say the least."

With warehouse development flowing east to large, open lots where companies can build state-of-the-art distribution centers, the local economy now is much more able to absorb such a loss.

Dallas-based Hillwood has brought several large warehouse and distribution centers to the area. The planned Stater Bros. Markets' headquarters and distribution center is the latest move in that transformation.

The two-county region is expected to add 40,000 jobs this year, mostly in retail, warehousing and construction. Since the early 1990s, the region has added 460,000 jobs, according to the California Employment Development Department.

The effects at Norco should be equally limited, Husing said. He said the site probably would end up as a corporate campus for a large company, although probably not as quickly as most people would like.

There is no way to predict how soon the jobs will be shifted or how long it will take to find a new user. The Inland office market is sizzling, with low vacancy rates, but Husing said the area is not nearly as ready to absorb such a large real estate asset as it will be by 2010.

"If this was happening five years from now, we would be able to flip it pretty quickly," he said.

Workers at the facility likely will seek continued employment in Southern California, Husing said. That will limit the harm to neighborhoods since workers will keep their existing homes, but

it will result in more of the most desirable types of employees working in the coastal counties.

"It's high-tech, exactly what we are trying to bring into the Inland Empire," Husing said. "To lose that is unfortunate because it is a blow to the strategy we have for this area."

The proposed loss of 111 jobs at March Air Reserve Base could be more than offset later in the year if local leaders are successful in attracting additional military resources, said Phil Rizzo, executive director of the March Joint Powers Authority.

March had an economic impact of \$ 423 million on the surrounding community in 2004, up from \$ 347 million the prior year, said Rizzo, who also is chairman of the Inland Empire Installation Support Committee, a group of business and political leaders trying to blunt the effects of the base closure process on March and the Naval facility in Norco.

About 9,100 people come through March during a month's time and about 1,200 employees are there every day, he said. Compared to that, the proposed job cuts are relatively minor.

"In the whole scheme of things, 111 people, I just don't see that as a huge issue," he said. "It's not a blip that I would worry about."

**The Nation; State Would Lose One Major Base Under Proposal;  
Net job loss would be 2,018; previous rounds of cuts hit California harder than  
other states.**

Los Angeles Times

Tony Perry

May 14, 2005

Of the 30 major military bases in California, only one is on the list of bases that the Pentagon wants to close, the little-known Naval Surface Warfare Center in Corona, where civilians analyze modern weapons systems and other technology for all military branches.

Even though the center's closure has been proposed, its 892 engineers, scientists and other technical employees would be offered transfers to the Ventura County Naval Base.

The list unveiled Friday is a turnaround from four previous cutbacks, when California suffered more base closures and job losses than any other state, punching the state's economy in the gut.

"Looking back at prior base closure rounds, California dodged a bullet," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.).

High-profile California bases that local officials feared were vulnerable -- the Los Angeles Air Force Base, the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and major Marine Corps and Navy bases in San Diego -- were spared. But closure of 10 smaller facilities was proposed.

Under the proposal, the Naval Base Ventura County would lose hundreds of jobs to the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, about 180 miles away, but gain hundreds from the transfer of workers from the Corona facility.

In San Diego, a school at the Naval Medical Center in Balboa Park that trains enlisted sailors to

become corpsmen -- the medics who follow Marines and sailors into battle -- would be transferred to Ft. Sam Houston, an Army base in Texas.

Once all the transfers and closures were accomplished, California, which has nearly 200,000 military and civilian defense jobs, would lose 2,018 of them under the plan unveiled by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld amid angst in military communities throughout the nation. In cuts from 1988 to 1995, California had 29 bases closed and lost 93,000 jobs.

On the list this time are the armed service reserve center in Bell; finance and accounting offices in Oakland, San Bernardino, San Diego and Seaside; Navy-Marine reserve centers in Encino and L.A.; the Onizuka Air Force Station in Santa Clara County; and the Riverbank Army ammunition plant in Modesto.

Military facilities in Concord, Modesto and Santa Clara County are included on the government's list of 33 so-called major bases slated for closure. However, the California Council on Base Support and Retention considers only the Corona base a major facility -- thus the announcement that the state faces only one major closure.

Concord, east of San Francisco, was the only California community that had asked the Pentagon to close its base -- the Concord Naval Weapons Station on Suisun Bay -- so that the property could be used for residential and commercial development and a greenbelt. Officials got half their wish when the inland portion of the station was put on the closure list.

Jobs will be lost at March Air Base in Riverside, the Marine maintenance facility in **Barstow**, a weapons station in Fallbrook and Beale Air Force Base in Yuba City, all of which are being downsized.

The Los Angeles Air Force Base, the Monterey facility and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Miramar Marine Corps Air Station in San Diego had been considered candidates for closure as Rumsfeld seeks to transform the military.

"None of the big axes we've discussed have fallen," said Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-El Cajon), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) said she would fight in Congress to keep as many of the 2,018 jobs as possible. "Every job loss represents a family's income," she said.

Boosters of the Los Angeles Air Force Base were exultant that the campaign to save the base appeared to be successful.

"This is a significant development for national security and great news for California's economic health and well-being," said Redondo Beach Councilman John Parsons.

"Nobody got much sleep last night," said Mayor Kelly McDowell of El Segundo, where the base is located.

The base, employing engineers and specialists involved in the design and purchase of satellites, launch vehicles and ground stations, has about 4,500 civilian and military workers and pumps \$8 billion a year into the regional economy.

The biggest job gains among California bases will be at the 32nd Street Naval Station in San

Diego, with 1,170 new jobs, and the Naval Air Weapons China Lake, with 2,469 jobs.

Rep. Lois Capps (D-Santa Barbara), who represents the Ventura County Naval Base, called for the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission to reject the Pentagon's proposal as it prepares its own list for President Bush. Once the Corona employees are added and Ventura County employees are sent to China Lake, the base is expected to lose 1,534 positions.

The shifting of jobs away from Port Hueneme and Point Mugu, Capps said, will mean "serious disruptions to the lives of the military and civilian personnel on the base and their families."

March Air Base in Riverside will lose about 70 military personnel and 40 civilian workers as five refueling planes are redeployed out of state. But officials had feared an even greater setback for the base, which employs more than 9,000 people.

"This is like hitting a home run, a hole-in-one, winning the Super Bowl," said retired Air Force Col. Phil Rizzo, the base commander until 1992.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in November formed the California Council on Base Support and Retention, whose co-chairman was longtime Washington insider Leon Panetta, a former member of Congress and former White House chief of staff.

Schwarzenegger, at a news conference Friday, praised the council for educating the Pentagon about the California bases. But Feinstein suggested that lobbying by the state and various military communities probably had little effect on the list.

"I think the weighing in of people on Los Angeles Air Force Base might have helped, but my sense is that [the Department of] Defense is going to do what Defense is going to do," she said.

California has 30 major bases and dozens of smaller installations, more than any other state in the nation, spread from the Sierra Army Depot in Lassen County to the massive Navy and Marine Corps installations in San Diego.

For months, civic officials, politicians and lobbyists have prowled the corridors of Washington to plead the case for California's bases. Although the Pentagon's list is meant to be only the beginning of the process, history has shown that 85% of bases targeted by the Pentagon will end up closed.

Concord officials were delighted that the 5,170-acre inland portion of the base there, unused since 1999, is on the closure list. The 7,630-acre tidal area, where ships are loaded with ammunition, is to remain open.

"Everybody is just joyful and ecstatic," said James Forsberg, the city's director of planning and economic development.

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**Depot action will get a fight;**

**BARSTOW: Officials lament the decision to downsize the base, eliminating 419 jobs.**

Press Enterprise (Riverside, CA)

DARRELL R. SANTOSCHI

May 14, 2005

The potential loss of 419 jobs from the Marine Corps Logistics Base represents 9 percent of the city's jobs and 11 percent of its economy, city officials said Friday as they laid plans to fight **realignment** of the base.

Word that some operations at the base would be moved comes as it is hiring extra workers to help repair and refurbish equipment being shipped to **Barstow** from Iraq and Afghanistan, said Patricia Morris, assistant to **Barstow's** city manager.

Mayor Lawrence E. Dale said the Pentagon's recommendation doesn't make sense because it goes against the government's own desires.

"This recommendation is just plain wrong," Dale said in a press release.

Morris said the military claimed to want a West Coast depot presence.

"This cut would not maintain a depot presence on the West Coast," she said.

The base has survived four previous closure and **realignment** rounds, with some employees reassigned in 1993.

Department of Defense officials said it will cost \$ 26 million to downsize the base, but they expect to save \$ 56.5 million over a 20-year period. The department also said the **realignment** would eliminate 30 percent of duplicate supervisory structures at the depot.

Base officials refused to comment on the specifics of the government's recommendations.

"Yes, we've got the news," said W.M. "Bill" Bokholt, the base's civilian public-affairs officer. "But, as we've been telling people, it's not final. . . . They don't know how this will shake out."

Still, residents are worried. **Barstow** City Hall received numerous phone calls from residents on Friday wondering whether the news about the depot was good or bad, Morris said.

Frank Saiz, 48, a **Barstow** resident and maintenance supervisor at the **Barstow** Outlet Mall, fears the impact the action could have on the city.

"**Barstow** could wind up a ghost town," Saiz said.

And while the base is not slated for closure, city officials are still worried about the fallout from the recommendations.

"The jobs in question are Cadillac jobs in the community. The jobs pay very well and they have benefits," Morris said. "We're obviously grateful that it didn't close, but we're not happy with the decision."

### Editorial/Opinion Articles

#### **OUR VIEWS; Bitter BRAC**

Press Enterprise (Riverside, CA)

May 14, 2005

The Inland area should consider Friday's base-closing news bittersweet. The region was able to retain the foundation of its defense infrastructure at the March Air Reserve Base and the training facilities at Fort Irwin and Twentynine Palms.

But Inland Southern California took a disproportionate hit from job losses scheduled in Norco, San Bernardino and **Barstow**.

Riverside and San Bernardino counties are slated to surrender more than 80 percent of the 2,000 net jobs California would lose under this week's recommendations from the Defense Department. So while California absorbed a glancing blow - particularly compared with the four previous rounds of base-closing - the Inland region took a shot to the jaw.

Because the Base **Realignment** and Closure commission could amend Friday's list before sending a final version to Congress this fall, here's hoping the panel will restore some of those crucial local jobs.

The most jarring hit will be the closure of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Norco. It is the Navy's only independent analysis center, where nearly 900 high-tech workers gauge the battle readiness of warships and aircraft. Meantime, the Marine Corps Logistics Base in **Barstow** is set for **realignment**, losing about one-fourth of its 1,800 workers. Because the **Barstow** base is the Marines' only repair depot west of the Mississippi River, local officials should continue to impress upon the commission the strategic importance of keeping this facility in full operation.

California endured far too many hits from the previous rounds of base closures - more than 35 bases have been shuttered or downsized, costing the state's economy nearly \$ 10 billion a year in lost activity. The Inland region alone lost the Norton and George air bases, and March was downsized to a reserve facility.

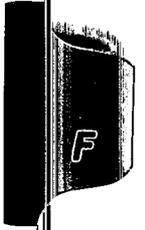
But with strategic threats looming from China and North Korea, the U.S. military will need more, not fewer, active facilities on the West Coast. The final BRAC list is scheduled to go to President Bush no later than Sept. 8; Congress is slated to accept or reject it by Thanksgiving. As always, Inland Southern California stands ready to serve.

**E**

**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
Suggested Talking Points for Visit to Naval Support Activity Corona**

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to close Naval Support Activity Corona.**
  - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest the Naval Support Activity Corona for closure is military value.
  - The Commission recognizes the importance of Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division and will analyze the effect of moving the division to Ventura.
  
- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to close the Naval Support Activity Corona could have and is taking this into consideration.**
  - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
  - The Commission will evaluate the economic and social impact that the installation's closure would have on the surrounding community of Norco, while basing its decision almost entirely upon military value.
  - The Commission is aware of the economic impact that a loss of roughly 1,100 jobs can have on a local community.
  
- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
  - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
  - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov).

*Facts compiled from included press clippings.*



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
Suggested Qs & As for Naval Support Activity Corona**

**Q1. In November, Governor Schwarzenegger formed the California Council on Base Support and Retention. The co-chairman of the Council is Washington insider Leon Panetta—former member of Congress and White House chief of staff. Will Mr. Panetta influence the Commission's analysis of the DoD BRAC recommendations?**

**A1.** The Congress established the BRAC Commission as an entirely non-partisan and non-political entity to independently evaluate whether DoD made its recommendations in accordance with the law. The Commission will serve to provide accountability to the public and ensure that all suggestions have been based upon the criteria set forth by statute. The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis, in a completely open and transparent manner, which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Naval Support Activity Corona, but will also consider the economic, environmental and other effects that the closure of the installation would have on the surrounding community.

**Q2. Under the BRAC recommendations, closure of the Naval Support Activity Corona will result in a loss of roughly 1,100 jobs. Estimates state that the installation provides roughly \$150 million per year for the Norco community. Will the Commission consider the economic impact on the local communities?**

**A2.** The Commission will perform a thorough, accurate, and objective analysis which will take into account, chiefly, the military value of Naval Support Activity Corona. Military value is determined through three primary criteria—jointness, ease of mobility, and role in the changing global threat structure. The Commission will also evaluate the economic impact of the Pentagon's proposal. In the case of Naval Support Activity Corona the Commission is fully aware that the economic impact of closure will be strong and will affect a sizeable portion of the community.

**Q3. Under the DoD's plan, roughly 859 jobs will be relocated to Naval Base Ventura at Point Mugu with the transfer of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division. Will the Commission review Ventura's ability to support the suggested requirement?**

**A3.** In addition to reviewing Naval Support Activity Corona according to standards set forth in statute, the Commission will also analyze installations slated to receive new missions, personnel, and resources. In doing so, the Commission will evaluate Naval Base Ventura based upon its current infrastructure and will determine whether the installation is capable of assuming an additional role.

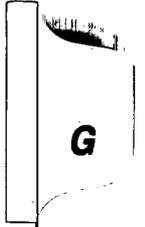
**Q4. If the recommendation's become final and Naval Support Activity Corona closes, the local community has expressed an interest in obtaining the land. Will the federal government return the land to the community? What is the process for doing so?**

**A4.** The question of what will happen with a base after its closure is under the purview of the Federal Government and DoD rather than the BRAC Commission. Applicable laws dictate that federal property must first be made available to other federal agencies. If the property is deemed excess by the federal government then it will be made available to homeless assistance groups. It is only after this point that the land may be offered to the local government or to private developers at market value.

**Q5. How can the Community inform the Commission of information that the Community feels may have been overlooked by DoD?**

**A5.** The BRAC Commission encourages public input into this transparent and objective process. Community groups who wish to submit information for the appropriate regional hearing are urged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments through the Commission's official website, which is [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov).

*Facts compiled from included press clippings.*



## NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY CORONA CALIFORNIA

### National News Articles

#### Local News Articles

Ammo to fight base changes is in short supply

Bush affirms base closures

Sinking feeling over base in bull's eye;

Norco businesses brace for shelling by Pentagon cost-cutters

City developing BRAC strategy

### Editorial/Opinion Articles

### National News Articles

#### Local News Articles

#### **Ammo to fight base changes is in short supply**

Ventura County Star (California)

Timm Herdt

May 20, 2005

SACRAMENTO -- The chairman of the state Council on Base Support and Retention on Thursday urged communities slated to lose jobs under the Pentagon's proposed base **realignment** and closure plan to "keep their powder dry" until more data is released to explain the military's rationale.

