

DCN: 7998

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Principi:

I wish to express my support for the BRAC recommendations made by the Secretary of Defense to create a Naval Integrated Weapons and Armaments RDAT&E Center at China Lake and to realign the Sensors, Electronic Warfare and Electronics RDAT&E from Point Mugu to China Lake. These forward looking recommendations fully support the Secretary's goals to position the country's base infrastructure to meet our armed forces transformation needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our community is looking forward to the arrival of the uniformed and civilian employees and support contractors. Ridgecrest, California and Kern County, hosts for the Naval Air Weapons Station, have already made the necessary long-term infrastructure investments in anticipation of growth, and plans are in place to support the new arrivals.

Our community is ready for this type of expansion and we are capable of providing the necessary infrastructure to make China Lake a valuable military asset for the next fifty years. Our sons and daughters fighting across this nation deserve the best possible use of our military resources and creating a center with this scope can provide that. We are a Navy town that supports our base and its users from our own services and our allies. I urge your approval of the Secretary's recommendations regarding China Lake.

Sincerely,



Eric A. Bruen

641 Mamje Avenue  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
August 13, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chair, and  
Honorable Members of the BRAC Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202  
FAX 703-699-2735

**Subj: Support of Secretary of Defense Recommendations  
Regarding China Lake**

Dear Sirs:

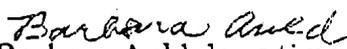
As a 60-year, 4-generation, deeply community-involved, retired China Lake employee, Ridgecrest/China Lake family, we have always been staunch supporters of China Lake. As such, we strongly support the Defense Department recommendations to create a Naval Integrated Weapons and Armaments Research, Development, Acquisition, Test, and Evaluation (RDAT&E) Center at China Lake, and realignment of the Sensors, Electronic Warfare, and Electronics RDAT&T from Point Mugu to China Lake. We believe these recommendations support the Secretary of Defense's goals of positioning our country's base infrastructure to meet our defense needs now and in the future. In support of our belief in the enduring efficacy of China Lake, we have been active supporters of China Lake in both the 1995 and 2005 BRACs. We have also actively supported the concept of the six-state Southwest Defense Complex and the part China Lake could play in it for 10 years.

Our community looks forward to supporting the arrival of increased Base military and civilian employees and supporting contractor employees. Ridgecrest and Kern County, host communities of our Base, the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS), have already made long-term investments in anticipation of expected growth, and plans are in place for the increased new arrivals. Our family, which includes local elementary, high school, and college teachers, counselors, and administrators, is certainly looking forward to welcoming new people to our community.

Be assured that our community supports the Navy and NAWS, and its many users from our military services and our allies. We urge your approval of the Secretary of Defense's recommendations regarding China Lake.

Sincerely,

  
Howard Auld, former Ridgecrest Council member and Vice Mayor

  
Barbara Auld, long-time active China Lake/Ridgecrest community supporter

Aug 10, 2005

Honorable James V. Hansen

BRAC Commission

**Hello. I am a long time resident of Ventura County and have a long history with Naval Base Point Mugu. I began working as an EW/RF Engineer in the Electronic Warfare group out at Point Mugu right out of college, 16 years ago. My father worked at Point Mugu, as have my two older brothers. I enjoy the challenges that my job gives me and look forward to many more years working in the field. I appreciate that fact that I can see the impact my work has on the war-fighter.**

**When I started working at Point Mugu, I figured I would be able to retire from this location. As it stands, this may not happen. My job is on the list to be transferred to China Lake. Personally I have no desire to move my family and leave my support group from the Ventura County Area. Technically, it does not make sense to move the EW department out to China Lake. I would like to make a plea to keep Electronic Warfare jobs out at Naval Base Point Mugu.**

