

DCN 6866

BRAC Commission

AUG 06 2005

Received

this is a very recent Star Frees Press article in which the Ventura County BRAC Task Force uses double speak, techno speak and nothing speak to save jobs and elevate the status of Pt. Mugu's importance. It is nothing more than a cheap attempt to stop the DOD recommendations from becoming finalized.

Dale Benedetti

# A new proposal is made for bases

## Mugu would stay intact under plan by county BRAC

By Sylvia Moore

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Supporters of Naval Base Ventura County are sending a new message in their fight to save thousands of jobs at the facility.

The Ventura County Base Realignment and Closure Task Force is proposing that the Naval Air Station at Point Mugu be placed under the command of the Naval Air Weapons Station at China Lake while allowing employees to stay at Mugu. The new command would be known as the Weapons and Armament Center of Excellence.

In May, the Department of Defense released its list of bases it wants to close or realign. The Pentagon's initial proposal called for realignments at Naval Base Ventura County resulting in a net loss of 3,397 jobs. Many of those jobs would be moved to China Lake. Local task force members say as many as 6,300 jobs could actually be lost in Ventura County.

President Bush and Congress have until this fall to approve or reject the recommendations, which are tentative now but could be finalized next month.

Task force members argue that Mugu and China Lake have worked together seamlessly for a decade, so it makes no sense to change anything other than perhaps the chain of command. The local base consists of Point

See BRAC on B2

Single chain  
BRAC from B-1

Mugu and the Const-  
tation Cent-  
tation Center at Port Hueneme,  
both of which fall under the com-  
mand of Naval Base Ventura  
County.

Retired Rear Adm. George Strohshahl suggested the local task force adopt the new message, which adds to its previous message that the Pentagon has underestimated Mugu's military value.

Bill Simmons, the group's campaign manager, said task force members will present their new vision to the federal BRAC Commission in Washington next month.

"The more we thought about it and talked to him (Strohshahl) about the way it was designed, it made sense," Simmons said

# of command sought for two bases

## "We have all indications that the relationship inside the fence is working well between the two sites."

Capt. Jack Dodd, retired task force strategist

Wednesday. "We hope they (commissioners) react in a very positive way. As time goes on, the case that we're making is more compelling."

The nine-member federal BRAC Commission has the authority to make changes to the Pentagon's recommendations.

Task force members say their new plan would save the Pentagon the cost of moving Mugu employees and building new facilities at China Lake, which is near the desert city of Ridgecrest.

Strohshahl was actively involved in the consolidation of Mugu and China Lake in the

being phased out. China Lake is responsible for systems integration for the EA-18G, or Growler, which will replace the EA-6B in 2009, Arnold said.

For that reason, Arnold said, it's better for scientists and engineers at both places to be working side by side in China Lake as a team.

"I'm very sympathetic with their position in general," Arnold said of the Ventura County task force. "On the other hand, I believe the electronic warfare needs to be, in the long run, at China Lake."

Dodd disagreed, saying Mugu has been recognized as the best location for electronic warfare. He said the two bases communicate just fine even though they are apart.

"They work like they're next door to each other," Dodd said.

Phil Arnold of the China Lake Defense Alliance, which supports the Pentagon's proposed realignment, sees it differently. Point Mugu is responsible for systems integration for the EA-6B, or Prowler jet, which is

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AUG 04 2005

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Honorable Anthony Principi Chairman  
2005 Brac Commission  
2521 Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi and all Brac Commission members,

my name is Dale Paul Benedetti and I have sent you a package of documents, letters, newspaper articles etc. on behalf of myself, John Jay and others that present a case for the closure of the NAWCWPNs, Pt. Mugu Naval Base near Oxnard California. The most compelling reason that is stated in my package was the management abuses of employees that I and many others were on the receiving end of during our employment tenures at Pt. Mugu.

I am sorry, according to local newspaper articles, that the Naval Base at Pt. Mugu will not be closed. Yet, I am very encouraged at the prospect that the Base might lose six thousand three hundred and seventy-three employment positions, directly and indirectly. I also hope that the re-alignment of the Base will forever stop the blatant and nefarious abuse of employees by managers that has taken place and will take place if drastic measures aren't taken. I hope that the re-alignment of the Base is a drastic enough measure to stop the insidious anti-labor practices that have and probably still continue to take place on that Base.