"The most important thing they can do right now is analyze the data," said Leon Panetta, the former Democratic congressman and one-time White House chief of staff who was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to head the state council.

Panetta told a legislative panel that the council would provide technical expertise to help communities in their analyses and promised, "We will assist them in putting their arguments together and we will assist them in presenting their arguments to the BRAC Commission."

Later, however, in an interview with The Star, Panetta added a caveat: In those cases in which one area of the state is pitted against another, the communities will be on their own. "I don't know that we want to get into the middle of that," he said.

The full council affirmed that position after an afternoon meeting in the governor's office.

#### Staying out of the middle

"We're going to help all communities, but we're not going to take positions for or against communities in which operations are being transferred within the state," said Roger "Ted" Rains

of Camarillo, a member of the state council who also serves on the Ventura County BRAC Task Force. "We don't want to get caught in that situation."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last week released the initial list which, although generally favorable to California, calls for **realignments** that would result in the net loss of an estimated 3,397 jobs in Ventura County, including direct military and civilian employment and the jobs in the general economy the base employment indirectly creates. Of those, 2,250 would be direct jobs transferred to the Naval Air Weapons Station in China Lake. The Pentagon asserted the Ventura County-China Lake **realignment** could save the federal government \$433 million over the next 20 years.

Officials at Naval Base Ventura County said Thursday that it's still unknown which positions at the base could be affected.

Panetta noted that to date the Pentagon has released just one of 12 volumes of data that contain the assumptions used to project cost savings.

Until more information becomes available, advocates for the operations in Point Mugu are in limbo, said Tom Nielsen, spokesman for the Ventura County BRAC Task Force.

Too soon to devise strategy

Without firm numbers on possible job relocations and more detail on how officials arrived at their conclusions, Nielsen said, it is impossible for local advocates to devise a strategy to try to preserve those local jobs.

Nielsen said members of the task force are determined not to take the Pentagon's recommendations lying down. "The job relocation is like arranging deck chairs," Nielsen said. "It's something to do, but it doesn't mean it's the right thing to do."

He said members are perplexed over what was released last Friday. "We wish we had access to the details that created this document," said Nielsen. "I think our frustration is pretty strong because of our lack of access to information."

The state council canceled a seminar that had originally been scheduled for today to provide guidance to communities adversely affected by the Pentagon proposals.

"Very few asked to participate, so we're going to go out to the communities and provide that information directly to them," Panetta said.

In his testimony before the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee, Panetta said the state council's response to the BRAC report will focus "on two areas we obviously want to help. **Corona** and **Ventura** are probably the top."

The Pentagon proposed the closure of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in **Corona**, which would mean the loss of 1,100 civilian jobs. Under the plan, 859 of those jobs would be moved to Point Mugu.

The issue of intrastate transfers creates an awkward challenge to the state council charged with fighting to protect California's interests.

#### Preview of governor's testimony

Rains said the council decided that when Schwarzenegger testifies before the BRAC Commission at a July 14 hearing in Los Angeles, he will talk generally about the importance of California military installations in the national defense "but will not argue for any particular activity unless a base is losing operations to another state."

Rains, a former executive director of the Port Hueneme Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, said he will continue to advocate for Ventura County's interest, but not in his capacity as a member of the state council.

"We're looking forward to the release of hard data," he said. "We're probably a week away from having enough to decide whether we even have a decent argument."

Rains predicted that it will be "a real uphill battle" to persuade the commission to change any of the Pentagon's **realignment** proposals.

The federal BRAC Commission on Thursday released its schedule of 16 regional hearings it will conduct across the country in June and July. The Los Angeles hearing is last on the schedule.

Commissioners have pledged to visit each of the bases targeted for **realignment** or closure before the regional hearings at which the future of those bases will be discussed.

#### **Bush affirms base closures**

Ventura County Star (California)

Jennifer Loven

May 28, 2005

#### He says unneeded sites waste billions

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland -- Speaking out for the first time in favor of controversial base closings, President Bush said Friday the nation is wasting billions of dollars on unnecessary military facilities and needs the money for the war on terrorism.

Bush, who faces opposition from many states to shutting down bases, tried to be reassuring. He said the bases would be chosen fairly and the government would do all it could to help affected communities recover.

But he made clear that the process -- however painful -- could not be avoided.

In a speech to graduates of the Naval Academy, he said the closings and **realignments** "will result in a military that is more efficient and better prepared so you can better protect the American people against the dangers of this new century.

"In this war, there is only one option, and that is victory," he said, to cheers from midshipmen, relatives and faculty at the academy on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

When Bush last spoke at a Naval Academy commencement, it was four months before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and his focus was his administration's effort to reshape the military into a

faster, lighter and more flexible -- but not larger -- fighting force.

Since the attacks, and amid a global anti-terror campaign and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, a top-to-bottom military transformation is even more necessary, Bush said. Keys to the success are new technology, repositioning of global forces, new weapons and realigned bases at home, he said.

Bush said he understands the fears in cities where bases have been marked for changes or closure. The first round of closings in a decade has members of Congress and local officials working hard to protect the 33 major bases slated for closure and the 29 others proposed for downsizing.

"I know firsthand how hard base closings can be on local communities," said the former Texas governor, who saw facilities shut down in his state.

Members of the congressionally chartered Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission will visit bases and hold hearings on the Pentagon proposal. The plan aims to save \$48.8 billion over 20 years by eliminating redundant and inefficient facilities and promoting cooperation among the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

Under the current recommendations, Naval Base Ventura County, which employs 6,000 military personnel and 9,000 civilians, would lose 2,393 civilian and military jobs. It would gain 859 jobs when the Naval Surface Warfare Center **Corona** Division transfers to Naval Base Ventura County as part of the **realignment**.

Channel Islands Air National Guard next to Point Mugu would gain 19 jobs.

The panel will decide on any changes to the Pentagon plan and then give a list to Bush and Congress this fall for approval or rejection.

Commission Chairman Anthony Principi on Friday joined a growing chorus of lawmakers demanding that the Defense Department quickly release the thousands of pages of data backing up each of its recommendations.

"We cannot make informed decisions without the data," Principi said on Capitol Hill. "That's critical to our work."

Though all bases have defenders, Bush suggested most efforts to save them will be futile.

"We have more bases than we need," Bush said. "Supporting these facilities wastes billions of taxpayers' dollars, money that can be better spent on giving you the tools to fight terrorists and confront 21st-century threats."

The graduation ceremonies got under way with 21 cannon blasts and a fast and low flyover by the Blue Angels, the Navy's precision team of F/A-18 Hornets. After speaking, Bush handed out diplomas to those graduating with distinction, and he shook the hands of all 976 graduates.

**Sinking feeling over base in bull's eye;  
Norco businesses brace for shelling by Pentagon cost-cutters**

THE BUSINESS PRESS/CALIFORNIA  
COREY WASHINGTON

June 6, 2005

The impending closure of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Norco and loss of 892 jobs has nearby small businesses on edge over the hit the local economy will take.

The Department of Defense included the Norco center among the military facilities on its national Base **Realignment** and Closure list.

The Norco base will continue to operate until the Base **Realignment** and Closure Commission considers appeals in Los Angeles July 14. The commission will forward its recommendations to the President Sept. 8.

If the commission recommends closure, the Norco base would close in about two years.

Restaurants, service stations, and hotels will feel the sting if the 900 employees transfer to Point Mugu in Ventura County, said Brian Oulman, director of Norco economic development.

Burger Basket on Hamner Avenue rings up half its business during lunch hour, cashier Wendy Rico said.

"Those are my regulars. They account for a lot of our big <takeout> orders, too," Rico said. The Norco center generates \$ 146.9 million for Norco's economy, including salaries, service contracts, and material purchases, according to a report compiled by economist John Husing in January. Computer Sciences Corporation in Norco, formerly known as DynCorp, is the largest contractor with the warfare center. The company could lose nearly 300 jobs if the base closes.

Base closures have devastated cities and small businesses in the past. In 1994, Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino and George Air Force Base in Victorville closed as a part of the end of the cold war, forcing small businesses to eventually shut down.

Since the station is Norco's largest employer, the closure will hurt the city's ability to attract small businesses, retailers and offices, Oulman said.

The warfare center does not keep information on how many of its engineering and service contracts are with companies in Norco, spokeswoman Roberta Spieler said.

"When we get retailers coming to us, one of the questions they ask is about the largest employers. This could affect their decision to bring their business to the city," Oulman said.

The Naval Surface Warfare Center was not a factor in the decision to buy the Guesthouse Inn & Suites on Hamner Avenue in February, owner and manager Palvika Patel said.

The motel lodges at least two customers that are employees or visitors to the Norco base on its slowest business days, Patel said. The Guesthouse Inn & Suites on Hamner offers discounts to naval employees who are returning customers.

"At first, I didn't notice it was there. I learned a couple of days later after seeing they are a lot of my customers," Patel said. "It's going to be hard on us."

The motel will remain with the current owners though there is no

plan for dealing with the potential loss of some its customers, Patel said.

#### Groups fight closure

City officials and at least two local organizations plan to fight the base's closure at the commission hearing on July 14, Oulman said.

The city of Norco anticipated the possible closure of the base in 2003, Oulman said. As a result, the Inland Empire Installation Support Committee formed and began raising funds with the **Corona**-Norco Military Affairs Committee. To date, the groups have raised \$ 150,000 contributed by the cities of Norco, Riverside, **Corona** and several area businesses, Oulman said.

The group hired The PMA Group, a Washington, D.C., lobbyist, in July for \$ 7,500 a month to support keeping the base open, Oulman said. Though hopes are being pinned on retaining the base, the Norco Chamber of Commerce intends to support its small businesses in any way it can if the base closes, said Pam Cuthbertson, treasurer of the chamber and member of the **Base Realignment** and Closure Retention Committee.

"(Businesses) are concerned about what we can do if the base closes.

"If the base closes, we are going to be very active in helping the city in bringing business to the area," Cuthbertson said.

Local businesses and organizations still have time to help persuade the base closure commission to keep the Norco center open, Oulman said.

"At this point, we're still optimistic," Oulman said. "I am reminding everybody that the commission has not met yet. This is only a recommendation."

"Assuming that this decision becomes final, we're going to have to work on a re-use plan. The ideal situation would be that the city of Norco could obtain the property from the government and search for a master developer to restructure the site," Oulman said.

The city currently has no plans or ideas on what to do if the base closes or what will happen to the site, Oulman said.

\* \* \*

#### BASE IMPACT

##### Estimate of Annual Spending

Salaries and Benefits: \$ 79.2 Million

Engineering Contracts: \$ 42.0 Million

Service Contracts: \$ 10.3 Million

Material Purchases: \$ 9.4 Million

Utilities: \$ 1.8 Million

Visitors: \$ 4.2 Million

Total: \$ 146.9 Million

Source: Norco Economic Development Department

#### City developing BRAC strategy

Daily Press - Victorville

Kelly Donovan

June 14, 2005

BARSTOW -- The city's latest step in developing a strategy to fight the proposed job cuts for the Marine Corps Logistics Base came Friday, when they met with a consultant.

City representatives attended a meeting Friday in **Corona** to learn more about the Base **Realignment** and Closure process and how to best defend the base.

"We learned a lot," said City Councilman Joe Gomez, who went to the meeting with Patricia Morris, the city staff official handling BRAC matters.

One piece of advice Gomez said he picked up was that it's helpful for the BRAC Commission -- which will decide the fate of the Marine Base -- to hear comments from elected officials.

He said he'll do his best to attend the BRAC hearing scheduled for Los Angeles next month so he can testify before the commissioners.

Morris said the state Office of Military and Aerospace Support organized the meeting for the cities of Barstow and **Corona** so they could meet with a consultant who has been inside the BRAC process and is now working as a consultant for the military and aerospace office.

**Corona** also has an installation being targeted in the BRAC round.

Other supporters of Barstow at the meeting included First District Supervisor Bill Postmus' chief of staff, and Rick Bremen, who retired two years ago as the head of the Production Management Department at MCLB's Maintenance Center Barstow.

Bremen said Monday that he's trying to do whatever he can to help the city with BRAC, and he's been helping the officials better understand the work that takes place at the Marine Base.

Gomez said it's important for the city officials to further discuss what strategies to use so they don't say anything that would actually hurt their efforts.

"We have to be very careful on how we approach these issues," he said. "It could do us more harm than good." Also, he said it's important for the city not to become complacent because of being recommended for **realignment** instead of closure.

"They could actually still close the base," he said.

Morris said the city has identified three main ways to approach BRAC:

--Addressing the question of whether the Department of Defense's **realignment** recommendations for MCLB would adversely affect the combat readiness of the Marine Corps.

Before this question can be answered, clarification on the meaning of the Department of Defense's recommendations is needed, Morris said.

--Looking through the Department of Defense's analysis to see whether any mistakes

were made, and pointing them out.

Morris said she's already started the process of going through documents, looking for errors.

--Defending the Marine Base against any attacks from other bases.

Sometimes, when a base is recommended for closure, it will advocate the closure of another base instead.

Morris said the rumor is that a city with an Army depot in Texas will be promoting the closure of MCLB instead of its depot.

The BRAC list, released last month, contained recommendations that could result in the loss of 419 jobs at the Marine Base if approved by the government.

The loss would represent about 24 percent of the Marine Base's 1,720 jobs.

**Editorial/Opinion Articles**

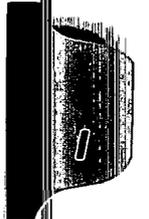


**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
Suggested Talking Points for Naval Base Ventura City**

DCN: 4852

- 1. Military value is the most important consideration to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the Commission evaluates the suggestion made by the Department of Defense (DoD) to realign Naval Base Ventura City.**
  - The Commission will evaluate the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure could have on the surrounding community but the key factor in the Commission's conclusion as to whether or not to suggest the Naval Support Activity Corona for closure is military value.
  - The Commission recognizes the military contributions that the installation has made, and will evaluate the current contributions of the installation towards meeting changing global threats.
  
- 2. The Commission is aware of the human impact that the suggestions to close Naval Base Ventura City could have and is taking this into consideration.**
  - The Congress established the Commission as an independent entity to ensure that all critical factors have been evaluated, and that the effects on the surrounding community have been taken into account in the decision to recommend a base for closure or realignment.
  - The Commission is aware of the fact that the suggested realignment of Naval Base Ventura City constitutes the second largest suggestion for military job losses in the state of California and that the effects of the realignment on the surrounding community would be felt.
  - While the Commission understands that the installation is making an estimated \$1.2 billion contribution into and has significant economic ties to the local community, the Commission will base its final decision almost entirely upon military value.
  
- 3. The Congress established the Commission as a non-political, transparent, and independent entity to perform a thorough evaluation, through a process set out by law, of the bases suggested for closure or realignment by DoD.**
  - The Commission serves to ensure that all pertinent factors have been evaluated and that the impact that the suggestions to close or realign a base would have on the surrounding community, have been taken into full account.
  - The Commission encourages public input. Community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD, are encouraged to contact their Congressional representative. Additionally, the public may submit comments directly through the Commission's official website: [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov).