**Thank you,**

*Paul W. Sisk*

Aug 10, 2005

BRAC Commission

**Brigadier General Sue E. Turner**

**AUG 16 2005**

**Hello. I am a long time resident of Ventura County and have a long history with Naval Base Point Mugu. I began working as an EW/RF Engineer in the Electronic Warfare group out at Point Mugu right out of college, 16 years ago. My father worked at Point Mugu, as have my two older brothers. I enjoy the challenges that my job gives me and look forward to many more years working in the field. I appreciate that fact that I can see the impact my work has on the war-fighter.**

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**Thank you,**

*Paul D. Saile*

Aug 10, 2005

BRAC Commission

**General Lloyd W. Newton**

**AUG 16 2005**

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Aug 10, 2005

BRAC Commission

**General James T. Hill**

AUG 16 2005

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*Paul D. Sisk*

Aug 10, 2005

**Honorable James H. Bilbray**

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**Thank you,**

*Paul H. Sailer*

BRAC Commission  
620 Sylvan Ave  
Ridge ~~August 2005~~ CA 93555  
Aug. 16, 2005

Dear Mr. Principi:

Just a note to support the BRAC recommendations as pertains to our Naval Center, at China Lake, CA. I think, from my perspective, that it will enhance the military capabilities of our country, and all 3 services. I worked as a civilian for China Lake from 1954-1984, and in a contracting support role from 1984-1992.

I was privileged to know & work with (in a staff capacity) many, many people & programs - & to see what their efforts brought forth. The work ethic & culture was most conducive to doing <sup>well</sup> the Navy's & Nation's defense effort. We were a 1<sup>st</sup> Rate RDT&E center as attested to by so many reviewers, like the Packard Commission.

I do not know of the Center's current efforts, but I hear of good things. I do know that its past cultures & ways of doing work, worked well. And I suspect, that while cultures change, & change is inherent in China Lake's work, that the culture to do good work still exists & thrives today, as good cultures survive & thrive if born <sup>right</sup> & nurtured well. (As it happened from the early days on at China Lake).

This is a good community, with good people, & schools, that will do well by the BRAC intention.

Thank you.

BEST REGARDS,  
Robert V. McKenzie

\* I did take off for 2 years to work at a large bank (1961-1963)

15-Aug-05

BRAC Commission

AUG 16 2005

Received

Chairman Anthony J. Principi  
BRAC Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

I'm writing in support of DOD BRAC Commission initiatives designed to grow the basing of Navy capabilities at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Ridgecrest California.

As a 25-year resident of Ridgecrest, there have been many changes over the years, but one constant.....support for the United States Navy and its mission defending our great nation. Thus, the community infrastructure has continued to improve and is fully capable of absorbing the expected growth as a result of DOD projected realignments. As the Navy has changed, so has Ridgecrest ... and for the better. It's a "team" of people dedicated to ensuring Navy requirements are not only met, but exceeded. We virtually are an extension of the Navy's mission to develop and acquire the very best weapons for our men and women to use in combat.

You'll find working with our City and City government easy and honest. They continue to be reflective of our community's population.

I urge you to give the utmost consideration towards consolidating services now performed at Pt. Mugu, with like services at China Lake, in agreement with DOD BRAC recommendations. The day-to-day work of Pt Mugu and China Lake are too similar to maintain separate offices, and China Lake's base facilities have the room to accept additional people and efforts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmest regards,



Donna Williams  
1400 Wayne #7  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 18 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chair Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Suite 600  
Arlington, Va 22202

Dear Mr. Principi:

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We are a Navy town that supports our base and its users from our own services and our allies. I urge your approval of the Secretary's recommendations Regarding China Lake.

Harold J Hockett



Lt. Col. USAF Retired

WW II ARMY PILOT

Former Mayor, City of Ridgecrest

August 18, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi,

As fifty year residents of Ridgecrest, the community that borders the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, we want to express our enthusiastic support for the DoD recommendations regarding growth at China Lake under BRAC. During our long time employment at China Lake we have seen how this community can and has welcomed employees working at other bases that were combined with China Lake. The vast majority of these employees found that this was a special place to work and call home.