I was very uplifted by a recent local Star Free Press newspaper article in the July twenty-fifth two thousand and five edition, which I have enclosed, that talks about the possible relocation of the Pt. Mugu, Sea Range to a proposed future site at China Lake. This move will insure that all test operations conducted on the Sea Range, but monitored remotely from the China Lake facility, and the accompanying compiling telemetry data that accrues during test operations, possibly to be conducted at China Lake, will possibly take place under China Lake auspices. I think this is a very wise and prudent decision.

I was a former employee of the Pt. Mugu, Sea Range. I worked in the Operations Section, building 53-C, room 120 for almost ten years. In my complaint package, that you have in your possession, I detail many abuses and pathological lying that was directed towards me by three former bosses named Pat Gastineau, Dwight Bolen and Ruben Partida. I also included about one and a half pages of sophistry, misrepresentations, dissembling and outright lies that Mr Gene Zaharov, the Head of Data Processing and Displays Division, communicated to me in response to some very important questions I asked him. Granted, Dwight Bolen, Pat Gastineau and Ruben Partida no longer work on that Base and Mr. Zaharov works at another command on that Base. Yet, the practices they engaged in, relative to myself and likely many others, were practices that you must insure never take place again.

I submit to you Mr. Principi and all members of the BRAC Commission that the Pt. Mugu, Sea Range must be completely take off line, moved to China Lake and, if necessary, rebuilt from scratch based on the abuses that I witnessed over a ten year period and I have reported to you. The Pt. Mugu Sea Range was the most unprofessional, sleazy and incompetent enterprise one could imagine, owing to the slimy practices that management on the Sea Range engaged in. These abuses are not an anomaly. They are abuses that are rampant all over that Base. I am sure that China Lake managers can do a much more effective job of running the Sea Range with a lot less lying to subordinates and, most likely, to superiors. Again, based on ethical, and not technical, empirical criteria, I make the case the the Sea Range and all its functions be moved to China Lake. I am sure this move will pay big dividends. Do not let these important test functions be overseen by fifth rate sleaze bag managers like the ones I worked under at Pt. Mugu. The American people deserve the best in this regard.

On January thirty-first of two thousand Alaska Air Flight 231 was accidentally (maybe) shutdown over the Pt. Mugu Sea Range. A Mr. Steve Mendonca was Head of the Sea Range when the shutdown took place. I hope that the BRAC Commission can ultimately get to the bottom of what happened on that fateful day. It is truly a black mark on the Sea Range's history. I make mention of the Alaska Air Flight 261 because I really think that Mr. Mendonca has seen to it that the truth of this terrible event will never be known to the families of Alaska Air Flight 261. Why do I say this? Well, Mr. Mendonca was the man who told me and many many others, during a assembly at the Pt. Mugu base theatre, who were recently placed on the ATP list in calendar year nineteen ninety-seven that we were placed on the list not because we were bad employees but that we were good employees who could easily be placed in newly funded positions on Base in the near future. We were never placed in the new positions. All of the ATP listees were subsequently RIFed in November of nineteen ninety-nine.

Mr. Mendonca is a man John Jay says "lies every time he moves his lips." Mr. Mendonca has lied and lied over the course of Mr. Jay's legal entanglements with the U.S. Navy ever since Mr. Jay was RIFed on November the nineteenth of nineteen ninety-nine. If you want to know the nature and depth of Mr. Mendonca's lying then you should contact Mr. Jay and ask him about the character of Mr. Steve Mendonca.