*Facts compiled from included press clippings.*



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
Suggested Qs & As for Naval Base Ventura City**

**Q1. The Department of Defense (DoD) has recommended Naval Base Ventura City for realignment, which would result in the loss of 3,397 jobs. Additionally, it is estimated that 1,880 off-base jobs would be indirectly affect, should this suggestion be enacted, and that since the base is recommended for realignment, rather than closure, the Community has no opportunity to redevelop land for a better use. Will the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) take into account the effect that DoD's suggestion regarding Naval Base Ventura City would have on the local economy?**

**A1.** The Congress established the BRAC Commission as an independent entity to evaluate, in a transparent, thorough, and accurate manner—as prescribed by law—the suggestions by DoD to close or realign various military installations across the country. While the Commission will base its final decision regarding Naval Base Ventura City almost entirely upon military value, the Commission is very aware of the human impact that the suggestion to realign the installation could have, should it be enacted, and will take the economic, environmental, and other effects that the proposed realignment could have on the local community into full account.

**Q2. Does political influence have any sway with the BRAC Commission?**

**A2.** The BRAC Commission is entirely non-partisan and non-political and was established for the purpose of providing an independent evaluation of DoD's suggestions to close or realign various military installations across the country, ensuring that those suggestions were made both in accordance with the law and after all pertinent factors had been taken into account. The process followed by the Commission is entirely transparent and specifically outlined by law.

**Q3. DoD's suggested realignment of Naval Base Ventura City would constitute the second highest number of proposed military job losses in the state of California. Naval Base Ventura's annual yearly contribution to the local economy is an estimated \$1.2 billion. This region could feel the effects of the closure a great deal more than other regions. Will the Commission ensure that the cost to the Community is taken into account?**

**A3.** While the economic impact of the suggestion to realign an installation is taken into careful consideration, in a thorough and transparent manner, the final decision made by the Commission will be based almost entirely upon military value. As the DoD seeks to streamline our military to make it more efficient, not having to bear the burden of supporting excess infrastructure, ineffective in meeting changing global threats, the job of the BRAC Commission is to ensure that DoD's recommendations have been made in accordance with the law and after all pertinent factors have been taken into account. The Commission is aware of the human impact of the decision to close or realign an installation and serves as a source of accountability for these decisions.

**Q4. Some have questioned whether the cost of realigning the installation would outweigh the amount saved by the realignment. Will the Commission fully evaluate this prior to making its decision?**

**A4.** The factors to be included in the evaluation performed by the Commission have been set forth by statute. The Commission will make a full evaluation, in an objected, transparent manner, prior to reaching its conclusions.

**Q5. How can members of the Community make the BRAC Commission aware of factors that may have been overlooked in the DoD's evaluation and suggestion to close Naval Base Ventura?**

**A5.** The Commission welcomes community input; it is a valuable part of the process of evaluation. The public is encouraged to contact the Commission through the Commission's official website: [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov).

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## NAVAL BASE VENTURA CALIFORNIA

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Base realignment concerns aired at forums

Hundreds of base supporters attend forums

Concerns About Base Mount; Community Fears Losing More Than 6,000 Jobs

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#### **Base realignment concerns aired at forums**

Ventura County Star

Sylvia Moore

June 17, 2005

About 300 people worried about what will happen to jobs at **Naval Base Ventura County** attended two public forums Wednesday night in Camarillo.

The forums were organized by the Ventura County Base **Realignment** and Closure Task Force, a group of retired military and civilian defense employees and elected officials dedicated to fighting proposed job cuts at the base.

The meetings were designed to update the public on the BRAC process, take questions and solicit financial support and volunteers for lobbying efforts.

"This has to be a united front that says, 'Leave our base alone,'" said Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long, a task force co-chairwoman.

On May 13, the Department of Defense released its long-awaited list of bases it wants to close or

realign. Although Ventura County's base escaped closure, the Pentagon's initial proposal called for **realignments** at the base resulting in a net loss of 3,397 jobs.

That number includes direct military and civilian employment, as well as jobs in the general economy that base employment indirectly supports. Most of the jobs would be transferred to Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

The local task force members say from 4,500 to 6,300 jobs could actually be lost. Navy officials say the number of recommended job cuts and the kinds of positions affected is not yet final.

The local base is made up of the Naval Air Station at Point Mugu and the Construction Battalion Center at Port Hueneme.

Wednesday night's forum panelists included Long, Camarillo City Councilwoman Charlotte Craven, task force strategic chairman Henry Norton and Roger "Ted" Rains, a Camarillo resident appointed to the state Council on Base Support and Retention set up by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Also present were representatives from the offices of U.S. Reps. Lois Capps, D-Santa Barbara, and Elton Gallegly, R-Simi Valley, Assemblywoman Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills, and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

The panelists said they are disappointed and frustrated with the amount of declassified information provided by the Pentagon that shows how the agency made its decisions. Much of the information is still classified.

The panelists told the audience, made up mostly of base employees and base supporters, that from what they can glean from the data so far, the Pentagon's cost-savings analysis doesn't add up.

"The numbers associated with positions and costs don't quite mesh with what's going on," Norton said. "We feel that some of the numbers don't make sense."

For example, Norton said, the Pentagon estimates that 94 percent of employees at Point Mugu could be transferred to China Lake, a figure that elicited scoffs from the audience. Some base employees in the audience said later that they didn't want to move, and that many of their colleagues feel angry over the possibility. None of the employees interviewed wanted to be identified.

The panelists said the task force has little time to prepare for a scheduled July 14 hearing before the federal BRAC Commission in Los Angeles. The commission has the authority to make changes to the Pentagon's recommendations.

More public forums are being planned around Ventura County, task force spokesman Tom Nielsen said.

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### **Hundreds of base supporters attend forums**

Ventura County Star

Sylvia Moore  
June 17, 2005

Task force gives an update on its work, seeks aid in fighting for jobs  
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The panelists said the task force has little time to prepare for a scheduled July 14 hearing before the federal BRAC Commission in Los Angeles. The commission has the authority to make changes to the Pentagon's recommendations.

"It's disturbing because we have a real uphill fight in front of us if we're going to salvage any of these positions," Rains said.

More public forums are being planned around Ventura County, task force spokesman Tom Nielsen said. Long said later that the size of Wednesday's audience was no surprise.

"We know we are at risk of losing 5,000-plus jobs," she said. "So I'm pleased with the turnout."

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### **Concerns About Base Mount; Community Fears Losing More Than 6,000 Jobs**

The Daily News of Los Angeles

Eric Leach

June 16, 2005

Ventura County's coastal communities could lose more than 6,000 high-paying jobs under the Department of Defense restructuring proposed last month - nearly twice as many as initially projected, officials said Wednesday.

The plan would cut employment by more than one-third at **Naval Base Ventura County**, transferring jobs from the base's Naval Air Warfare Center at Point Mugu to the Naval Air Weapons Station at China Lake in the Kern County desert.

"It is the worst of scenarios," said Bill Simmons, manager of the BRAC 2005 Ventura County Task Force, which is reviewing recommendations the Pentagon made last month to the **Base Realignment and Closure Commission**.

"We stand to lose up to 6,300 direct and indirect high-paying jobs, but we won't have the opportunity to redevelop the land if the current recommendations are implemented," he said.

Officials initially estimated that Ventura County would lose 1,550 military and 1,900 civilian jobs.

Ventura County officials said the greater potential job loss became apparent after closer review of documents released by the Department of Defense last month.

In a task force meeting with community leaders at Camarillo City Hall on Wednesday evening, a standing-room-only crowd of several hundred people - most of them military employees - voiced their concerns over possible relocation to the China Lake area.

Simmons said the military recommendations could result in a potential loss of 2,856 military and civil service jobs and 3,517 contractor jobs in Ventura County.

**Naval Base Ventura County** represents the county's largest employer, with about 17,000 workers on the base and contributing about \$1.2 billion a year to the local economy.

County officials said they will attend the federal BRAC Commission hearing - expected to be held in Southern California on July 14 - to make the case that the Ventura County changes would be detrimental to the military.

"I think it is urgent that the community get engaged and understand the impact. We need help from the community to raise funds and make sure we have a strong position when we come in front of the BRAC Commission in July," Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long said.

Jack Dodd, former vice commander of the Naval Air Warfare Center at Point Mugu, said there are important military arguments against some of the proposed changes.

"Realigning Point Mugu's sea range, targets, test squadron and electronic warfare personnel and facilities to China Lake would cost millions of dollars, would reduce operational efficiencies, would reduce safety of operations and, most importantly, would negatively impact the ability of our war fighters, our men and women in uniform, to perform their missions," he said.

"We simply cannot let these recommendations stand."

Simmons said another major drawback to employment under the proposed changes is that it prevents new development on the land.

"Normally what happens is that developers can turn (closed) bases into useful projects, business parks, universities, you name it. Now we're talking about losing jobs while the Navy is still holding onto the land," he said. "So the community cannot turn it into revenue-producing land and have opportunity for economic rebound."

Howard Gantman, a spokesman for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, said her office will be reviewing all reports very closely. "We're always very concerned about the impact of base closures on local communities," he said.

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#### **Naval base supporters seek community's aid**

Ventura County Star

Sylvia Moore

June 13, 2005

#### **Group to hold two meetings for public**

Supporters of **Naval Base Ventura County** are gearing up for a fight against proposed job cuts at the base, and they're asking for the public's help.

Wednesday night, the Ventura County Base **Realignment** and Closure (BRAC) Task Force will hold two town hall meetings in Camarillo to update the public on the Department of Defense's

recommendations for the base.

The task force wants to get citizens' input and raise money for travel expenses to and from Washington, D.C.

Task force members and local elected officials will speak at the event.

"The focus for Wednesday night is to really hear from the community," said county Supervisor Kathy Long, co-chairwoman of the task force.

Last month, the Pentagon released its long-awaited list of bases it wants to close or realign.

The federal BRAC Commission will hold a number of hearings around the country before the Pentagon puts together a final list in September.

President Bush will have until Sept. 23 to approve or reject the list. If he approves the list, Congress has 45 days to reject it. Otherwise, it becomes binding.

**Naval Base Ventura County** will be hit hard if the current recommendations are approved. The number of recommended job cuts has not been finalized, but the Pentagon's initial proposal released May 13 called for **realignments** at the base resulting in a net loss of 3,397 jobs.

That number includes direct military and civilian employment, as well as jobs in the general economy that base employment indirectly supports. Most of the military and civilian jobs would be transferred to the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

The local task force members say 4,500 to 6,300 jobs could actually be lost.

Navy officials say it's not yet known which jobs could be affected. Local task force spokesman Tom Nielsen said the group is especially worried that the areas of electronic warfare, weapons division and reconnaissance systems could be greatly affected.

Task force members are now poring over mounds of Pentagon data to prepare themselves for the commission hearings and two scheduled base visits in July by commission staff.

"We're literally looking at hundreds and hundreds of documents," said Nielsen.

The documents show how the Pentagon arrived at its decisions to shut down bases and eliminate jobs. Still, task force members say Pentagon officials haven't released enough information.

"I believe that for every day they hold back information, they ought to extend the BRAC process," said Long.

Some Congressional leaders aren't happy, either. Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., issued a subpoena this month demanding that the Pentagon declassify and release more documents.

In the meantime, Nielsen said, the task force is hoping to raise from \$150,000 to \$200,000 for operating expenses, mainly travel. So far, the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme and Ventura have agreed to donate a combined total of nearly \$65,000, Nielsen said.

Nielsen said the task force is hoping for a good turnout Wednesday of county residents, local defense contractors, base employees and their families.

"We know there's a pent-up desire for people at the bases to vent," said Nielsen. "They want to speak up."

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### **Solemn day draws crowds to cemeteries**

Ventura County Star

Sylvia Moore

May 31, 2005

Memorial services are held in many cities across the county

Thousands of veterans, family members and military supporters solemnly filled venues across Ventura County on Monday to remember the nation's war dead.

Memorial Day observances were held in Fillmore, Camarillo, Ventura, Ojai, Simi Valley, Santa Paula, Moorpark and Westlake Village.

Several hundred people attended Ivy Lawn Memorial Park's 34th annual Veterans Avenue of Flags Memorial Day service in Ventura. Many attendees wore patriotic red, white and blue, while some veterans donned their uniforms. The cemetery was dotted with more than 1,000 American flags.

The event's keynote speaker, U.S. Rep. Lois Capps, D-Santa Barbara, asked the audience to reflect on the sacrifices American military personnel have made to ensure the nation's citizens live in a free country.

"I'm honored to be here today as we remember and pay tribute to the over 1 million Americans who have given their lives for our country," said Capps. "These men and women are not forgotten. They have not given their lives in vain."

Capps also asked the audience to remember the sacrifices of the millions of veterans, as well as those of the families who have lost loved ones. Capps said that although she was critical of the United States' invasion of Iraq in 2003, she stands by the troops and will continue to advocate for issues that affect them here at home, such as quality healthcare for veterans.

Capps closed by emphasizing her intent to keep jobs at **Naval Base Ventura County**, which the Department of Defense recommended as a candidate for job cuts earlier this month as part of this year's **Base Realignment** and Closure process.

"I'm continuing to fight for **Naval Base Ventura County**," Capps said to applause. "It's important for our military missions around the world to keep our resources functioning here."

Representatives from more than 60 veterans organizations and auxiliaries laid commemorative wreaths at a shrine before the speaker's podium. The Channel Islands Clippers and Andrew H. Hicks and his band provided music. The ceremony ended with a 21-gun salute, a Navy jet flyby

and a white dove release.

A ceremony at Valley Oaks Memorial Park in Westlake Village drew more than 2,500 people eager to pay their respects to current and former servicemen and servicewomen.

People sat in reverent silence through much of the 90-minute event, at times singing along or tapping their toes to "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and other patriotic tunes. They erupted in applause when a jet flew overhead -- its thunderous engines setting off car alarms -- and jumped to their feet as young Marines re-created the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima.

A heartfelt rendition by Larry Kern of "An American Soldier" -- the anthem of a man who knows the sacrifice of duty and the importance of the fight for freedom -- drew applause throughout and a standing ovation at the song's end as white doves were released as a symbol of peace.

Steven Weber, 53, of Newbury Park offered a simple thumbs up in quiet approval.

"He sang what we felt," the Vietnam veteran said.

Memorial Day is something that needs to be marked every year, just like birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas, said Emma Engle, 49, of Agoura Hills, as she stood in the shade of a small tree with the backdrop of her own 7-by-5-foot flag she'd proudly staked in the ground.

The Conejo Valley ceremony was one she hasn't missed in at least eight years, said Engle, who was decked out in an American-flag-designed cardigan, red USA shorts, a red, white and blue sun visor and ruby-colored stud earrings.

"I love, love the American flag," she said proudly as she gazed out at the large flags placed alongside the winding roads through the cemetery and the smaller ones placed at each veteran's grave site.

Moorpark residents had two opportunities to pay their respects close to home, the first a flag changing ceremony at the city's Veterans Memorial at the corner of Moorpark and Los Angeles avenues, where John Daniel House's name was inscribed on the memorial. House, 28, a Navy corpsman and former Moorpark High School student, was killed in a January helicopter crash in Iraq.

A second ceremony drew more than 100 people to Poindexter Park, where organizers had to clean up graffiti near the Veterans Memorial Grove in the hours before the ceremony, said event organizer Pete Duncan, adjutant of Moorpark Post 502.

"That puts a nasty little spin on the solemnness of the occasion," said Duncan, who nonetheless called the event a success.