Our thanks to you and your staff for the time and effort you and they are putting in on behalf of our nation.

Sincerely,

  
Carol Corlett

  
Leroy Corlett



## *Bennett Optical Research Inc.*

201 North Sanders Street  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

August 18, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chair  
2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
Fax # (703)699-2735

Dear Commission Members:

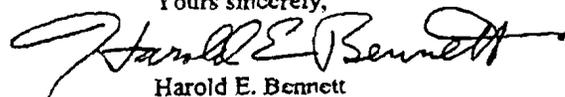
I have been a resident of China Lake and Ridgecrest since 1956, and have watched the Naval Air Weapons Station grow in capability and competence for over 49 years. I am a Research Physicist with a PhD from Pennsylvania State University, and at the time I came I could have chosen to work in laboratories in any region of the country. I had offers from the then National Bureau of Standards, Bell Labs, and many other companies as well as universities. At that time physicists were in short supply, and they are again today. My wife and I did a careful study of the opportunities at various laboratories in various parts of the country. We first had to decide whether we wanted to be in a commercial company, a government lab, or a university. We concluded that in a commercial company we would have plenty of equipment with which to work, but little freedom on what to work on, and little opportunity to build up a nationally known lab over a period of years. At a university we would have plenty of freedom on what to work on, but might have to build most of our own equipment. The best government labs offered both significant freedom within broad but defined technical areas and the ability to obtain unique equipment and build up a national reputation over a period of years. We then did a careful survey of the technical output of various government labs as well as an analysis of the lab environment and living conditions we would find. I grew up in a small town, Missoula, Montana, and did not want to live in a big city. That, the technical output of Michelson Laboratory at that time, the quality of the technical people in the small town of China Lake/Ridgecrest, many of them from Cal Tech, the opportunity to live in a small, closely knit community, and the proximity of the Sierra Mountain Range only 12 miles away (I am an avid hiker when I have time) brought us to China Lake.

At the time Dr. William McLean had taken the lead in inventing and developing the Sidewinder missile, ultimately the most successful anti-aircraft missile that has ever been developed. He became the Technical Director and was looking for technical talent. He expressed the hope that a Nobel Prize might come out of Michelson Laboratory in China Lake, a worthy goal. He and we hoped the lab would become the West Coast equivalent of the famous Naval Research Lab. We came somewhat close to realizing that ambition for a Nobel Prize in the mid 80's with the work that Dr. Scraphin did. I had by that time built up a nationally known lab in optics and helped him set up an apparatus that allowed him to chart the band bending of complex semi-conductors, an important and previously unavailable piece of information. His approach is now used in most semiconductor labs worldwide. Our group, about 20 people, had by then established a national reputation as a laboratory where fundamental work was done. The American Institute of Physics Handbook and the Handbook of Optical Constants of Solids, (compiled by Dr. Palik of the Naval Research Lab) both use the reflectance values measured at Michelson Lab for the noble metals. These values brought experiment into agreement with theory for quasi-free electron metals, a problem ever since Wilson, in his book on theory of metals published in the 30's, pointed out that the current theory did not agree with experiment for any of these materials and must be wrong. Theory was right, experiment was wrong in this case, as we showed. As Dr. McLean predicted, the expertise developed in these fundamental studies helped in the development of the Sidewinder and the many other weapons. We did not hesitate to spend many hours helping other employees and contractors make the Sidewinder and other systems work.