Mr. Tom Curtis is the present Head of the Sea Range. In 1997, shortly after I was placed on the ATP list, I was ordered by my boss, a Mr. Ruben Partida, to show up for an job interview with Public Works officials Ron Bach and Carrie Eller at Public Works. The job consisted of digging ditches and servicing utilities at San Nicholas Island. I was interviewed but not given the job. A few days after my interview Mr. Curtis, who at that time was Steve Mendonca's right hand man, called me at work and wanted to know why I didn't get the job at Public Works. I told him to call the two Public Works officials and ask them why they didn't hire me. I told him I did what I was asked to do, which was interview for the job. Mr. Curtis went on to lie to me about how I could go ahead and look for a new position on Base once I assumed my job as ditch digger at San Nicholas Island. This man knew full well that there were no positions available for me to work in on that Base once I assumed my job as a ditch digger. He and Mr. Mendonca are such big liars.

I know damm well that the Public Works job interview and the subsequent follow-up telephone call by Tom Curtis were tactics that

were used to get <sup>me</sup> me to quit Civil Service. This fact was related to ~~be~~ by Mr. John Jay. I would have been digging ditches in one hundred degree weather if I had gotten that job. Again, these two individuals were ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> are the former and present Heads of the Sea Range.

In closing, I would like to quote Saint Augustine on lying, <sup>and</sup> excerpted from the book "Lying, Moral Choice in Public and Private Life" by Sissela Bok. "When regard for truth has been broken down or even slightly weakened, all things will remain doubtful."

respectfully, Dale Benedetti

Mr. Principi and BRAC Commission Members,

This Star Free Press Article Talks about how the Ventura County BRAC Force keeps parroting the old line that the DOD realignment proposals make no sense.

Well, my response to the Ventura County BRAC Force members Long, Stroesdahl, McKinney and Capps is that you just don't know the whole story of Pt. Mugu and I am not about to furnish these members my complaint package. If they were in possession of my file, I think they would not make statements like the one in which they collectively state that the realignment recommendations "make no sense."

Again, please don't change the DOD recommendations that have been made regarding Pt. Mugu and realignment. In addition, transfer all Pt. Mugu Sea Range functions to China Lake. The Ventura County BRAC Task Force bases its entire arguement for keeping the DOD realignment recommendations from becoming a reality on dubious grounds.

Dale Benedetti

## BRAC

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Lake and Shipboard Command and Control moving to Point Loma.

The community position recognizes and supports the need for BRAC actions in order to enhance the military value of our armed forces and increase synergy and jointness across the services to reduce infrastructure and costs whenever possible.

However, the Ventura County BRAC Task Force opposes many of the current recommendations for NBVC because they decrease the value to our warfighters, there are deviations from BRAC law, the supporting data simply does not exist, and cost savings will not occur.

"The DoD's TJCSG did an extremely poor job of analyzing the missions and value of the technical activities at NBVC," Admiral George Strohsahl (Ret.) testified. "There are gross errors in assessing the negative impact of its recommendations on the warfighter and in its failure to recognize how the past 14 years of streamlining, downsizing and consolidation activities between Point Mugu and China Lake have already eliminated all duplication and redundancy. All of the DoD recommendations should be thrown out."

"The specific issues are complicated and difficult to explain to the general public," said Bill Simmons, BRAC Task Force Manager. "For example, one term I keep hearing is inextricable. Simply put, this means that certain jobs and capabilities must stay, or the mission of the Command is compromised."

Inextricable functions were identified by the Navy through the submission of certified data during the first phase of the BRAC process.

"We want to know why the analysts in the TJCSG decided to override the local recommendations and go ahead with moving these jobs from NBVC," said Captain Jack Dodd (Ret.).

In response to a recent congressional inquiry on this subject, the



The BRAC 2005 Ventura County Task Force includes, from left, Captain Jack Dodd (Ret.); Ed Summers, Task Force Co-Chair, Congresswomen Lois Capps; Admiral George Strohsahl (Ret.); Supervisor Kathy Long, Task Force Co-Chair; and Admiral Dana McKinney (Ret.)

## About the Task Force

The BRAC 2005 Ventura County Task Force is a collaborative initiative coordinated by the Ventura County Economic Development Association (VCEDA). For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.vceda.org/bases](http://www.vceda.org/bases) or e-mail the Task Force at [brac@vceda.org](mailto:brac@vceda.org).

obvious disconnect between the formal recommendation and the certified data that had been submitted was attributed to "expert military judgment."