A show of patriotism could also be found in Simi Valley, where a program was held at the city's public cemetery.

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**Bush affirms base closures**

Ventura County Star

Jennifer Loven

May 28, 2005

He says unneeded sites waste billions

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland -- Speaking out for the first time in favor of controversial base closings, President Bush said Friday the nation is wasting billions of dollars on unnecessary military facilities and needs the money for the war on terrorism.

Bush, who faces opposition from many states to shutting down bases, tried to be reassuring. He said the bases would be chosen fairly and the government would do all it could to help affected communities recover.

But he made clear that the process -- however painful -- could not be avoided.

In a speech to graduates of the Naval Academy, he said the closings and **realignments** "will result in a military that is more efficient and better prepared so you can better protect the American people against the dangers of this new century.

"In this war, there is only one option, and that is victory," he said, to cheers from midshipmen, relatives and faculty at the academy on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

When Bush last spoke at a Naval Academy commencement, it was four months before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and his focus was his administration's effort to reshape the military into a faster, lighter and more flexible -- but not larger -- fighting force.

Since the attacks, and amid a global anti-terror campaign and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, a top-to-bottom military transformation is even more necessary, Bush said. Keys to the success are new technology, repositioning of global forces, new weapons and realigned bases at home, he said.

Bush said he understands the fears in cities where bases have been marked for changes or closure. The first round of closings in a decade has members of Congress and local officials working hard to protect the 33 major bases slated for closure and the 29 others proposed for downsizing.

"I know firsthand how hard base closings can be on local communities," said the former Texas governor, who saw facilities shut down in his state.

Members of the congressionally chartered **Base Realignment and Closure Commission** will visit bases and hold hearings on the Pentagon proposal. The plan aims to save \$48.8 billion over 20 years by eliminating redundant and inefficient facilities and promoting cooperation among the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

Under the current recommendations, **Naval Base Ventura County**, which employs 6,000 military personnel and 9,000 civilians, would lose 2,393 civilian and military jobs. It would gain 859 jobs when the Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division transfers to **Naval Base Ventura**

County as part of the **realignment**.

Channel Islands Air National Guard next to Point Mugu would gain 19 jobs.

The panel will decide on any changes to the Pentagon plan and then give a list to Bush and Congress this fall for approval or rejection.

Commission Chairman Anthony Principi on Friday joined a growing chorus of lawmakers demanding that the Defense Department quickly release the thousands of pages of data backing up each of its recommendations.

"We cannot make informed decisions without the data," Principi said on Capitol Hill. "That's critical to our work."

Though all bases have defenders, Bush suggested most efforts to save them will be futile.

"We have more bases than we need," Bush said. "Supporting these facilities wastes billions of taxpayers' dollars, money that can be better spent on giving you the tools to fight terrorists and confront 21st-century threats."

The graduation ceremonies got under way with 21 cannon blasts and a fast and low flyover by the Blue Angels, the Navy's precision team of F/A-18 Hornets. After speaking, Bush handed out diplomas to those graduating with distinction, and he shook the hands of all 976 graduates.

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### **Base safe, but not unscathed**

Ventura County Star

M. Craft

May 14, 2005

#### **County poised to lose 1,500 jobs**

The dreaded Pentagon base closure list has been released and, for **Naval Base Ventura County**, the news, for the most part, is good. Naval Air Station Point Mugu and the Construction Battalion Center in Port Hueneme, which comprise NBVC, did escape the list, but are poised to lose about 1,500 jobs under the plan recommended Friday by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. In all, the closure list includes 180 military installations from Maine to Hawaii, including 33 major bases, triggering the first round of base closures in a decade.

NAS Point Mugu took the hardest hit at NBVC. It could see some of its weapons units move to China Lake and San Diego. Channel Islands Air Guard station is scheduled to gain four military and 15 civilian jobs under the proposal. Unfortunately, the loss of jobs locally is the second highest recommended in California. Only Naval Medical Center San Diego is losing more jobs -- 1,630.

The state's big winner, China Lake, which is in the district of Rep. Bill Thomas, the Republican chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee and lead man in the House pushing Social Security reform, will see a gain of nearly 2,500 jobs.

For several years, county civic and political leaders have been on the offense in a concerted effort to highlight the efficiency and military importance of **Naval Base Ventura County** to the community, and to the Washington, D.C., and military establishment. They have worked hard to stress the critical importance of CBC's deep-water port and the ocean range at Point Mugu for testing and evaluation.

Clearly, the stakes were high. The two bases employ about 17,000 civilians and members of the military; and pump nearly \$2 billion annually into the local economy.

Although it is difficult to say for certain how big a role the unified lobbying efforts played, in the end, **Naval Base Ventura County** has survived, and the county's main employment centers remain in place. Still, the loss of jobs under the **realignment** plan -- 239 military, 1,295 civilian and approximately 1,880 indirect, off-base -- did somewhat dampen the day for local base supporters.

County Supervisor John Flynn said he is worried about the impact on the region's economy. "It will have an effect on everything from the sale of cars to food," he said.

Added Rep. Lois Capps, a Santa Barbara Democrat, who represents the Construction Battalion Center in Port Hueneme: "These changes would mean lost jobs in Ventura County and serious disruptions to the lives of the military and civilian personnel on the base and their families. The BRAC Commission should reject these recommendations. I continue to strongly believe that these missions are a critical element of our national security system and an important asset to our local community."

Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendations will now be reviewed by an independent nine-member commission that will face intense pressure from every congressional representative and senator with a targeted base in his or her district. The commission can make changes and additions before sending its own list to President Bush in September and then to Congress.

It is now time to play defense. The threat to **Naval Base Ventura County**, although much-diminished, is still there. Fortunately, even though the waiting game isn't quite over, the county does have precedent on its side if it can avoid the final list. In all previous rounds of the base **realignment** and closure process, the president has accepted the commission's final list and it has won acceptance in Congress.

With luck and hard work, **Naval Base Ventura County** will clear this final hurdle and continue to be a key player in the defense of the United States.

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### **Recommended California base closures and realignments**

The Associated Press

May 13, 2005

The Pentagon has recommended closing several California military installations, shifting jobs from some and adding missions to others. Many of the jobs scheduled for "**realignment**" will be transferred to existing bases in California, bringing the final tally of eliminated positions in the state to 2,018.

The list issued Friday also included 16 jobs being lost from the elimination or **realignment** of so-called leased space.

Bases proposed for closure, with number of jobs to be lost:

- Armed Forces Reserve Center, Bell, 24
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Oakland, 50
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service, San Bernardino, 120
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service, San Diego, 240
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Seaside, 61
- Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division, 892
- Concord Naval Weapons Station, 71
- Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Center, Encino, 33
- Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Center, Los Angeles, 48
- Onizuka Air Force Station, Santa Clara County, 278
- Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant, 89

Bases that would lose jobs under proposed **realignments**:

- Beale Air Force Base, 179
- Camp Parks, 43
- Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin , 31
- Human Resources Support Center Southwest, 164
- Los Alamitos, 170
- March Air Reserve Base, 111
- Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, 144
- Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, 419
- Naval Base Coronado, 460

- **Naval Base Ventura County**, 1,534
- Naval Medical Center San Diego, 1,630
- Naval Weapons Station Fallbrook, 118

**Bases that would gain jobs under proposed realignments:**

- AFRC Moffett Field, 253
- Channel Islands Air Guard Station, 19
- Edwards Air Force Base, 51
- Fort Hunter Liggett, 43
- Fresno Air Terminal, 311
- Marine Corps Base Miramar, 72
- Marine Corps Reserve Center Pasadena, 25
- Naval Air Station Lemoore, 40
- Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, 2,469
- Naval Base Point Loma, 309
- Naval Station San Diego, 1,170
- Vandenberg Air Force Base, 145

**Editorial/Opinion Articles**



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
Suggested Talking Points for Naval Medical Center San Diego, California**

- 1. San Diego has been considered by many to have fared well through the Department of Defense's (DoD) evaluations and suggestions to close and realign bases across the country; the Commission is an independent entity, established by Congress to determine whether DoD took all necessary factors into account and followed the process prescribed by law in the formulation of its suggestions.**
  - The Commission will take into full account the possible impact realignment of Naval Medical Center San Diego would have on both the surrounding community and the U.S. military.
  - Though Naval Center San Diego would be subject to the largest job losses of any installation in California, if the suggestions made by DoD go into effect, the Commission will independently evaluate whether the medical center would continue to be able to perform its mission without what DoD has determined as excess infrastructure.
  
- 2. Military value is the most important consideration to the Commission in its evaluations which will be performed according to the process determined by statute.**
  - The Commission also will take into account the factors such as accessibility to the desert and ocean and how those will affect ease of training procedures as well as mobility and quick deployment.
  - While the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of a base would have on a community are important, the Commission has been tasked with, chiefly, evaluating the military value the respective installations.
  
- 3. The BRAC Commission was established by Congress to ensure that the human impact, that DoD's suggestions would have on the Community surrounding the bases proposed for closure or realignment, will be taken into account.**
  - The Commission will perform a careful evaluation, as set out by law, of all of the significant effects that the realignment of Naval Medical Center San Diego would have on the region.
  - The BRAC Commission will consider the extended effects that the loss of jobs at this medical center could have on local maritime industry as well as on the housing market, and will determine whether DoD's suggestions would still enable the medical center to meet the healthcare needs of the troops stationed in the surrounding area.
  - Input by the Community is both valuable to and encouraged by the Commission. The Los Angeles Regional Hearing will be held on Thursday, July 14, and community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD are urged to contact their local Congressional representative. Additionally, comments may be submitted to the Commission through the Commission's official website, [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov).



**2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
Suggested Qs & As for Naval Medical Center San Diego**

**Q1. Although San Diego County has, by some, been considered to have emerged relatively well—or even unscathed—in the recent list made by the Department of Defense (DoD) of bases for realignment and closure, the Naval Medical Center San Diego at Balboa faces some of the most severe cuts out of any military installation in the state. Could the quality of care still be insured and would this not have a significant effect on the healthcare being provided for our troops?**

**A1.** Although Naval Medical Center San Diego has been suggested by DoD for realignment which would entail the loss of 1,596 military and 33 civilian jobs, only 100-150 of these positions at the hospital are actually full-time, permanent positions. Even a lobbying group which has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to work to keep bases open in San Diego County has said that the quality of care at the medical center would not be affected by these cuts. The Commission will independently evaluate the effects of the realignment suggested by DoD.

**Q2. The state of California has lost 93,456 jobs due to previous BRAC rounds, while San Diego has gained 6,099—the most out of any region in the state. Is there a trend by DoD to move military forces from the north-eastern region of the United States to the southern and south-western region?**

**A2.** While military jobs have been cut from California in previous BRAC rounds, the goal of this round of BRAC is to ensure that our military is as efficient and streamlined as possible, while taking into account the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of military installations would have on the surrounding communities. The strategy as to how to ensure that our military is best prepared to meet the changing global threats is determined by DoD; the Congress established the Commission to determine that the evaluation and analysis, leading to the suggestions to close or realign military bases was performed according to law, in a fully open and transparent manner, taking all necessary factors into consideration.

**Q3. While Naval Training Center Point Loma was closed after the 1993 round of BRAC, resulting in 400 forced job-losses, 120 new jobs have since been created at that location and there are estimates that 5,344 jobs will be created as the build-out of what was once a military installation is completed. Additionally, estimates have shown that California has lost \$9.6 bil. a year from the closures, brought about by previous BRAC rounds, of military installations. While the effects appear initially appear negative for the community, what could be the redeeming value, for San Diego, of this round of BRAC?**

**A3.** The Commission was established by the Congress to perform an independent evaluation and analysis, through a process specifically determined by law, of the suggestions put forth by DoD for the closure and realignment of bases across the country. DoD has suggested certain military bases for closure or realignment, due to excess capacity, with the goal of ensuring that our military is fit to meet any new threat that it may face as maintains our national security. The job of the Commission is to ensure that the military value of a base has been properly taken into account by DoD. The

**A3. Continued**

Commission's job is also to listen to the community regarding the human impact that the suggestions by DoD, if enacted, would have. Please be assured that military value is the Commission's most important consideration and that, as DoD works with a community, after the closure or realignment of a base, and as the community itself works hard, positive results can be achieved.

**Q4. According to DoD, one of the most valuable considerations in whether or not to close or realign a military installation is jointness. San Diego County is known for the "synergy" it has between the Marine Corps and the Navy Services. Will this be taken into account by the BRAC Commission?**

**A4.** The Commission will independently and methodically evaluate all of the key factors contributing to the military value of the base. DoD has determined that jointness is one of its aims as it transforms our military to meet changing global threats. The analysis and evaluation is a tedious process, as each of the intertwined factors must be separated out and individually analyzed. The factors which are to play into the decision made by the Commissioners have been determined by law, as has the process of researching and evaluating those factors.

**Q5. One of the benefits of having military installations in the southwestern region of the United States is the accessibility to deserts and oceans for training-purposes and for ease of deployment. Has this played into DoD's suggestions and served as one reason why San Diego has been rather lightly touched in the most recent DoD list of base closure and realignment suggestions??**

**A5.** While DoD determines the strategy for how to ensure that our military is best prepared to meet changing global threats, the Congress established the Commission, in part, to ensure that military value of an installation was properly taken into account by DoD in the suggestions made by DoD. The Commission will carefully evaluate, through a process outlined by law, all important factors contributing to military value of these installations.

**Q6. Some have speculated that suggestions to move military installations from the northeast to the south and southwest are political in nature. Is the Commission basing its decisions at all upon where it feels there may be the most support for the military?**

**A6.** The Congress established the Commission as an entirely non-partisan and non-political entity to independently evaluate the suggestions made by DoD, and is made up of both Democrats and Republicans. Political leanings of a region are in no way taken into account in the process of research and evaluation prescribed by law.

**Q7. While some have said that the effects of military job loss, if the suggestions proposed by DoD are enacted, would be small, short-lived, and not hitting any particular segment of San Diego County's economy very hard, others have said that the realignments proposed there would have a domino-effect, taking millions of dollars out of the economy. Will the Commission take into full consideration the**

**Q7. Continued**

**economic effects that the proposals by DoD would have on San Diego County if those proposals are enacted?**

**A7.** While the most important consideration by the Commission, as it carries out the process of research and evaluation as determined by law, is the military value of an installation, the Commission will also take into account the economic effects that the closure or realignment of a base would have on the community and will perform a thorough analysis of these possible effects. The Commission is aware of the human impact had by the suggestions made by DoD, should these suggestions be enacted.

**Q8. Although the military employs close to 90,000 people in San Diego County and this only amounts to around 6% of the county's work-force, will the Commission still consider how this will effect the economy of the region surrounding the installations proposed for realignment by DoD?**

**A8.** The Commission will take the economic effects of the base closures and realignment, which have been suggested by DoD, into full account. A regional hearing in Los Angeles on Thursday, July 14 will allow the community the opportunity to provide the Commission with any information it feels that DoD may have missed in the evaluation leading to the DoD's suggestions. Be assured that, though the Commission considers military value to be the foremost important factor in its evaluations, it will make a full analysis of the economic effects of DoD's suggestions, as they relate to San Diego County.

