

July 25, 2005

Honorable Anthony Principi, Most Urgent

Defense Base Closure And Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

RE: Unique, "Win-Win" Solution Regarding San Diego's MCRD

Dear Mr. Chairman:

My name is Ken Lee; I am a businessman and military advocate in Southern California.

The reason I am writing with such urgency is to tell you about a unique idea with respect to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego that could save the government millions while still retaining Marine Corps training and recruitment capabilities on the west coast.

Just 27 miles north of Camp Pendleton, there is a closed Marine base in Irvine called El Toro. Recently, El Toro was auctioned to a private company with the exception of about 863 acres, which could not be transferred, and these acres could be made available for military reuse.

So what am I proposing? Because this 863-acre parcel still remains in the hands of the Navy, make this area available as a place to relocate MCRD. **Why? There is a private, \$255 million offer on the table to renovate the El Toro base commissary and housing for Marine Corps reuse, which would save the government/Corps millions. There may also be some additional private money available to help pay for the costs of moving MCRD to El Toro.**

El Toro would make the perfect training facility for the Corps because it isn't threatened by endangered species restrictions unlike Camp Pendleton, Parris Island, etc. El Toro is also 15 minutes away from a commercial airport, which would make it easy for troop's families to visit graduating troops, etc. El Toro also offers the Corps more than what they have at MCRD now.

As you know, pressure is being applied by San Diego officials to get MCRD to leave to facilitate further development, and the pressure is mounting. Moreover, according to Marine drill instructors, the jet noise and other impediments make it difficult to train new recruits.

If you have any questions, please call me. Or, better yet, come out to El Toro, and I will be glad to show you what I am talking about. Considering how there is ample private money available to make the MCRD/El Toro move happen, I think you will agree this proposal, which represents a "win-win" for the BRAC committee, the Navy, and the Corps, is worth looking into.

I look forward to hearing back from you, and thank you for your service to the committee.

Respectfully,



Ken Lee (949) 733-8788

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Honorable James Bilbray, Most Urgent

Defense Base Closure And Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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Honorable Hal Gehman, Most Urgent

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Honorable Sue Turner, Most Urgent

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