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Mr. James Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Bilbray

Your questioning to the Navy/USMC Panel the other day that I saw on C-SPAN, particularly about MCRD San Diego, caught my attention. Recently my wife and I traveled to San Diego, and we had an occasion to visit the MCRD. One of my first thoughts was, this place has to be near the top of the base closure list. I thought how could they do effective basic training here when there is so little room to train, plus the constant noise of jet planes at full throttle right next door. I understand the answer is they bus the trainees to Camp Pendleton for much of the training. So what else do they do there (?), apparently not much else, so I was amazed when it did not make the closure list.

Gen. Hagee's answer that the Marine Corps had in fact recommended closure, but do to some kind of models and analyses by others, it was determined to be cost effective to keep it. It would appear to me that Gen Hagee does not possess a good 'poker face', and would have like to have broken out in a broad grin about the 'analyses' that had made that determination. But being the good Marine he is...

The Air Force and the Navy each have only one basic training facility, so why not move all Marine recruit training to Paris Island. But if that's not the answer move the training to Camp Pendleton where the recruits go anyway for much of their training. Maybe only the ghost of Randolph Scott knows the 'military value' of MCRD San Diego.

I do not have a 'horse in this race', I guess my feeling is that this looks like such an obvious choice it sort of makes the rest of the list somewhat suspect. Good luck in your deliberations.

Sincerely,



Allan C. Buss