**Q9. Is the Commission aware of the possible effects that base realignment in San Diego County could have on the housing market, especially in regards to the rental market? Real estate in San Diego is considered expensive, by some, for military families, and would this sudden availability have a significant effect on the housing market?**

**A9.** The Commission is making a full evaluation of the economic impacts of the suggested base realignments, made by DoD. While community impact is very important to the Commission, the key concern of the Commission is military value and whether DoD followed the process determined by law in the formulation of its suggestions for base closures and realignments to better ensure that our troops are prepared to meet the changing global threats.

**Q10. It was estimated in 2002, that close to 35,000 children of military families attend San Diego County schools, which resulted in federal impact payments of nearly \$21 million, to offset the costs to the school district of having families which were not paying local taxes, funding the schools. Is the Commission aware of the effects that the suggestions made by DoD to realign military installations could have on schools in the region?**

**A10.** The process followed by the BRAC Commission has been specifically outlined by law and is extremely thorough and detailed. One of the goals of the Congress in establishing the Commission was to ensure that the human impact of the suggestions made by DoD, if the suggested are enacted, is taken into account. Community input is

**A10. Continued**

welcomed and is important to the Commissioners as they evaluate the effects the DoD's suggestions could have on the community and as the Commission formulates its report.

*Information and data compiled from enclosed press clippings.*



## NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER, SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA

### National News Articles

#### Local News Articles

Economic impact of base closure might be mild  
Balboa hospital faces job cuts  
San Diego Military Bases Spared By BRAC  
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Pentagon's tentative base closure list due out Friday  
San Diego Bases Overwhelmingly Protected in First Stage of BRAC

### Opinion/Editorial Articles

#### National News Articles

#### Local News Articles

#### **Economic impact of base closure might be mild**

By: EDMOND JACOBY - Staff Writer

The closure of any one of the larger military bases in San Diego County might not have the devastating economic impact predicted by many critics of the latest round of Base Realignment and Closure being conducted by the Department of Defense, local economists said recently.

The BRAC process, as it is called, has been shrouded in secrecy, so loose talk about this base or that base being eliminated is nothing more than conjecture. But a survey conducted by the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce tabulated the contribution that each of the major local installations makes to the county's economy, making it possible to estimate some economic impacts of a local base closure.

Economists interviewed by the North County Times all said that, while a major base closure might send a shudder through nearby communities and probably would produce some short-term negative economic effects, those effects would not last and probably would not be severe.

"The loss of (military personnel) payroll is a concern for the economy, of course," said Ryan Singer, research economist for the Economic Research Bureau.

"But I can't think of a segment of the economy that would be particularly hard-hit by a relatively small reduction of military personnel in the county," he said.

Not every voice agreed with that assessment, however. U.S. Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham said the economists' view underestimates what he called the "domino effect," an unraveling of the interconnected local military bases that he thinks ultimately would take billions of dollars annually out of San Diego's economy.

Alan Gin, a University of San Diego economics professor who tracks the local economy for the

Burnham-Moores Real Estate Institute at the school, held the middle ground but leaned somewhat in the same direction as Singer.

"Initially, there would be some short-term economic pain," Gin said, "because closing a large base would take a lot of payroll out of the county. Military personnel, through the money they spend, are one of the things that help out the economy of the county, but in the long term we would adjust."

Cunningham is a bit less sanguine.

"It depends on which base you're talking about," he said.

"When I look at communities elsewhere that have had bases closed, I cannot think of one that benefited a great deal," he said.

Closing a base involves much more than just moving the people out and padlocking the gate. Many bases must go through expensive environmental cleanups before being usable to the public.

The federal government has no obligation to obey the same set of environmental protection rules on military installations that private companies located just outside the fence must follow. As a result, many bases include areas, such as fuel depots and live-fire ranges, where pollutants and dangerous chemicals permeate the ground.

"Quite often, it costs more to close those bases than to keep them open because of the environmental cleanup costs; the military economy is adversely affected by that," Cunningham said.

Cleanup costs are high on everybody's list of negative consequences of a base closure. But cleanup activity probably would pour federal money into the local economy by creating cleanup jobs, temporarily replacing lost military pay and lost contracts for civilian companies that provide goods and services to the bases now. Actual cleanup costs vary from base to base and require congressional funding.

More readily measurable are the economic costs of lost federal dollars: military payroll, military tenants in civilian housing, contracts for base support services and federal school aid that compensates local school districts for educating the children of military families.

There are more than 90,000 military personnel in San Diego County. As large as that number sounds, it represents only about 6 percent of a total county work force that exceeds nearly 1.5 million. Closing a base the size of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar would, over a period of two or more years, transfer about 0.5 percent of the work force out of the county.

In fact, figures published by the Economic Research Bureau, an arm of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, show that San Diego County already is trimming its reliance on military spending for economic stability. Although the absolute number of dollars of military spending has risen locally in recent years, since 1993 the percentage of the gross regional product, the total of all goods and services in the local economy, attributable to military spending has declined from a high of about 15 percent to around 8 percent today.

"Remember, even if we had a reduction in active duty personnel on the order of 10,000 people (approximately the number stationed at Miramar), the county receives an influx of about 20,000 new people every year from other parts of the country or the world, and we grow by about 30,000

people every year through natural increase," Singer said. Natural increase is the growth of a population because the number of births exceeds the number of deaths in the community.

Robert Brown, chairman of the department of economics at Cal State San Marcos, said the potential for economic pain depends on what bases are affected.

"Pendleton is about 40,000 military personnel, and maybe another 20,000 civilian jobs that depend on Pendleton," he said. "The military folks are predominantly from outside the area, so if you were to close it and they exit, they take with them all that consumer spending, and there would be some multiplier effect."

A multiplier effect is a term economists use to describe consumer spending behavior. When a dollar is spent, some portion of it is spent again by the person who receives it, and then a smaller portion is spent yet again by the person who is third in line, and so on. In the end, adding up all the partial responding by successive recipients yields a spending total that is some multiple of the original dollar.

"But you have to ask yourself, what is the next best use of that land?" Brown said. "Maybe you take out a lot of people, but something will replace the military that's leaving, and it may be that the something will outweigh the military leaving."

Total military payroll in the county is nearly \$5 billion annually. That's almost half of all of the dollars spent locally by the Department of Defense. Another \$4 billion or so is spent on defense contracts. Direct base expenditures are less than \$1.5 billion per year.

Closure of a major military installation often leads to severe distortion of real estate markets, which can result in depressed housing prices, home construction disruptions and empty rental units, but that is far less likely in San Diego County than elsewhere. A review by local business interests in Beaufort County, S.C., decided that closing Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station would strip the county of 25 percent of its payroll dollars and would result in zero new home construction for between five and 10 years.

San Diego County's housing market, however, is characterized by a shortage of available homes and by stratospheric home prices that may well be beyond the ability of most military personnel to pay. The impact of a major base closing, therefore, could have a negligible effect on home prices or construction starts, and might even deliver a boon if it were to make more land available for development.

Rental housing, particularly apartment developments near military bases, could be affected more than the home market by a base closure.

"It's going to be painful for the rental market," said Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

"Rental rates might be cut, more concessions might be offered to get people to move in," he said.

Essentially, those effects were seen in rental units in Oceanside when large numbers of Marines were deployed to the Middle East for the Iraq war. But Kyser said it is not clear that the market would be affected.

Cunningham said that, although his opposition to base closings rested in part on his belief that the military must be more prepared for war, the economic concern for affected localities also is important.

"I know the economist from the chamber said the impact might be minimal," Cunningham said.

"But the entire congressional delegation from San Diego, including both U.S. senators, have drawn the same line" opposing closure, he added. "Generally, it has not been a good picture for the community when bases close," he said.

Cunningham indicated that one potential consequence of closing a major installation might be a reduction in the relevance of another base in the area. For example, he said, closing Miramar could weaken arguments for keeping three nuclear-powered aircraft carriers at North Island in Coronado. If the carriers were moved elsewhere, an argument could be made for moving the maintenance facility at North Island to Ogden, Utah. That, in turn, might raise questions about the rationale for keeping the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command at Point Loma.

According to the Economic Research Bureau, in 2002 some 35,000 children of military personnel were students in San Diego County schools, potentially bringing the school systems in the county more than \$21 million in federal impact payments.

Those payments are meant to offset the increased cost of accommodating an increased number of students whose parents often do not pay local real estate taxes, which are a source of funding for schools.

About 32,000 military personnel live in civilian housing, about 35 percent of all military personnel in the county.

Of companies in the county surveyed by the research bureau, 37 percent reported doing some work for the military, with contracts totaling as high as \$1.6 billion annually. In all, nearly 45,000 employees work for those companies, the research bureau found.

"Generally, it has not been a good picture for the community when a base closes," Cunningham said. "That's why one thing we recommended to the BRAC Commission was that they take a much closer look at the cost to the community."

The bases in San Diego County have unique places in the military's inventory of facilities, he said. "Take Miramar ---- a place like that, we have pilots fly from the East Coast and the Midwest to train there because of the weather."

And Camp Pendleton? "That's a great barrier between us and Los Angeles," Cunningham said.

### **Balboa hospital faces job cuts**

**By Rick Rogers**  
UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

**May 14, 2005**

Two years of intense lobbying and countless hours spent extolling San Diego County's value to the military seem to have paid off.

Yesterday, the Pentagon recommended that 33 major bases in 22 states be closed as part of the largest-ever downsizing for the U.S. armed forces. Absent from the list were any substantial bases in the county, which is remarkable given the area's high concentration of military operations.

That doesn't mean the region is spared completely. The county faces an overall loss of 1,041 military-related jobs – more than half of the 2,018 such positions targeted throughout California. The reductions would come from realignment of four local installations and the closure of an administrative center for the Defense Department near Mesa College in San Diego.



JOHN GASTALDO / Union-Tribune

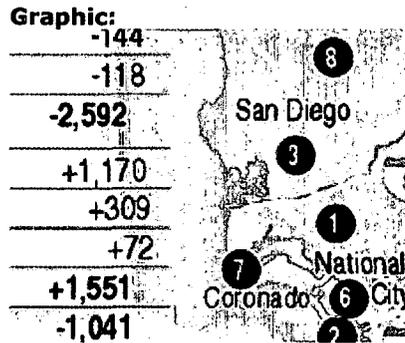
Although San Diego County came away relatively unscathed in the Pentagon's list of recommended base closures, the San Diego Naval Medical Center faces losing 1,630 jobs - the deepest cuts of any military installation in California.

"I consider it a huge victory to have lost less than 1 percent of our personnel," said San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy, who had lobbied state leaders and military officials in Washington, D.C. "Every major base in San Diego (County) will remain open. There is an expectation that we will probably gain more people in the area of research and development in the future."

The county's 14 military bases and commands pump an estimated \$18 billion into the local economy and employ more than 110,000 people.

Rep. Susan Davis, D-San Diego, echoed Murphy's assessment.

"We knew going in that everyone was going to bleed," she said, "but San Diego walked away with just a scratch."



Gains and losses

That scratch is the San Diego Naval Medical Center in Balboa Park, which faces the deepest cuts of any installation in California. The complex would lose 1,630 people, most of them enlisted sailors enrolled in medical courses.

Other proposed personnel cuts in the county include: 460 positions at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado; 240 at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in San Diego; 144 at Camp Pendleton; and 118 at the Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station.

Anticipated gains include: 72 positions at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, 309 at Point Loma Naval Base and 1,170 at San Diego Naval Station at 32nd Street.

The local cuts sound worse than they really are, said Julie Meier Wright, president of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp., a key advocacy group for the county's bases.

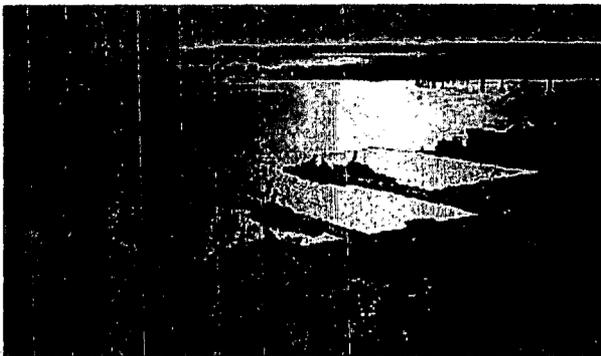
Wright said that only 100 to 150 of the positions targeted at the Balboa hospital involve full-time, permanent staff members.

She also said the region's leaders had been worried that Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Miramar Marine Corps Air Station or Point Loma Naval Base might be shuttered or lose a substantial number of jobs.

Other local lobbyists agreed with Wright's positive outlook.

"San Diego avoided all the big bullets," said House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter, R-El Cajon.

Yesterday's recommendations by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld – which must be approved by President Bush, Congress and an independent commission – represent his attempt to balance a whirl of competing forces.



JOHN GASTALDO / Union-Tribune  
San Diego Naval Station at 32nd Street would gain 1,170 jobs under the Base Realignment and Closure process.

They include the changing threats facing the nation, massive federal deficits, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, political pressures and the economies of thousands of communities coast to coast.

Overall, Rumsfeld intends to cut 26,187 positions during this fifth and latest round of the Base Realignment and Closure process, or BRAC.

Those jobs would come not only from shuttering bases, but also by consolidating or realigning operations. Rumsfeld proposed 775 "minor closures and realignments" yesterday, compared with 235 in the four previous rounds combined.

While legislators and lobbyists combed through a thicket of data that the Pentagon presented, the overarching theme of Rumsfeld's plan became clear: To be more combat-ready and affordable, the military branches must become leaner and more unified.

The Army, for example, would move the 7th Special Forces Group from Fort Bragg, N.C., to the Air Force's Eglin, Fla., base so that both services' elite troops could train together more easily. An airfield next to Eglin is the headquarters of the Air Force Special Operations Command.

Under the plan, the crown jewel of the Army hospital system, the venerable Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, would be closed. The hospital would move staff and services to the National Naval Medical Center in nearby Bethesda, Md., to create a new and expanded facility carrying the Walter Reed name.

The military describes these moves as "jointness" – the services combining their strengths rather than working separately.

"Because jointness is key to creating military value, that was our goal," said Michael Wynne, the Pentagon's technology and weapons-buying chief who oversaw the base-review project.

In general, Northeast states would suffer the greatest downsizing, while those in the South and Southwest would gain considerably.

Rumsfeld's proposal generated immediate protest from members of Congress whose states stand to lose civilian and military jobs. The Pentagon pledged to help the hardest-hit communities.

"It is wrong. It is shortsighted," Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said when he learned that recommended closures would include the submarine base at Groton. He called it "cruel and unusual punishment" of his state, which would suffer a net loss of 7,133 military and 1,041 civilian jobs.

States that fared well included Georgia, which would register a net gain of 8,677 military positions, and Texas, which would pick up nearly 9,000 military positions, with El Paso and San Antonio acquiring the most.

Rumsfeld said he knows some communities will struggle to cope with job losses, but he made clear that the nation's security can be assured only if the military gets stronger.

It's a theme Rumsfeld has sounded throughout his tenure at the Pentagon. He alluded to it again in a cover letter for yesterday's report to Anthony J. Principi, chairman of the BRAC commission.

"Increasing combat effectiveness and transforming U.S. forces are critical if our country is to be able to meet tomorrow's national defense challenges," Rumsfeld wrote. He recommended that a similar base-use review be done every five to 10 years. The latest review was the first since 1995.

Shortly after Rumsfeld's announcement, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., described the list as "not as bad as we thought, or as good as one might have hoped."