In 1979 I received the Department of the Navy Captain Robert Dexter Conrad Award from the Secretary of the Navy "in recognition for outstanding achievement in Research and Development for the United States Navy", became Associate Head of the Physics Division, Research Department the same year, became a Fellow of both the Optical Society of America and the International Society for Optical Engineering (short name is SPIE), the largest professional optical society in the world, received its prestigious Technology Achievement Award in 1983 "awarded annually for outstanding national or international accomplishment in the conception or reduction to practice of optical engineering technology", was elected Vice President and then in 1988 President of SPIE, and have published not only numerous NWC reports but also over 100 papers in the open literature. In 1995, upon my retirement from the Navy, I received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award from the Department of the Navy. I retired on April Fool's Day and the next day began working on incorporating my own company, Bennett Optical Research Inc. We now have 12 employees, mostly quality retirees from Michelson Lab, will have 10,000 square feet of laboratory space this Fall, and have just been awarded a million dollar contract to develop lightweight high quality active optic relay mirrors under the auspices of the Joint Technology Office of the Department of Defense. We have three other contracts, all in different areas. Last week we celebrated our tenth anniversary of the founding of the company in Ridgcrest. Over 100 people attended, and we were awarded two plaques, one from the California Assembly and one from the U.S. House of Representatives for our contributions to science and engineering.

I have told you this story to give some flavor of what the then Naval Air Warfare Center was like in the years I worked there. Technology in depth was one of the keys to success. In 1991 the Center was ordered to initiate a multi-year drawdown in personnel and activities, which they are now trying to recover from. The Research Department was particularly hard hit. I gave the above description of my experience in an attempt to convince you as members of the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission that the 30-40 years of success of the Naval Air Weapons Station/ Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division resulted in part from having a technically strong and well balanced team of professionals and a facility with depth in multiple areas as well as a dedicated group of technicians to solve the difficult technical problems that inevitably arise when new concepts are being worked out. The Naval Air Weapons Station and its attached Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division have had the required technical superiority. In order to achieve the mandated goals they needed to have a sufficient concentration of major projects to make their kind of operation feasible. I believe that the concept of concentrating expertise in only a few locations and developing that expertise in depth is the only efficient way of optimizing the use of funding for research, development, test and evaluation. The then Naval Weapons Center had that expertise and the results were phenomenal. It can happen again, but only if the Commission will largely ignore the sad stories of personal inconvenience caused by moving Defense functions and concentrate the limited funding available in a limited number of facilities such as China Lake, in my opinion.

Yours sincerely,



Harold E. Bennett  
President

**Searles Lake  
Community  
Federal Credit Union**

234 N. Balsam St.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
Ph: (760) 384-1300

13325 Market St.  
Trona, CA 93562  
Ph: (760) 372-4001

VISIT US ON-LINE @ [WWW.MYHOMECU.COM](http://WWW.MYHOMECU.COM)

Fax: (760) 375-2709

August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005

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

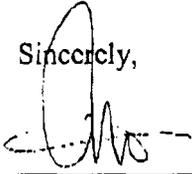
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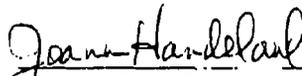
The business leaders in Ridgecrest are united to provide the new members of our community with a level of service they are not familiar with. Our infrastructure is strong and through careful planning Ridgecrest has prepared itself to be a community ready and able to handle such expansion. We look forward to the arrival of the uniformed and civilian employees and support contractors. Ridgecrest, California and Kern County, hosts for the Naval Air Weapons Station, have already made the necessary long-term infrastructure investments in anticipation of growth, and plans are in place to support the new arrivals.

Our community is ready for this type of expansion and we are capable of providing the necessary infrastructure to make China Lake a valuable military asset for the next fifty years. Our sons and daughters fighting across this nation deserve the best possible use of our military resources and creating a center with this scope can provide that. This credit union is ready to help support our newest citizens and our base. On behalf of the board of directors of Searles Lake Community FCU, we urge your approval of the Secretary's recommendations regarding China Lake.

