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Create a Naval Integrated Weapons & Armaments Research, Development and Acquisition, Test and Evaluation Center at China Lake

August 19, 2005

Does creating an integrated Weapons and Armament RDT&E Centers make sense?

Yes:

- For the Navy it consolidates W&A work currently scattered.
- Focuses the limited funding for weapons
- Focuses the Navy's weapons expertise.
- Cost effective (saves more than \$50 million each year)

Is China Lake the right place?

Yes:

- China Lake has been the DOD Center of Excellence for Tactical Weapons,
- Highest Military Value
- Most complete staff, labs and ranges
- Not encroached, room to grow
- No environmental problems
- Largest restricted airspace in Country
- The location of choice for the Navy Center.

Issues: The major issue has been confusion over the personnel that operate the Pt. Mugu Sea Range. This has been resolved by all agreeing that the personnel needed to operate the Sea Range should remain at Pt. Mugu.

Other oft repeated issues raised are that people don't want to move, organizations don't want to lose the people, the numbers are wrong, Brain Drain, the cost is wrong, etc. The oft repeated arguments. No major TJCSG mistakes which would change the outcome.

Recommendation: That the BRAC Commission approve the realignments that establish the Naval Integrated Weapons & Armaments RDT&E at China Lake

**REALIGNING EW RDAT&E FROM POINT MUGU TO CHINA LAKE:
THE REAL ISSUE**

August 19, 2005

Issues of varying importance associated with Sensors, Electronic Warfare (EW) and Electronics have been addressed in testimony before the BRAC Commission and subsequent correspondence to the BRAC Commission professional staff. We believe the crux of the debate can be boiled down to one basic issue: the extent of long term military value versus the near term risk associated with short-term loss of human capital.

Extent of Long Term Military Value

Claims by Advocates of Realignment:

- Next generation combat aircraft represent significant steps forward in integrating the full electronic warfare (EW), sensors and weapons suite over earlier aircraft such as the retiring EA-6B. The EA-18G is a fully integrated EW weapon system in which two crewmen replace the four in the older EA-6B aircraft. Members of the integration team must work closely together to achieve the needed automation and to realize the potential improved capabilities. The JSF is an even more radical departure using common apertures and eliminating black boxes. Co-location enhances teamwork and reduces operating costs.

Claim by Opponents of Realignment:

- No improvement in capability or cost will be realized by co-locating the integration team.

Risk Associated with Near-Term Intellectual Capital Loss:

Claim by Opponents of Realignment:

- The majority of personnel choose not to move during previous realignments. Near-term loss of intellectual capital will be devastating to our forces engaging the enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan and other potential conflicts in the interim until a viable team could be assembled in China Lake.

Claims by Advocates of Realignment:

- Roughly a third of employees have chosen to move in past realignments, and one must plan that a majority of potential transferees will choose not to move. That is the cost of realignment. Of those who chose to move in the past, the great majority were senior people critical to the projects on which they worked and great success was achieved in past moves to Patuxent River and China Lake. Today's high cost of housing, traffic issues and other urban life penalties of the West Coast environment might increase the ratio of those choosing to move.

- Near-term loss of intellectual capital during planned transition period can be managed by allowing key team members to continue on site as employees, re-employed annuitants or contractors. The relocated team would be built from those who choose to transfer, experts at China Lake, and from recruitment of employees by China Lake. They point to the superior recruitment record of China Lake, which would enhance the long-term effectiveness of the EW effort independent of other military value enhancements.

Recommendation. BRAC Commission approve the DoD recommendation to realign Sensors,

Electronic Warfare and Electronics RDAT&E from Point Mugu to China Lake.

July 29, 2005

**China Lake Defense Alliance Summary Comments to the Commission Staff
on BRAC Recommendations Affecting China Lake**

After plowing through the issues and allegations on the Naval Integrated Weapons and Armaments RDT&E Center and the consolidated Sensors, Electronic Warfare and Electronics RDT&E Center, we think there can be a danger that the main thrusts of the recommendations can get lost in the details. At least, we were concerned that we might allow ourselves to get so caught up in the minutia that we would lose the big picture that the Technical Joint Cross Service group was painting. Hence, this paper.

To us, the best outcome of the BRAC assessments would have been recommendations for full joint service use of the existing service RDT&E centers, particularly in aviation where the services develop joint requirements and develop joint systems. In the arena of most interest to us, the recommendations to create integrated aircraft and weapon RDT&E centers in each service was the next best outcome in our opinion. At least at the service level, the assets would coalesce into capable, competent centers able to tackle the problems of applying advanced technology to the military problems of a difficult future. These centers would contribute to the transformation of our military capability for the new century. The Joint Cross Service Group's concerns about nurturing competition of ideas would be served by maintaining centers in each service.

This coalescing of capability is particularly needed in the Navy, which has scattered its weapon RDT&E capability at many facilities despite a long-term reduction in funds for research and technology and development of fewer new systems. One of the pillars of transformation is application of advance technology to meet new threats. Creating the integrated centers focuses resources, but more than that, it focuses the limited funding and supply of brainpower on the problems at hand.

