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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

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CYBERSECURITY, SCIENCE, AND
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
RULES

BRAC Commission

July 27, 2005

JUL 29 2005

Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark Street Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Received

Greetings:

This enclosed letter was received in our office. We are referring this letter to your office as a courtesy.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loretta Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress
47th District California



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July 1, 2005

2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear BRAC Commission:

As a concerned citizen, I am writing you to voice my concern with the proposed realignment of the U.S. Army Reserve, 63D Regional Readiness Command located on the Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos, CA. The current BRAC recommendation reads as follows:

"Recommendation: Realign the Joint Force Training Base Los Alamitos, CA by disestablishing the 63d Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Headquarters, Robinson Hall, USARC and activating a Southwest Regional Readiness Command headquarters at Moffett Field, CA in a new AFRC. Realign Camp Pike Reserve Complex, Little Rock, AR by disestablishing the 90th RRC and activating a Sustainment Brigade. Close the Major General Harry Twaddle United States Armed Forces Reserve Center, Oklahoma City, OK, and relocate the 95th DIV (IT) to Fort Sill, OK. Realign Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, CA, by relocating the 91st Div (TSD) to Fort Hunter Liggett, CA."¹

This BRAC USAR Command and Control – Southwest recommendation contains four elements. In order to fully comprehend the impact of BRAC to JFTB Los Alamitos and the surrounding communities, JFTB Los Alamitos must be isolated from the other aspects of the recommendation. In the analysis of the proposed move, this paper will look at the following areas:

Military Value:

The current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of the total force of the Defense Department including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness.

The BRAC recommendation to realign the 63d RRC headquarters from Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) Los Alamitos to Moffett Airfield will degrade the unit readiness by relocating this headquarters to an area which lacks ability to recruit additional Army Reserve personnel. The 63d RRC is currently located on JFTB Los Alamitos which is sited in Southern California, the most densely populated recruiting market in the United States.

(Page 1 of 5 BRAC)

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Relocation of this headquarters to Northern California moves the unit to an area which lacks personnel with skill sets necessary to support this headquarters. The current headquarters is located in Orange County, CA, an area nationally recognized for its support of the military while proposed location is in San Francisco Bay area which is an area likewise recognized for its anti-war and anti-military activities.

In addition, the BRAC recommendation to move the 63d RRC to Moffett produces no change in training opportunities, and can be argued that it degrades training opportunities by moving them off of an active installation.

Finally, the current location of the 63d RRC in Los Alamitos can be accessed by a number of major road networks and is supported by many international airports (LAX, Orange County, Burbank, Long Beach, Ontario). Proposed relocation to Moffett is supported by a very limited road network and only one major and one minor international airport.

The availability and condition of land, facilities, and associated airspace at both existing and potential receiving locations:

Currently, the 63d RRC is located on JFTB Los Alamitos. JFTB Los Alamitos represents a 1600 acre secure installation with an operational airfield. On the other hand, the proposed Army Reserve enclave at Moffett is a small parcel of land on the edge of the NASA/Ames Research Center. Therefore, this recommendation would move the 63d RRC from a secure active installation to a reserve enclave. This relocation would result in a degradation of antiterrorism security if the units were moved from JFTB Los Alamitos to Moffett.

As far as existing facilities, both recommendations require construction of a new headquarters facility. If the realignment of the RRC headquarters were to occur at Los Alamitos, then the construction of the facility would occur at Los Alamitos and could take advantage of the Joint Army Reserve/Army National Guard Headquarters project already at the 35% designed phase for Military Construction. In addition, this new Headquarters building would be tied into brand new \$21M utility infrastructure upgrades at JFTB Los Alamitos which is currently under construction.

The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge, and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training.

The current location of the 63d RRC headquarters at JFTB Los Alamitos is a joint training facility with a major Army National Guard element, the 40th Infantry Division Headquarters. In additional Navy and Marine Reserve also train and reside on Post.

(Page 2 of 5 BRAC)

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It is also the site for the California Disaster Response, California Highway Patrol, California Air Patrol and several other state agencies. JFTB Los Alamitos is also a major local, state and federal staging and mobilization area in times of emergencies and natural disasters. On the other hand, the proposed relocation to Moffett has no joint activities and removes headquarters from proximity to any Homeland Security/Homeland Defense activities.

Cost of Operation and manpower implications:

The Economic Impact statement gives a job reduction figure of 170 full time positions. This number represents what the current 63d RRC headquarters employs. This number is not correct but is really 100 full time civilian position and 164 military positions for a total of 264 full time positions. Furthermore the loss as stated in the BRAC recommendation does not address the true loss to the community associated with the Southwest Regional Readiness Command to be activated at Moffett. The current proposed design for this new headquarters has 445 military and 190 civilian full time positions for a total of 635 full time positions. A proportionate increase in indirect hire positions could also be projected as a loss to the community. Additionally there is no consideration in the recommendation for the loss of positions for the non full time Reserve Soldiers. This currently represents over 500 positions in the future headquarters design.