Sincerely,

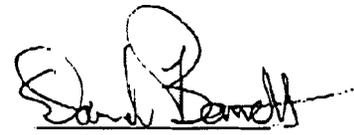


Marshall Holloway  
Chairman



Joanne Handeland  
Vice-Chairman

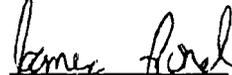
Curtis Arnold  
Treasurer



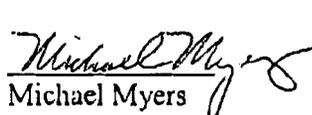
David Barrett  
Secretary



Alva VanBuren  
Board Member



James Ponek  
Board Member



Michael Myers  
Board Member

*"Starting Out or Starting Over.....We're here for YOU"*



August 12, 2005

AUG 13 2005

Received

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

Dear Mr. Principi:

I wish to express my support for the BRAC recommendations made by the Secretary of Defense to create a Naval Integrated Weapons and Armaments RDT&E Center at China Lake. I want to inform you of our readiness as a church in the community, and to share my perspective on families that will have to make the transition to Ridgecrest along with my personal experience in moving to this wonderful community seven years ago.

I am the Pastor of a thriving church in Ridgecrest. Immanuel Baptist Church operates a K4-12 Christian School. This fall we will celebrate our 30-year anniversary of the school. 200 students are currently enrolled at Immanuel Christian and we are poised to accommodate many more students with the Secretary of Defense's realignment recommendations.

Our church also operates a Child Development Center for infants thru age five. We opened this center two years ago. A licensing official for childcare centers in Kern County recently shared with the Director of our ministry that our facility and programming is the finest in Kern County. Currently 100 children are enrolled in this program and we can accommodate a far greater number.

From a personal opinion, my wife and I have found Ridgecrest to be a wonderful community in which to raise children. Coming from a large city seven years ago I was concerned how my children would adjust to a smaller isolated community with fewer amenities. Those fears quickly dissipated within days of moving here. Ridgecrest is an incredibly safe community. Our children play outside and can ride their bikes to friends' homes or to get an ice cream without the fear that someone might hurt them. Ridgecrest offers all of the community sports activities for children as any other city in California. Our children have enjoyed everything Ridgecrest has to offer. They have thrived in Ridgecrest.

From an emotional perspective, I'm sure you are hearing a great deal of apprehension from people possibly having to move to Ridgecrest. Those stories are not unique, as I have heard the same stories repeatedly. However, those fears quickly disappear once people make themselves a part of this wonderful area. Affordable housing, very low crime, crystal clear skies, safe schools, and an incredibly family friendly community are just a few of the reasons why people moving here will soon come to enjoy this beautiful Eastern Sierra High Dessert city.

Change is never easy. Family lives across the country will be disrupted through the Commissions recommendations. Yet for those having to move to Ridgecrest, I am convinced that once people make the transition here, they will look back with a heart of gratitude as they discover the quality of their life vastly improved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Logan".

Bill Logan, Senior Pastor  
Immanuel Baptist Church

Immanuel Ministry Center & Church Offices, 1201 North China Lake Boulevard  
Immanuel Baptist Church, 201 West Graaf Avenue  
Ridgecrest, California 93555

Phone: 760-446-4531 FAX: 760-446-4161 Email: [immanuelbaptist@immanuelridgecrest.org](mailto:immanuelbaptist@immanuelridgecrest.org)

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005

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2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
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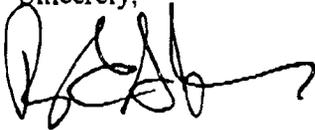
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Sincerely,



Robert Tulao

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005

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Sincerely,



Cindee Llewellyn

Patricia L. Cosner  
109 N. Sanders St.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

August 15, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Principi,

As a lifelong resident of the Indian Wells Valley community that borders Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the Department of Defense's recommendations regarding China Lake's growth under BRAC.

Our community sprang up as a generation of scientists, engineers and other professionals came to this unknown, empty place in the desert to do our nation's vital work in World War II and the years that followed. From this humble beginning, they founded a community dedicated to preserving our nation's freedom, as well as a community in which they could enjoy all the quality of life that freedom brings. Today, Ridgecrest boasts cultural, recreational and educational opportunities rarely seen in a community our size. We also enjoy some of the best schools in the state, low cost of living, room for well-planned growth, exceptionally low crime rates, access to excellent healthcare, and a wealth of services for both our children and our retirees.