"We are asking the BRAC Commission to determine who these 'experts' were that recommended the movement of the range support functions," Simmons said, adding, "It makes absolutely no sense to operate the range remotely and launch aircraft and targets from 150 miles away in the desert."

The major issues raised were:

1. Point Mugu is already recognized as a Joint Center of Excellence for Electronic Warfare. What will be the loss of intellectual capital in those who refuse to move from the coast to the desert, and

what will be the impact on our warfighters?

2. Efficiency and safety will decrease and operational costs will rise as a result of the movement of the Sea Range, Targets and Range Support Aircraft 150 miles away from their primary Sea Range operating area.

3. Efficiencies will not be gained, and synergy will not be increased by relocating Point Mugu and Port Hueneme Weapons and Armaments activities to China Lake.

4. Movement of Port Hueneme combat system integration activities will not increase the efficiency of the maritime C4ISR Center of Excellence at Point Loma.

5. Why does it appear that the data submitted have been disregarded in the recommendation of jobs being transferred from NBVC?

With regard to cost and savings, a key BRAC issue, Congresswoman Capps told the Commission, "Realignment of Naval Base Ventura County's Sea Range and Targets and moving the test squadron and electronic warfare personnel and facilities will waste, not save taxpayer dollars. I serve on the House Budget Committee, and let me tell you, we can't afford to spend a lot of money to move missions and personnel when there is not long-term savings involved."

## Ventura County well-represented at BRAC hearing

In mid-July, the Ventura County BRAC Task Force — accompanied by 150 Naval Base Ventura County employees, as well as numerous other concerned citizens and local elected officials — traveled to Westchester High School in Los Angeles for the BRAC Commission hearing.

The testimony began with a personal appeal from Congressman Elton Gallegly, followed by Congresswoman Lois Capps. Out of the six other communities with presentations, Ventura County was the only group that had a congressional representative speak on its behalf, let alone two of them.

"I am very proud of the team effort at the hearing," said Kathy Long, Ventura County Supervisor and Co-Chair of the BRAC Task Force. "Our arguments were concise, yet thorough, and the resounding community support made quite an impression. The spontaneous standing ovation by the audience sent a very clear message to the BRAC Commission, and we are very grateful to everyone who attended."

With the BRAC Commission Regional Hearing completed, the Task Force now must focus on playing the second half of the game: specifically, securing favorable recommendations at the Final Hearing of the BRAC Commission on August 22.

The progress made in the past few weeks has been steady and sure, especially considering the complexity of the issues and the enormity of the task. The goal is to get the BRAC Commission to rule in our favor.

Julie Helm-Allen is the Task Force coordinator.

## BRAC Task Force takes issue with proposed realignments

By Julie Helm-Allen

The best chance Ventura County has to retain as many of the possible 6,373 jobs currently slated for realignment by the Department of Defense (DoD) is to convince the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to reverse the current recommendations.

In order to do that, the BRAC Ventura County Task Force pored over hundreds of pages of text, meeting minutes and data to mount a defense that focused on military value, relocation costs and savings.

As the fact-finding process unfolded over the past two months, there was growing evidence that the Technical Joint Cross Service Group (TJCSG) analysis was significantly flawed in terms of what determinations they made and how their recommendations were executed before being forwarded to the DoD. This became the basis of the arguments made on behalf of Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) before the BRAC Commission at its Regional Hearing on July 14.

In testimony given by Congress-

man Elton Gallegly, he said, "I support streamlining our military, but the Technical Joint Cross Service Group's recommendation to realign many functions from Point Mugu to China Lake — functions that are essential to the core mission of Point Mugu or have been identified as Center of Excellence areas — will raise the cost to taxpayers by millions of dollars, decrease the military effectiveness, and harm our military personnel — exactly the opposite of what BRAC is supposed to do."

Congresswoman Lois Capps concurred by telling the BRAC Commission, "I have reviewed the Pentagon's recommendations, and it is clear that the Defense Department erred when measuring the military value of these facilities. These recommendations defy common sense."

The DoD recommended realignment of several functions, including Electronic Warfare, Sea Range, Targets, Range Support Aircraft and Weapons work moving to China

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