Among the California sites suggested for closure are Marine Corps reserve centers in Encino and Los Angeles, and the Concord, Calif. detachment of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station. But Feinstein noted the survival of bases that had been viewed as vulnerable, such as Los Angeles Air Force Base and the Defense Language School in Monterey.

As for San Diego County, many military and defense analysts nationwide had predicted that the region would come out relatively unscathed.

"Considering the whole point of this exercise was to close bases and save money, California in general and San Diego County in particular did well," said Loren Thompson of the Lexington Institute, a think tank in Arlington, Va.

Ninety-seven bases were closed during the previous BRAC rounds – in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995.

San Diego County lost the Naval Training Center in 1993, but picked up the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command in 1995.

Before yesterday's announcement, California had lost 93,456 military-related jobs because of the earlier BRAC rounds. San Diego County had gained 6,099 – by far the most of any region in the state, according to an April study by the California Institute for Federal Policy Research.

### **San Diego Military Bases Spared By BRAC**

**By BRAD GRAVES**

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL STAFF

The Pentagon has spared San Diego from major base closures, though several facilities may lose hundreds of jobs and Naval Station San Diego may gain 1,170 jobs as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure round.

After years of planning, the Department of Defense revealed Friday morning it wants to close 33 major bases nationwide in the effort, called BRAC. None of the bases are in San Diego.

"We've had a big victory today, but it's not over," San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy told the media late Friday morning. A nine-member commission must review and approve the Pentagon's recommendations, and may modify them.

Julie Meier Wright, head of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp., said her staff had been going over hundreds of pages of documents distributed by the Pentagon early Friday, trying to figure out the economic impact on San Diego. "We know over the long term it will be favorable," Wright said.

The EDC has spent \$400,000 so far on lobbying to keep San Diego's collection of bases intact, she told a press conference.

Slated for closure locally is the Defense Finance and Accounting Service office, which employs 237 civilians and three military personnel. The Defense Department is reportedly consolidating all such offices in Indianapolis.

Naval Medical Center San Diego will lose some positions, though it was unclear how many. The medical center is not closing and the quality of care will not be affected, said EDC representatives.

What is going away is a school for enlisted medical personnel, which is being consolidated with other such schools at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, according to Bill Cassidy, a former Pentagon official that the EDC hired to argue San Diego's case. The medical center employs 4,607, according to figures provided by the mayor's office.

For its part, Naval Station San Diego will gain 10 ships – specifically, mine countermeasure ships – as the Navy moves to close Naval Station Ingleside in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The economic impact of such ships is \$50 million, EDC officials said, adding the move will not only bring payrolls but business for area shipyards.

The Pentagon said Naval Station San Diego will have a net gain of 1,084 military jobs and 84 civilian jobs under the plan.

Other changes:

Naval Base Coronado, which includes North Island Naval Air Station and Naval Amphibious Base, may have a net loss of 71 military jobs and 389 civilian jobs under the realignment plan.

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton will lose 145 military jobs and have a net gain of one civilian job under the plan.

Naval Weapons Station Fallbrook is also slated for realignment, with a potential loss of 118 civilian jobs.

Naval Base Point Loma will see a net gain of 300 military jobs and nine civilian jobs.

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar will experience a net gain of 41 military jobs and 31 civilian jobs.

Apparently spared are support facilities that civic leaders had been most worried about losing: Marine Corps Recruit Depot; various agencies in the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, the Navy's information technology arm, including Spawar headquarters; and Naval Air Depot North Island. The latter is a heavy repair shop for jet engines and other complex machinery.

An independent, ad hoc commission will hold hearings on the Pentagon's base closure recommendations this summer. The nine-member commission has the chance to modify the list. The closure list then goes to President Bush and Congress, who must either approve or reject the list as a whole.

### **San Diego Braced for BRAC**

#### **Pentagon's tentative base closure list due out Friday**

By EVAN McLAUGHLIN  
Voice Staff Writer  
Published May 12, 2005

The Department of Defense will make its recommendations Friday to an independent panel overseeing the next round of military base closures, and San Diego boosters will be anxiously awaiting the announcement after a two-year lobbying effort to protect the county's installations.

"As of right now, I'm cautiously optimistic," Eric Bruvold, vice president of public affairs for the San Diego Economic Development Corp., said Wednesday afternoon.

Bruvold is among the San Diegans who have written letters, walked the halls of power and crafted impact reports to keep the 11 military centers in San Diego County from the upcoming round of modifications to the armed services' base infrastructure made by the base realignment and closure commission, or BRAC.

"It's the best-kept secret the DoD has ever kept," said Bob Johnstone, executive director of the California Defense Alliance, an organization lobbying on behalf of the state's bases. "We'll wait and see, but I can promise you there will be a lot of Monday morning quarterbacking going on once the list comes out."

At stake in the recent round are tens of thousands of jobs locally. The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce estimates that defense spending accounts for \$18 billion in the county, 13 percent of the total economy. One out of every 10 county residents is affiliated with the military, the chamber reports.

There are 11 Navy and Marine Corps centers in the county the commission will consider: the Navy's San Diego naval station, North Island air station, Imperial Beach landing field, Coronado amphibious base, Point Loma base and Fallbrook weapons station detachment; the Marine Corps' Camp

Pendleton, Miramar air station and Recruit Depot San Diego; Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, also called SPAWAR; and the Naval Medical Center.

The Pentagon's recommendation on Friday kicks off a process lasting several months where lawmakers and lobbyists will try to press the nine-member BRAC panel to keep bases in their communities off the list of closures.

"When that list comes out, it's like throwing a dirt clod at a wasp's nest," said Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Escondido. "Once that dirt clod hits, the wasps are going to come swarming out. Communities are going to mount to the best of their knowledge why their base shouldn't be closed."

Following the Pentagon's recommendations, the BRAC panel will mull the list before submitting a revision to President Bush by Sept. 8.

The odds of BRAC changing a Defense Department closure recommendation are 10 percent, said Retired Vice Admiral Peter Hekman of University City, who is working with local and state lawmakers to retain the region's bases.

Two weeks later, the president will announce whether he has approved the commission's realignment plan wholesale.

If Bush approves, the commission's plan becomes permanent after 45 days unless both houses of Congress vote to nix it. If the president or Congress does not approve BRAC's plan, the commission has until Oct. 20 to submit a new plan.

A revised plan must be approved by Bush and Congress by Nov. 7 or the process ends.

Since 1988, there have been four previous rounds of BRAC that closed 97 bases and made 55 major realignments to the military's infrastructure nationwide.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld originally estimated that about a quarter of the nation's bases would be trimmed in the upcoming round of closures, but last week he estimated that only half of those shutdowns will be made.

The criteria authorized by the 2002 bill that enacted this year's closures places a base's military value as the top priority for the commission to consider. Local lobbyists herald the military "synergy" of the Southwestern United States as an argument why the region's bases should not be shuttered.

Southern California and Arizona host 80 percent of the armed services' air-to-ground training, Hekman said.

San Diego's proximity to large airspaces over southwestern deserts and the Pacific Ocean make it a valuable training asset to the nation's security, Bruvold said.

"Helicopters based in Pendleton can deploy with ships from 32nd Street (Naval Station San Diego), and they can train in the offshore or desert training ranges nearby with aircraft from Miramar that is furnished at North Island with the weapons systems made at SPAWAR," he said.

"The proximity creates value greater than the sum of its parts."

Cunningham, who spent part of his military service training pilots at Miramar in the former Naval station's famed "Top Gun" program, said closing just one of the bases could create a "domino effect."

"If you lose Miramar, why would you need three nuclear carriers off the coast? And if you don't need those carriers, why have the shipbuilding and repair bays in the harbor?" he said. "Closures could be disastrous for both our economy and national security."

California officials estimate the state loses \$9.6 billion annually due to the closure of 29 bases in previous rounds. The Pentagon touts its economic aid programs to communities where bases are closed.

The Naval Training Center near Point Loma was shuttered in the 1993 base closures. A federal report released last week estimated that 120 jobs have been created after the base's closure forced 400 job losses. Officials from the city's redevelopment agency estimated 5,344 jobs will be created once the former NTC site is built out.

The final BRAC listing will also play a part in determining what sites the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority will recommend to the county's voters in November 2006. Five of the nine local sites the authority has decided to consider are on existing military installations -- North Island, Camp Pendleton, March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County and two Miramar locations.

However, after repeated pressure from state and federal lawmakers, the authority decided last month to halt studies on existing military sites until the president and Congress approve a base closure list.

Local boosters think they've made a compelling argument regardless of airport talks.

"We've done an enormous amount of homework in preparing decision-makers with well-articulated info about the region's vital importance in the national defense equation," Hekman said. "But we can't anticipate what happens."

### **San Diego Bases Overwhelmingly Protected in First Stage of BRAC**

By EVAN McLAUGHLIN  
Voice Staff Writer  
Published May 13, 2005

A military office for finances and accounting is the only San Diego defense facility listed in the base closure suggestions released Friday morning by the Department of Defense, although the proposed net loss of military-related personnel in the county topped 1,000.

"There are some puts and takes, but no major closures," said Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-El Cajon, who chairs the House Armed Services Committee. "San Diego basically escapes this round of base closures unscathed, but the battle is not over."

The Pentagon proposed shutting down 150 military centers nationwide, including 33 major bases. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld estimated the federal government would save \$48.8 billion over 20 years if his recommended closures are approved by President Bush and Congress.

Much of the list is comprised of realignments, with shifts in bases' troop and civilian numbers. Bases with proposed net gains in personnel include Naval Station San Diego (1,170 persons), Naval Base Pt. Loma (309) and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar (72). Bases doled proposed losses include Naval Medical Center San Diego (1,630), Naval Base Coronado (460), Camp Pendleton (144) and Naval Weapons Station Fallbrook (118).

The accounting office slated for closure, located in Kearny Mesa, is among the 13 branches of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service the Pentagon recommends to be shut down. About 240 employees work from the site.

The Kearny Mesa office handles about \$358 million annually in disbursements for operations including the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and the Special Warfare Command. Capt. Julie E. Webb, the office's commanding officer, was not immediately available for comment.

Local leaders had pointed to military value of the synergy between the Marine Corps and Navy services in San Diego County.

"The focus is joint operations," Hunter said. "Training where everyone is integrated and locked together, that's the future of the military."

The nine-member, appointed BRAC panel will mull the Pentagon's list before submitting a revision to President Bush by Sept. 8. Fifteen days later, the president will announce whether he has approved the commission's realignment plan wholesale.

If Bush approves, the commission's plan becomes permanent after 45 days unless both houses of Congress vote to nix it. If the president or Congress does not approve BRAC's plan, the commission has until Oct. 20 to submit a new plan.

A revised plan must be approved by Bush and Congress by Nov. 7 or the process ends.

Since 1988, there have been four previous rounds of BRAC that closed 97 bases and made 55 major realignments to the military's infrastructure nationwide.

With the Pentagon's suggested list in mind, the commission will consider 11 Navy and Marine Corps major facilities in the county: the Navy's San Diego naval station, North Island air station, Imperial Beach landing field, Coronado amphibious base, Point Loma base and Fallbrook weapons station detachment; the Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton, Miramar air station and Recruit Depot San Diego; the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command centers, also called SPAWAR; and the Naval Medical Center in Balboa Park.

Historically, about 10 percent of the Pentagon's recommendations are changed, experts said.

Hunter applauded the efforts by local boosters to advocate the protection of San Diego bases from closure.

"California, San Diego and Mayor (Dick) Murphy did a good job making their cases, but at the end of the day, military value was the most important," Hunter said.

### Opinion/Editorial Articles



**2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
Suggested Talking Points for Naval Base Coronado, California**

- 1. San Diego has been considered by many to have fared well through the Department of Defense's (DoD) evaluations and suggestions to close and realign military installations across the country; the Commission is an independent entity, established by Congress to determine whether DoD took all necessary factors into account and followed the process prescribed by law in the formulation of its suggestions.**
  - The Commission will take into full account the possible impact that the realignment of Naval Base Coronado on both the surrounding community and the U.S. military.
  - The Commission will independently evaluate the effect that realigning an installation in the county would have on the missions of the other installations.
  
- 2. Military value is the most important consideration to the Commission in its evaluations which will be performed according to the process determined by statute.**
  - The Commission also will take into account the factors such as accessibility to the desert and ocean and how those will affect ease of training procedures as well as mobility and quick deployment.
  - While the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of a base would have on a community are important, the Commission has been tasked with, chiefly, evaluating the military value the respective installations.
  
- 3. The BRAC Commission was established by Congress to ensure that the human impact, that DoD's suggestions would have on the Community surrounding the bases proposed for closure or realignment, will be taken into account.**
  - The Commission will perform a careful evaluation, as set out by law, of all of the significant effects that the realignment of Naval Medical Center San Diego would have on the region.
  - The BRAC Commission will consider the extended effects that the loss of jobs at this medical center could have on local maritime industry as well as on the housing market, and will determine whether DoD's suggestions would still enable the medical center to meet the healthcare needs of the troops stationed in the surrounding area.
  - Input by the Community is both valuable to and encouraged by the Commission. The Los Angeles Regional Hearing will be held on Thursday, July 14, and community groups wishing to submit information that they feel may have been overlooked by DoD are urged to contact their local Congressional representative. Additionally, comments may be submitted to the Commission through the Commission's official website, [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov).



**2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
Suggested Qs & As for Naval Base Coronado**

**Q1. Naval Base Coronado has been proposed for realignment by the Department of Defense (DoD) which would result in the loss of 587 civilian and 71 military jobs. Should this suggestion for realignment go into effect, would it not be damaging to the important and integrated mission of Navy installations in Southern California?**

**A1.** The Commission is performing a thorough, transparent, and precise evaluation of all the factors relating to the decision to realign or close a military installation. The process followed by the Commission has been determined by law. DoD has made its suggestions for the purpose of streamlining the military, ridding the military of excess capacity and infrastructure, and ensuring that our forces are able to meet changing global threats. The Congress established the Commission to independently evaluate the suggestions made by DoD and ensure that military value is the most important consideration in those suggestions.

**Q2. The state of California has lost 93,456 jobs due to previous BRAC rounds, while San Diego has gained 6,099—the most out of any region in the state. Is there a trend by DoD to move military forces from the north-eastern region of the United States to the southern and south-western region?**

**A2.** While military jobs have been cut from California in previous BRAC rounds, the goal of this round of BRAC is to ensure that our military is as efficient and streamlined as possible, while taking into account the economic, environmental, and other effects that the closure or realignment of military installations would have on the surrounding communities. The strategy as to how to ensure that our military is best prepared to meet the changing global threats is determined by DoD; the Congress established the Commission to determine that the evaluation and analysis, leading to the suggestions to close or realign military bases was performed according to law, in a fully open and transparent manner, taking all necessary factors into consideration.

**Q3. While Naval Training Center Point Loma was closed after the 1993 round of BRAC, resulting in 400 forced job-losses, 120 new jobs have since been created at that location and there are estimates that 5,344 jobs will be created as the build-out of what was once a military installation is completed. Additionally, estimates have shown that California has lost \$9.6 bil. a year from the closures, brought about by previous BRAC rounds, of military installations. While the effects appear initially appear negative for the community, what could be the redeeming value, for San Diego, of this round of BRAC?**

**A3.** The Commission was established by the Congress to perform an independent evaluation and analysis, through a process specifically determined by law, of the suggestions put forth by DoD for the closure and realignment of bases across the country. DoD has suggested certain military bases for closure or realignment, due to excess capacity, with the goal of ensuring that our military is fit to meet any new threat that it may face as maintains our national security. The job of the Commission is to ensure that the military value of a base has been properly taken into account by DoD. The

**A3. Continued**

Commission's job is also to listen to the community regarding the human impact that the suggestions by DoD, if enacted, would have. Please be assured that military value is the Commission's most important consideration and that, as DoD works with a community, after the closure or realignment of a base, and as the community itself works hard, positive results can be achieved.

