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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CORRESPONDENCE ROUTING SLIP

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The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With the upcoming base realignment and closure (BRAC) round, I am respectfully requesting that you maintain Fort Hunter Liggett and Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (Camp Parks) in California.

In previous BRAC rounds, California has suffered a disproportionate number of base closures. With its strategic position in the Pacific Rim, California's bases support and maintain a strong presence on the West Coast. Fort Hunter Liggett and Camp Parks both offer extensive training facilities to better equip and prepare our service men and women.

Fort Hunter Liggett's diverse terrain is unmatched on other training bases. Troops can train for a variety of situations in which they might otherwise be unprepared. The brigade-level live fire exercise training is another asset in which our troops are better prepared for combat. Fort Hunter Liggett employs 167 personnel, while maintaining over 164,000 acres of training ground for National Guard and Reserve troops from the entire United States.

In conjunction with Fort Hunter Liggett, Parks RFTA in Dublin, California also offers training ground for Army Reservists. Home to the 91st Division HQ, Parks RFTA has over 192,500 man days during 2004. With its close proximity to San Francisco and the Port of Oakland, Parks RFTA is an integral base for the 20,000 Northern California Army Reservists who are based there.

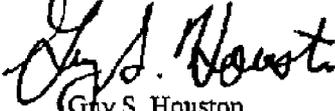
These two bases provide invaluable specialized training in California for Army Reservists and the National Guard. With the United States' continued military action in Afghanistan and Iraq, providing and maintaining a complete training program for our troops is paramount. Without proper training, our troops are at a disadvantage. Maintaining the bases in California is an integral step in providing the training our Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force require.

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While each base in California serves an important function in our defense system, I urge you to consider maintaining Fort Hunter Liggett and Parks RFTA as part of the California Base System.

In closing, I wish to reiterate my continued support for the Department of Defense and the United States military. The success of our military at home and abroad is evidence of the Department of Defense's continued dedication to maintaining America's security.

Sincerely,



Guy S. Houston
Assemblyman, California District 15

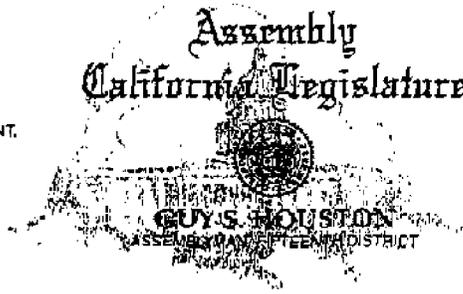


Joel Maldonado
Senator, California District 15

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COMMENTS:

Chief Wright:
Thank you for passing this
on to the BRAC Commission.
I appreciate your help. Please
call me if you have any questions.

Best,
Anne Volz