Most people don't want to move, and most organizations don't want to lose people. Everybody is creative in finding reasons why something they see as unpleasant can't or shouldn't be done. During the Commission review phase of BRAC, we're sure that you've heard a hundred reasons why the recommendations shouldn't be accepted, or that the data calls weren't properly formulated or properly interpreted, or why their product is essential to the war effort, and so on. We suggest stepping back and asking the question for each major recommendation, "Does this make sense?" Not each nit, not each difficulty in implementing. Does forming integrated RDT&E centers make sense? If it does make sense, in our case is China Lake the place to form the integrated weapons and armaments center?

We think the answers to these questions for weapons and armaments are yes. If the answers are yes, the BRAC Commission should approve the recommendation and let the Navy fight out the details, and respond to the naysayers during implementation. There is no doubt that the implementation phase will have plenty of roadblocks and controversy,

but the big decision will have been made to create one integrated center, and the outcome will be an improved capability.

We believe that the Technical Joint Cross Service Group also had a vision for improved integration of the next generation combat aircraft by recommending the relocation of the Point Mugu electronic warfare capability to China Lake. China Lake's record speaks for itself in identifying key problems and creating effective, affordable solutions. This move brings problems that all realignments bring in dealing with a loss of intellectual capital. We strongly believe that the existing electronic warfare capability at China Lake shouldn't be overlooked, but we don't want to give the impression that Point Mugu's team isn't needed for the near term, particularly while the EA-6B remains our main electronic warfare asset.

We think that we should focus first on the long-term goals of BRAC, and if we do, the electronic warfare realignment not only makes sense, but plays an important part in supporting our future air warfare capability – transformation, if you will. We are certain that there are many mechanisms to support the present needs – maintaining personnel at Point Mugu during an extended transition, offering rehired annuitant positions, contracting, etc. while the team is building up in China Lake. The new team would be made up of Point Mugu personnel who move, China Lake electronic warfare experts who have been working in other areas after the work moved from the Lake to Point Mugu, and new hires at the journeyman and entry levels. Remember that China Lake has a superior recruitment record than Point Mugu for reasons discussed in earlier papers, also important for maintaining future capability.

The point is, at the end, if the recommendations hold, a full-spectrum, integrated RDAT&E center will be established at China Lake that is competent in all aspects of weapons and weapons technology, and fully capable of all aspects of aircraft weapon system integration including weapons, sensors, electronic warfare and mission avionics. The integration team will be operating at the very peak of software development competency, Level 5, as rated by the independent Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon Institute.

While it's important to examine every allegation and every assertion, the key is to decide what ultimately makes the most sense for the future. We believe that the recommendations of the Secretary of Defense for weapons and armaments and electronic warfare make the most sense for the future. Don't let issues such as Sea Range personnel stationing or near-term support of the EA-6B obscure the vision of a truly integrated Weapons and Armaments and Electronic Warfare RDAT&E Center to support the joint forces of the future.

BIOGRAPHY

Jon McQuiston represents Kern County's First Supervisorial District which covers both the northern and eastern portions of Kern County and includes the communities of Bakersfield, Delano, Ridgecrest, Shafter, McFarland and the unincorporated cities and regions of the Indian Wells and Kern River Valleys as well as the mountain communities of Glennville and Woody.



The First Supervisorial District spans 2,538 square miles and is one of the largest legislative districts in terms of area in California. The First District is home to many of Kern County's vital economic industries, which includes agriculture, defense and aerospace and energy. The First District also serves as the home of the Naval Air Weapons Division, at China Lake. The Naval Air Weapons Division plays an integral role for our Nation's defense. The research, development and testing of airborne weapons at China Lake provide the tools that ensure a strong and effective military.

Supervisor McQuiston was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1996. He was re-elected in 2000 and again in 2004 and is now serving his third four-year term. Supervisor McQuiston served as Chairman of the Kern County Board of Supervisors in 1999 and 2004.

As a member of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor McQuiston works to enhance Kern County's economy through efforts to promote the military defense capability of Eastern Kern. Supervisor McQuiston is also engaged in efforts to not only retain jobs, but also to create new jobs through economic development and diversification of local industries, particularly in the area of new technology.

Supervisor McQuiston currently represents Kern County on the following boards and committees: California State Association of Counties, Kern Council of Governments, Kern County Air Pollution Control District, Quad State Coalition, and California Desert District Advisory Council, which he was appointed to by the U. S. Secretary of the Interior.

Supervisor McQuiston was raised in rural Louisiana where he attended Quachita Parish High School. In 1968 Supervisor McQuiston enlisted in the U. S. Navy as an Airman Apprentice. He rose through the ranks to Chief Petty Officer and was later commissioned as a Naval Officer in 1978. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1989. His military career was spent as an Air Traffic Controller and Air Traffic Control Facility Officer. Following his retirement in 1989, Supervisor McQuiston was the Head of the Land, Sea, Airspace and Environmental Management office at China Lake where he represented the U.S. Navy in the management of Navy special use airspace and the joint service R-2508 Complex which overlies much of Southern California. This role involved coordination of airspace and land issues with governmental agencies at the national, regional, and local levels.

Supervisor McQuiston holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a Juris Doctorate from Ridgecrest School of Law. He and his wife, Brenda have four grown children and one grandchild and reside in Ridgecrest, California.