**Q4. According to DoD, one of the most valuable considerations in whether or not to close or realign a military installation is jointness. San Diego County is known for the "synergy" it has between the Marine Corps and the Navy Services. Will this be taken into account by the BRAC Commission?**

**A4.** The Commission will independently and methodically evaluate all of the key factors contributing to the military value of the base. DoD has determined that jointness is one of its aims as it transforms our military to meet changing global threats. The analysis and evaluation is a tedious process, as each of the intertwined factors must be separated out and individually analyzed. The factors which are to play into the decision made by the Commissioners have been determined by law, as has the process of researching and evaluating those factors.

**Q5. One of the benefits of having military installations in the southwestern region of the United States is the accessibility to deserts and oceans for training-purposes and for ease of deployment. Has this played into DoD's suggestions and served as one reason why San Diego has been rather lightly touched in the most recent DoD list of base closure and realignment suggestions??**

**A5.** While DoD determines the strategy for how to ensure that our military is best prepared to meet changing global threats, the Congress established the Commission, in part, to ensure that military value of an installation was properly taken into account by DoD in the suggestions made by DoD. The Commission will carefully evaluate, through a process outlined by law, all important factors contributing to military value of these installations.

**Q6. Some have speculated that suggestions to move military installations from the northeast to the south and southwest are political in nature. Is the Commission basing its decisions at all upon where it feels there may be the most support for the military?**

**A6.** The Congress established the Commission as an entirely non-partisan and non-political entity to independently evaluate the suggestions made by DoD, and is made up of both Democrats and Republicans. Political leanings of a region are in no way taken into account in the process of research and evaluation prescribed by law.

**Q7. While some have said that the effects of military job loss, if the suggestions proposed by DoD are enacted, would be small, short-lived, and not hitting any particular segment of San Diego County's economy very hard, others have said that the realignments proposed there would have a domino-effect, taking millions of dollars out of the economy. Will the Commission take into full consideration the**

**Q7. Continued**

**economic effects that the proposals by DoD would have on San Diego County if those proposals are enacted?**

**A7.** While the most important consideration by the Commission, as it carries out the process of research and evaluation as determined by law, is the military value of an installation, the Commission will also take into account the economic effects that the closure or realignment of a base would have on the community and will perform a through analysis of these possible effects. The Commission is aware of the human impact had by the suggestions made by DoD, should these suggestions be enacted.

**Q8. Although the military employs close to 90,000 people in San Diego County and this only amounts to around 6% of the county's work-force, will the Commission still consider how this will effect the economy of the region surrounding the installations proposed for realignment by DoD?**

**A8.** The Commission will take the economic effects of the base closures and realignment, which have been suggested by DoD, into full account. A regional hearing in Los Angeles on Thursday, July 14 will allow the community the opportunity to provide the Commission with any information it feels that DoD may have missed in the evaluation leading to the DoD's suggestions. Be assured that, though the Commission considers military value to be the foremost important factor in its evaluations, it will make a full analysis of the economic effects of DoD's suggestions, as they relate to San Diego County.

**Q9. Is the Commission aware of the possible effects that base realignment in San Diego County could have on the housing market, especially in regards to the rental market? Real estate in San Diego is considered expensive, by some, for military families, and would this sudden availability have a significant effect on the housing market?**

**A9.** The Commission is making a full evaluation of the economic impacts of the suggested base realignments, made by DoD. While community impact is very important to the Commission, the key concern of the Commission is military value and whether DoD followed the process determined by law in the formulation of its suggestions for base closures and realignments to better ensure that our troops are prepared to meet the changing global threats.

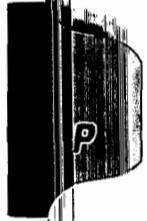
**Q10. It was estimated in 2002, that close to 35,000 children of military families attend San Diego County schools, which resulted in federal impact payments of nearly \$21 million, to offset the costs to the school district of having families which were not paying local taxes, funding the schools. Is the Commission aware of the effects that the suggestions made by DoD to realign military installations could have on schools in the region?**

**A10.** The process followed by the BRAC Commission has been specifically outlined by law and is extremely thorough and detailed. One of the goals of the Congress in establishing the Commission was to ensure that the human impact of the suggestions made by DoD, if the suggested are enacted, is taken into account. Community input is

**A10. Continued**

welcomed and is important to the Commissioners as they evaluate the effects the DoD's suggestions could have on the community and as the Commission formulates its report.

*Information and data compiled from enclosed press clippings.*



## NAVAL BASE CORONADO, SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA

### National News Articles

#### Local News Articles

Economic impact of base closure might be mild  
Balboa hospital faces job cuts  
San Diego Military Bases Spared By BRAC  
San Diego Braced for BRAC  
Pentagon's tentative base closure list due out Friday  
San Diego Bases Overwhelmingly Protected in First Stage of BRAC

### Opinion/Editorial Articles

#### National News Articles

#### Local News Articles

#### **Economic impact of base closure might be mild**

By: EDMOND JACOBY - Staff Writer

The closure of any one of the larger military bases in San Diego County might not have the devastating economic impact predicted by many critics of the latest round of Base Realignment and Closure being conducted by the Department of Defense, local economists said recently.

The BRAC process, as it is called, has been shrouded in secrecy, so loose talk about this base or that base being eliminated is nothing more than conjecture. But a survey conducted by the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce tabulated the contribution that each of the major local installations makes to the county's economy, making it possible to estimate some economic impacts of a local base closure.

Economists interviewed by the North County Times all said that, while a major base closure might send a shudder through nearby communities and probably would produce some short-term negative economic effects, those effects would not last and probably would not be severe.

"The loss of (military personnel) payroll is a concern for the economy, of course," said Ryan Singer, research economist for the Economic Research Bureau.

"But I can't think of a segment of the economy that would be particularly hard-hit by a relatively small reduction of military personnel in the county," he said.

Not every voice agreed with that assessment, however. U.S. Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham said the economists' view underestimates what he called the "domino effect," an unraveling of the interconnected local military bases that he thinks ultimately would take billions of dollars annually out of San Diego's economy.

Alan Gin, a University of San Diego economics professor who tracks the local economy for the

Burnham-Moores Real Estate Institute at the school, held the middle ground but leaned somewhat in the same direction as Singer.

"Initially, there would be some short-term economic pain," Gin said, "because closing a large base would take a lot of payroll out of the county. Military personnel, through the money they spend, are one of the things that help out the economy of the county, but in the long term we would adjust."

Cunningham is a bit less sanguine.

"It depends on which base you're talking about," he said.

"When I look at communities elsewhere that have had bases closed, I cannot think of one that benefited a great deal," he said.

Closing a base involves much more than just moving the people out and padlocking the gate. Many bases must go through expensive environmental cleanups before being usable to the public.

The federal government has no obligation to obey the same set of environmental protection rules on military installations that private companies located just outside the fence must follow. As a result, many bases include areas, such as fuel depots and live-fire ranges, where pollutants and dangerous chemicals permeate the ground.

"Quite often, it costs more to close those bases than to keep them open because of the environmental cleanup costs; the military economy is adversely affected by that," Cunningham said.

Cleanup costs are high on everybody's list of negative consequences of a base closure. But cleanup activity probably would pour federal money into the local economy by creating cleanup jobs, temporarily replacing lost military pay and lost contracts for civilian companies that provide goods and services to the bases now. Actual cleanup costs vary from base to base and require congressional funding.

More readily measurable are the economic costs of lost federal dollars: military payroll, military tenants in civilian housing, contracts for base support services and federal school aid that compensates local school districts for educating the children of military families.

There are more than 90,000 military personnel in San Diego County. As large as that number sounds, it represents only about 6 percent of a total county work force that exceeds nearly 1.5 million. Closing a base the size of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar would, over a period of two or more years, transfer about 0.5 percent of the work force out of the county.

In fact, figures published by the Economic Research Bureau, an arm of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, show that San Diego County already is trimming its reliance on military spending for economic stability. Although the absolute number of dollars of military spending has risen locally in recent years, since 1993 the percentage of the gross regional product, the total of all goods and services in the local economy, attributable to military spending has declined from a high of about 15 percent to around 8 percent today.

"Remember, even if we had a reduction in active duty personnel on the order of 10,000 people (approximately the number stationed at Miramar), the county receives an influx of about 20,000 new people every year from other parts of the country or the world, and we grow by about 30,000

people every year through natural increase," Singer said. Natural increase is the growth of a population because the number of births exceeds the number of deaths in the community.

Robert Brown, chairman of the department of economics at Cal State San Marcos, said the potential for economic pain depends on what bases are affected.

"Pendleton is about 40,000 military personnel, and maybe another 20,000 civilian jobs that depend on Pendleton," he said. "The military folks are predominantly from outside the area, so if you were to close it and they exit, they take with them all that consumer spending, and there would be some multiplier effect."

A multiplier effect is a term economists use to describe consumer spending behavior. When a dollar is spent, some portion of it is spent again by the person who receives it, and then a smaller portion is spent yet again by the person who is third in line, and so on. In the end, adding up all the partial responding by successive recipients yields a spending total that is some multiple of the original dollar.

"But you have to ask yourself, what is the next best use of that land?" Brown said. "Maybe you take out a lot of people, but something will replace the military that's leaving, and it may be that the something will outweigh the military leaving."

Total military payroll in the county is nearly \$5 billion annually. That's almost half of all of the dollars spent locally by the Department of Defense. Another \$4 billion or so is spent on defense contracts. Direct base expenditures are less than \$1.5 billion per year.

Closure of a major military installation often leads to severe distortion of real estate markets, which can result in depressed housing prices, home construction disruptions and empty rental units, but that is far less likely in San Diego County than elsewhere. A review by local business interests in Beaufort County, S.C., decided that closing Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station would strip the county of 25 percent of its payroll dollars and would result in zero new home construction for between five and 10 years.

San Diego County's housing market, however, is characterized by a shortage of available homes and by stratospheric home prices that may well be beyond the ability of most military personnel to pay. The impact of a major base closing, therefore, could have a negligible effect on home prices or construction starts, and might even deliver a boon if it were to make more land available for development.

Rental housing, particularly apartment developments near military bases, could be affected more than the home market by a base closure:

"It's going to be painful for the rental market," said Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

"Rental rates might be cut, more concessions might be offered to get people to move in," he said.

Essentially, those effects were seen in rental units in Oceanside when large numbers of Marines were deployed to the Middle East for the Iraq war. But Kyser said it is not clear that the market would be affected.

Cunningham said that, although his opposition to base closings rested in part on his belief that the military must be more prepared for war, the economic concern for affected localities also is important.

"I know the economist from the chamber said the impact might be minimal," Cunningham said.

"But the entire congressional delegation from San Diego, including both U.S. senators, have drawn the same line" opposing closure, he added. "Generally, it has not been a good picture for the community when bases close," he said.

Cunningham indicated that one potential consequence of closing a major installation might be a reduction in the relevance of another base in the area. For example, he said, closing Miramar could weaken arguments for keeping three nuclear-powered aircraft carriers at North Island in Coronado. If the carriers were moved elsewhere, an argument could be made for moving the maintenance facility at North Island to Ogden, Utah. That, in turn, might raise questions about the rationale for keeping the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command at Point Loma.

According to the Economic Research Bureau, in 2002 some 35,000 children of military personnel were students in San Diego County schools, potentially bringing the school systems in the county more than \$21 million in federal impact payments.

Those payments are meant to offset the increased cost of accommodating an increased number of students whose parents often do not pay local real estate taxes, which are a source of funding for schools.

About 32,000 military personnel live in civilian housing, about 35 percent of all military personnel in the county.

Of companies in the county surveyed by the research bureau, 37 percent reported doing some work for the military, with contracts totaling as high as \$1.6 billion annually. In all, nearly 45,000 employees work for those companies, the research bureau found.

"Generally, it has not been a good picture for the community when a base closes," Cunningham said. "That's why one thing we recommended to the BRAC Commission was that they take a much closer look at the cost to the community."

The bases in San Diego County have unique places in the military's inventory of facilities, he said. "Take Miramar ---- a place like that, we have pilots fly from the East Coast and the Midwest to train there because of the weather."

And Camp Pendleton? "That's a great barrier between us and Los Angeles," Cunningham said.

### **Balboa hospital faces job cuts**

**By Rick Rogers**  
UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

**May 14, 2005**

Two years of intense lobbying and countless hours spent extolling San Diego County's value to the military seem to have paid off.

Yesterday, the Pentagon recommended that 33 major bases in 22 states be closed as part of the largest-ever downsizing for the U.S. armed forces. Absent from the list were any substantial bases in the county, which is remarkable given the area's high concentration of military operations.

That doesn't mean the region is spared completely. The county faces an overall loss of 1,041 military-related jobs – more than half of the 2,018 such positions targeted throughout California. The reductions would come from realignment of four local installations and the closure of an administrative center for the Defense Department near Mesa College in San Diego.



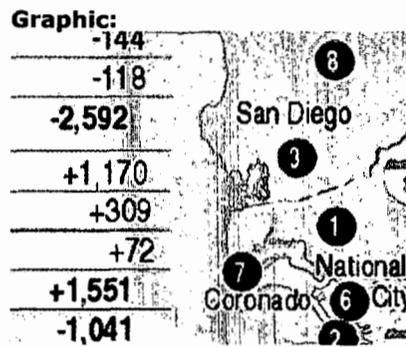
JOHN GASTALDO / Union-Tribune

Although San Diego County came away relatively unscathed in the Pentagon's list of recommended base closures, the San Diego Naval Medical Center faces losing 1,630 jobs - the deepest cuts of any military installation in California.

"I consider it a huge victory to have lost less than 1 percent of our personnel," said San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy, who had lobbied state leaders and military officials in Washington, D.C. "Every major base in San Diego (County) will remain open. There is an expectation that we will probably gain more people in the area of research and development in the future." The county's 14 military bases and commands pump an estimated \$18 billion into the local economy and employ more than 110,000 people.

Rep. Susan Davis, D-San Diego, echoed Murphy's assessment.

"We knew going in that everyone was going to bleed," she said, "but San Diego walked away with just a scratch."



**Gains and losses**

That scratch is the San Diego Naval Medical Center in Balboa Park, which faces the deepest cuts of any installation in California. The complex would lose 1,630 people, most of them enlisted sailors enrolled in medical courses.

Other proposed personnel cuts in the county include: 460 positions at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado; 240 at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in San Diego; 144 at Camp Pendleton; and 118 at the Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station.

Anticipated gains include: 72 positions at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, 309 at Point Loma Naval Base and 1,170 at San Diego Naval Station at 32nd Street.

The local cuts sound worse than they really are, said Julie Meier Wright, president of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp., a key advocacy group for the county's bases.