I understand that some DoD employees working in positions that would become part of a Naval Integrated Weapons and Armaments RDAT&E Center at China Lake have expressed concerns about moving here. But those who have come here already find that this is a wonderful place to stay – 82 percent of base retirees live within 25 miles of China Lake. I sincerely believe that, like those pioneer patriots who founded China Lake, many of today's employees at other facilities will follow the call to serve their country wherever that service is required, and those who do will find something special here – a place that offers more and takes less than any they have ever experienced, a place that they will soon discover they are proud to call home.

Thank you for your time and your efforts on behalf of our nation,



Patricia L. Cosner

Lawrence N. Cosner Jr., MD  
1111 N. China Lake Blvd.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

August 15, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Principi,

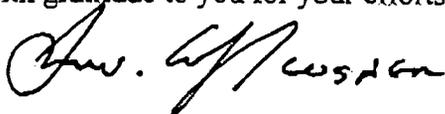
I was born and raised in the Indian Wells Valley community which borders the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake, and have spent most of my adult life here as a physician serving the civilian and military populations. It is with this backdrop that I confidently proffer my most enthusiastic support for the Department of Defense's recommendations regarding China Lake's growth under BRAC.

Our community sprang up when a generation of scientists, engineers and other professionals came to this unknown, empty place in the desert to do our nation's vital work during World War II and the years that followed. From this humble beginning, they founded a community dedicated to preserving our nation's freedom, as well as a community in which they could enjoy all the quality of life that freedom brings. Today, Ridgecrest boasts cultural, recreational and educational opportunities rarely seen in a community our size. We also enjoy some of the best schools in the state, a low cost of living, room for well-planned growth, exceptionally low crime rates, and a wealth of services for both our children and our retirees.

About our healthcare I'd like to comment more in depth. We have a superb community hospital which offers adult and pediatrics services, surgical services, obstetrical and gynecology services and a modern intensive care unit. The local physicians, who make up the medical staff of the hospital and who provide outpatient care in several clinics and offices, include all of the above basic services, as well as many medical and surgical subspecialties. Local facilities offer a full range of diagnostic imaging (XRay) and laboratory services, as well as non-invasive cardiology and pulmonary services. There is a local outpatient surgery center, a rehabilitation center, and a number of physical therapy outpatient offices. The quality and depth of medical care here rivals that of communities many times our size.

I sincerely believe that, like those pioneer patriots who founded China Lake, many of those who follow the call to serve their country by coming to this community will find something special here—a place which offers more and takes less than any other that they have ever experienced; a place that they will soon discover makes them proud to call home.

With gratitude to you for your efforts on behalf of our great country,



Lawrence N. Cosner Jr. MD

BRAC Commission

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005

AUG 17 2005

Received

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

Dear Mr. Principi:

I wish to express my support for the BRAC recommendations made by the Secretary of Defense to create a Naval Integrated Weapons and Armaments RDAT&E Center at China Lake and to realign the Sensors, Electronic Warfare and Electronics RDAT&E from Point Mugu to China Lake. These forward looking recommendations fully support the Secretary's goals to position the country's base infrastructure to meet our armed forces transformation needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our community is looking forward to the arrival of the uniformed and civilian employees and support contractors. Ridgecrest, California and Kern County, hosts for the Naval Air Weapons Station, have already made the necessary long-term infrastructure investments in anticipation of growth, and plans are in place to support the new arrivals.

Our community is ready for this type of expansion and we are capable of providing the necessary infrastructure to make China Lake a valuable military asset for the next fifty years. Our sons and daughters fighting across this nation deserve the best possible use of our military resources and creating a center with this scope can provide that. We are a Navy town that supports our base and its users from our own services and our allies. I urge your approval of the Secretary's recommendations regarding China Lake.

Sincerely,



Dana Beene