In addition, the proposed relocation at Moffett Field produces increased cost to the Army Reserve. Two significant areas are the 4.74% increase in Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) paid to the civilian workforce and over \$500.00 per month increase in Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) paid to the military personnel assigned to the headquarters. Based on the proposed organizational design for the new headquarters these two items alone produce an increased cost of \$3.4M per year which over the projected 20 year payback period equals a \$68.1M increase in costs.

To provide the same level of Force Protection at Moffett which is provided currently by JFTB Los Alamitos, the estimated cost is \$.5M/year and a 20 year cost of \$10M. Also, because the new location is in California's "Silicon Valley," all operational costs are projected to be higher than those in Southern California.

Within the Payback statement, the realignment of JFTB represents a pure cost with no income offset as no property/facility is excessed/sold as a result of this recommendation. In addition to the cost of constructing a new facility for this headquarters, the full time civilian/military locality pay differential between a workforce at Moffett and Los Alamitos produces a 20 year cost of \$68.1M at Moffett rather than the \$9.8M savings as stated in the BRAC recommendation. This expense will continue to grow through the projected payback period and beyond.

(Page 3 of 5 BRAC)

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Additionally, the \$9.8M figure is for all four elements of the recommendation with the Los Alamitos to Moffett move representing some lesser figure.

Other Considerations:

The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.

If you look only at the move of the 63d RRC to Moffett there is no cost savings, in fact, this recommendation actual costs the government money. No facilities will be closed once the 63d RRC relocates to Northern California. In addition, there are added annual reoccurring costs, such as, increased civilian and military salaries for being in a higher cost living area. Also, there will be personnel movement costs associated with the relocation of personnel to Northern California.

The economic impact on existing communities:

The direct impact of the 63d RRC move would be the loss of civilian and military jobs (full time and reserve) at JFTB Los Alamitos. In addition, there are approximately 60 contractors that work directly for the 63d RRC. Those jobs would also be lost. Additionally, there will be a loss of direct and indirect business sales to the local community. In total, it is estimated that economic impact to the local community would be approximately a \$25M loss.

The 63d RRC provides admin and training support to approximately 14,000 soldiers throughout the states of California, Arizona and Nevada. Most of that support is contracted out to local vendors. If the headquarters were to be relocated to Moffett, there is a potential loss of those contracts which could migrate to vendors in Northern California.

Additionally, the proposed BRAC relocation to Moffett could produce increased stresses on the local infrastructure. Because the full time civilian workforce in this headquarters is principally Military Technicians who have a requirement to be active members of the Army Reserve, the establishment of this headquarters at Moffett requires a population who can be recruited as members of the Army Reserve with the specific military skill sets in addition to possessing the necessary civilian skill sets. Through a long established master planning process the necessary feeder structure is already in place in the current location while lacking from the proposed location.

(Page 4 of 5 BRAC)

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The ability of the infrastructure of both the existing and potential receiving communities to support forces, missions and personnel.

Commissary, Exchange, and Medical Treatment Facility services are available at Los Angeles Air Force Base which is approximately 25 miles from the current headquarters location. Exchange and Commissary are currently available on the adjacent Moffett/NASA Ames Research Center/Onizuka AFB. With the closure of Onizuka AFB, the continuance of these activities would be questioned. Rather than the current 25 mile commute for medical care, at Moffett access to a Medical Treatment Facility requires travel to Travis AFB, approximately 100 miles away. Under current TRICARE policy, Moffett qualifies for remote care status which constitutes another additional expense to the government.

In addition, JFTB Los Alamitos is geographically located within 15 miles of the Pacific Ocean which provides multiple locations for year around swimming, surfing and sport fishing. In the winter months, it's 90 minutes from multiple snow skiing locations. Additionally entertainment venues such as Edison Stadium, Arrowhead Pond, Knott's Berry Farm and Disneyland are all less than 10 miles away. While the Moffett area may be able to match these features in some aspects, it offers no improvement to the quality of life.

The environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance activities.

There are no environmental issues if the 63d RRC relocates off of JFTB Los Alamitos. Additional, there would be no environmental issues associated with constructing a Headquarters facility at JFTB Los Alamitos. However, there are environmental issues associated with Moffett that will impact on the proposed siting of the new headquarters. Moffett Airfield is still a superfund environmental clean-up site.

In conclusion, the proposed BRAC relocation of the Army Reserve to Moffett is a bad recommendation. In summary, there would be no added military or monetary value added by relocating the proposed headquarters to Moffett. In fact, it can be argued that Moffett is a worst siting and that the mission should remain at JFTB Los Alamitos. The purpose of this paper was to provide relevant information to persuade the BRAC Commission to closely evaluate the proposed relocation to Moffett and to recommend that mission remain at the current site, JFTB Los Alamitos.

Joan Smay
Women's Empowerment Partnership, Inc

(Page 5 of 5 BRAC)

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