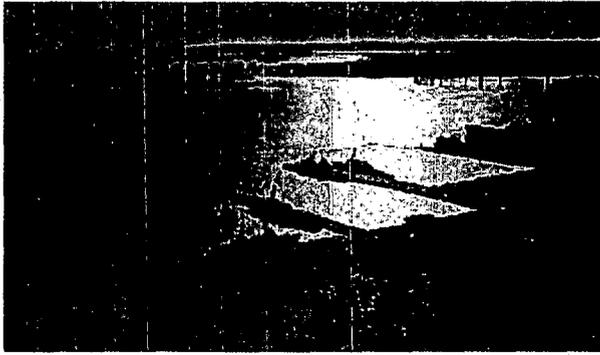
Wright said that only 100 to 150 of the positions targeted at the Balboa hospital involve full-time, permanent staff members.

She also said the region's leaders had been worried that Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Miramar Marine Corps Air Station or Point Loma Naval Base might be shuttered or lose a substantial number of jobs.

Other local lobbyists agreed with Wright's positive outlook.

"San Diego avoided all the big bullets," said House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter, R-El Cajon.

Yesterday's recommendations by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld – which must be approved by President Bush, Congress and an independent commission – represent his attempt to balance a whirl of competing forces.



JOHN GASTALDO / Union-Tribune  
San Diego Naval Station at 32nd Street would gain 1,170 jobs under the Base Realignment and Closure process.

They include the changing threats facing the nation, massive federal deficits, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, political pressures and the economies of thousands of communities coast to coast.

Overall, Rumsfeld intends to cut 26,187 positions during this fifth and latest round of the Base Realignment and Closure process, or BRAC.

Those jobs would come not only from shuttering bases, but also by consolidating or realigning operations. Rumsfeld proposed 775 "minor closures and realignments" yesterday, compared with 235 in the four previous rounds combined.

While legislators and lobbyists combed through a thicket of data that the Pentagon presented, the overarching theme of Rumsfeld's plan became clear: To be more combat-ready and affordable, the military branches must become leaner and more unified.

The Army, for example, would move the 7th Special Forces Group from Fort Bragg, N.C., to the Air Force's Eglin, Fla., base so that both services' elite troops could train together more easily. An airfield next to Eglin is the headquarters of the Air Force Special Operations Command.

Under the plan, the crown jewel of the Army hospital system, the venerable Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, would be closed. The hospital would move staff and services to the National Naval Medical Center in nearby Bethesda, Md., to create a new and expanded facility carrying the Walter Reed name.

The military describes these moves as "jointness" – the services combining their strengths rather than working separately.

"Because jointness is key to creating military value, that was our goal," said Michael Wynne, the Pentagon's technology and weapons-buying chief who oversaw the base-review project.

In general, Northeast states would suffer the greatest downsizing, while those in the South and Southwest would gain considerably.

Rumsfeld's proposal generated immediate protest from members of Congress whose states stand to lose civilian and military jobs. The Pentagon pledged to help the hardest-hit communities.

"It is wrong. It is shortsighted," Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said when he learned that recommended closures would include the submarine base at Groton. He called it "cruel and unusual punishment" of his state, which would suffer a net loss of 7,133 military and 1,041 civilian jobs.

States that fared well included Georgia, which would register a net gain of 8,677 military positions, and Texas, which would pick up nearly 9,000 military positions, with El Paso and San Antonio acquiring the most.

Rumsfeld said he knows some communities will struggle to cope with job losses, but he made clear that the nation's security can be assured only if the military gets stronger.

It's a theme Rumsfeld has sounded throughout his tenure at the Pentagon. He alluded to it again in a cover letter for yesterday's report to Anthony J. Principi, chairman of the BRAC commission.

"Increasing combat effectiveness and transforming U.S. forces are critical if our country is to be able to meet tomorrow's national defense challenges," Rumsfeld wrote. He recommended that a similar base-use review be done every five to 10 years. The latest review was the first since 1995.

Shortly after Rumsfeld's announcement, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., described the list as "not as bad as we thought, or as good as one might have hoped."

Among the California sites suggested for closure are Marine Corps reserve centers in Encino and Los Angeles, and the Concord, Calif. detachment of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station. But Feinstein noted the survival of bases that had been viewed as vulnerable, such as Los Angeles Air Force Base and the Defense Language School in Monterey.

As for San Diego County, many military and defense analysts nationwide had predicted that the region would come out relatively unscathed.

"Considering the whole point of this exercise was to close bases and save money, California in general and San Diego County in particular did well," said Loren Thompson of the Lexington Institute, a think tank in Arlington, Va.

Ninety-seven bases were closed during the previous BRAC rounds – in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995.

San Diego County lost the Naval Training Center in 1993, but picked up the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command in 1995.

Before yesterday's announcement, California had lost 93,456 military-related jobs because of the earlier BRAC rounds. San Diego County had gained 6,099 – by far the most of any region in the state, according to an April study by the California Institute for Federal Policy Research.

### **San Diego Military Bases Spared By BRAC**

**By BRAD GRAVES**

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL STAFF

The Pentagon has spared San Diego from major base closures, though several facilities may lose hundreds of jobs and Naval Station San Diego may gain 1,170 jobs as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure round.

After years of planning, the Department of Defense revealed Friday morning it wants to close 33 major bases nationwide in the effort, called BRAC. None of the bases are in San Diego.

"We've had a big victory today, but it's not over," San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy told the media late Friday morning. A nine-member commission must review and approve the Pentagon's recommendations, and may modify them.

Julie Meier Wright, head of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp., said her staff had been going over hundreds of pages of documents distributed by the Pentagon early Friday, trying to figure out the economic impact on San Diego. "We know over the long term it will be favorable," Wright said.

The EDC has spent \$400,000 so far on lobbying to keep San Diego's collection of bases intact, she told a press conference.

Slated for closure locally is the Defense Finance and Accounting Service office, which employs 237 civilians and three military personnel. The Defense Department is reportedly consolidating all such offices in Indianapolis.

Naval Medical Center San Diego will lose some positions, though it was unclear how many. The medical center is not closing and the quality of care will not be affected, said EDC representatives.

What is going away is a school for enlisted medical personnel, which is being consolidated with other such schools at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, according to Bill Cassidy, a former Pentagon official that the EDC hired to argue San Diego's case. The medical center employs 4,607, according to figures provided by the mayor's office.

For its part, Naval Station San Diego will gain 10 ships – specifically, mine countermeasure ships – as the Navy moves to close Naval Station Ingleside in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The economic impact of such ships is \$50 million, EDC officials said, adding the move will not only bring payrolls but business for area shipyards.

The Pentagon said Naval Station San Diego will have a net gain of 1,084 military jobs and 84 civilian jobs under the plan.

Other changes:

Naval Base Coronado, which includes North Island Naval Air Station and Naval Amphibious Base, may have a net loss of 71 military jobs and 389 civilian jobs under the realignment plan.

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton will lose 145 military jobs and have a net gain of one civilian job under the plan.

Naval Weapons Station Fallbrook is also slated for realignment, with a potential loss of 118 civilian jobs.

Naval Base Point Loma will see a net gain of 300 military jobs and nine civilian jobs.

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar will experience a net gain of 41 military jobs and 31 civilian jobs.

Apparently spared are support facilities that civic leaders had been most worried about losing: Marine Corps Recruit Depot; various agencies in the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, the Navy's information technology arm, including Spawar headquarters; and Naval Air Depot North Island. The latter is a heavy repair shop for jet engines and other complex machinery.

An independent, ad hoc commission will hold hearings on the Pentagon's base closure recommendations this summer. The nine-member commission has the chance to modify the list. The closure list then goes to President Bush and Congress, who must either approve or reject the list as a whole.

### **San Diego Braced for BRAC**

#### **Pentagon's tentative base closure list due out Friday**

By EVAN McLAUGHLIN  
Voice Staff Writer  
Published May 12, 2005

The Department of Defense will make its recommendations Friday to an independent panel overseeing the next round of military base closures, and San Diego boosters will be anxiously awaiting the announcement after a two-year lobbying effort to protect the county's installations.

"As of right now, I'm cautiously optimistic," Eric Bruvold, vice president of public affairs for the San Diego Economic Development Corp., said Wednesday afternoon.

Bruvold is among the San Diegans who have written letters, walked the halls of power and crafted impact reports to keep the 11 military centers in San Diego County from the upcoming round of modifications to the armed services' base infrastructure made by the base realignment and closure commission, or BRAC.

"It's the best-kept secret the DoD has ever kept," said Bob Johnstone, executive director of the California Defense Alliance, an organization lobbying on behalf of the state's bases. "We'll wait and see, but I can promise you there will be a lot of Monday morning quarterbacking going on once the list comes out."

At stake in the recent round are tens of thousands of jobs locally. The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce estimates that defense spending accounts for \$18 billion in the county, 13 percent of the total economy. One out of every 10 county residents is affiliated with the military, the chamber reports.

There are 11 Navy and Marine Corps centers in the county the commission will consider: the Navy's San Diego naval station, North Island air station, Imperial Beach landing field, Coronado amphibious base, Point Loma base and Fallbrook weapons station detachment; the Marine Corps' Camp

Pendleton, Miramar air station and Recruit Depot San Diego; Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, also called SPAWAR; and the Naval Medical Center.

The Pentagon's recommendation on Friday kicks off a process lasting several months where lawmakers and lobbyists will try to press the nine-member BRAC panel to keep bases in their communities off the list of closures.

"When that list comes out, it's like throwing a dirt clod at a wasp's nest," said Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Escondido. "Once that dirt clod hits, the wasps are going to come swarming out. Communities are going to mount to the best of their knowledge why their base shouldn't be closed."

Following the Pentagon's recommendations, the BRAC panel will mull the list before submitting a revision to President Bush by Sept. 8.

The odds of BRAC changing a Defense Department closure recommendation are 10 percent, said Retired Vice Admiral Peter Hekman of University City, who is working with local and state lawmakers to retain the region's bases.

Two weeks later, the president will announce whether he has approved the commission's realignment plan wholesale.

If Bush approves, the commission's plan becomes permanent after 45 days unless both houses of Congress vote to nix it. If the president or Congress does not approve BRAC's plan, the commission has until Oct. 20 to submit a new plan.

A revised plan must be approved by Bush and Congress by Nov. 7 or the process ends.

Since 1988, there have been four previous rounds of BRAC that closed 97 bases and made 55 major realignments to the military's infrastructure nationwide.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld originally estimated that about a quarter of the nation's bases would be trimmed in the upcoming round of closures, but last week he estimated that only half of those shutdowns will be made.

The criteria authorized by the 2002 bill that enacted this year's closures places a base's military value as the top priority for the commission to consider. Local lobbyists herald the military "synergy" of the Southwestern United States as an argument why the region's bases should not be shuttered.

Southern California and Arizona host 80 percent of the armed services' air-to-ground training, Hekman said.

San Diego's proximity to large airspaces over southwestern deserts and the Pacific Ocean make it a valuable training asset to the nation's security, Bruvold said.

"Helicopters based in Pendleton can deploy with ships from 32nd Street (Naval Station San Diego), and they can train in the offshore or desert training ranges nearby with aircraft from Miramar that is furnished at North Island with the weapons systems made at SPAWAR," he said.

"The proximity creates value greater than the sum of its parts."

Cunningham, who spent part of his military service training pilots at Miramar in the former Naval station's famed "Top Gun" program, said closing just one of the bases could create a "domino effect."

"If you lose Miramar, why would you need three nuclear carriers off the coast? And if you don't need those carriers, why have the shipbuilding and repair bays in the harbor?" he said. "Closures could be disastrous for both our economy and national security."

California officials estimate the state loses \$9.6 billion annually due to the closure of 29 bases in previous rounds. The Pentagon touts its economic aid programs to communities where bases are closed.

The Naval Training Center near Point Loma was shuttered in the 1993 base closures. A federal report released last week estimated that 120 jobs have been created after the base's closure forced 400 job losses. Officials from the city's redevelopment agency estimated 5,344 jobs will be created once the former NTC site is built out.

The final BRAC listing will also play a part in determining what sites the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority will recommend to the county's voters in November 2006. Five of the nine local sites the authority has decided to consider are on existing military installations -- North Island, Camp Pendleton, March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County and two Miramar locations.

However, after repeated pressure from state and federal lawmakers, the authority decided last month to halt studies on existing military sites until the president and Congress approve a base closure list.

Local boosters think they've made a compelling argument regardless of airport talks.

"We've done an enormous amount of homework in preparing decision-makers with well-articulated info about the region's vital importance in the national defense equation," Hekman said. "But we can't anticipate what happens."

### **San Diego Bases Overwhelmingly Protected in First Stage of BRAC**

By EVAN McLAUGHLIN  
Voice Staff Writer  
Published May 13, 2005

A military office for finances and accounting is the only San Diego defense facility listed in the base closure suggestions released Friday morning by the Department of Defense, although the proposed net loss of military-related personnel in the county topped 1,000.

"There are some puts and takes, but no major closures," said Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-El Cajon, who chairs the House Armed Services Committee. "San Diego basically escapes this round of base closures unscathed, but the battle is not over."

The Pentagon proposed shutting down 150 military centers nationwide, including 33 major bases. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld estimated the federal government would save \$48.8 billion over 20 years if his recommended closures are approved by President Bush and Congress.

Much of the list is comprised of realignments, with shifts in bases' troop and civilian numbers. Bases with proposed net gains in personnel include Naval Station San Diego (1,170 persons), Naval Base Pt. Loma (309) and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar (72). Bases doled proposed losses include Naval Medical Center San Diego (1,630), Naval Base Coronado (460), Camp Pendleton (144) and Naval Weapons Station Fallbrook (118).

The accounting office slated for closure, located in Kearny Mesa, is among the 13 branches of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service the Pentagon recommends to be shut down. About 240 employees work from the site.

The Kearny Mesa office handles about \$358 million annually in disbursements for operations including the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and the Special Warfare Command. Capt. Julie E. Webb, the office's commanding officer, was not immediately available for comment.

Local leaders had pointed to military value of the synergy between the Marine Corps and Navy services in San Diego County.

"The focus is joint operations," Hunter said. "Training where everyone is integrated and locked together, that's the future of the military."

The nine-member, appointed BRAC panel will mull the Pentagon's list before submitting a revision to President Bush by Sept. 8. Fifteen days later, the president will announce whether he has approved the commission's realignment plan wholesale.

If Bush approves, the commission's plan becomes permanent after 45 days unless both houses of Congress vote to nix it. If the president or Congress does not approve BRAC's plan, the commission has until Oct. 20 to submit a new plan.

A revised plan must be approved by Bush and Congress by Nov. 7 or the process ends.

Since 1988, there have been four previous rounds of BRAC that closed 97 bases and made 55 major realignments to the military's infrastructure nationwide.

With the Pentagon's suggested list in mind, the commission will consider 11 Navy and Marine Corps major facilities in the county: the Navy's San Diego naval station, North Island air station, Imperial Beach landing field, Coronado amphibious base, Point Loma base and Fallbrook weapons station detachment; the Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton, Miramar air station and Recruit Depot San Diego; the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command centers, also called SPAWAR; and the Naval Medical Center in Balboa Park.

Historically, about 10 percent of the Pentagon's recommendations are changed, experts said.

Hunter applauded the efforts by local boosters to advocate the protection of San Diego bases from closure.

"California, San Diego and Mayor (Dick) Murphy did a good job making their cases, but at the end of the day, military value was the most important," Hunter said.

#### Opinion/Editorial Articles