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BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

August 8, 2005

Received

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chairman
 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
 2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
 Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

As the Commission prepares their base closure and realignment recommendations for President Bush, I would like to lend my support to the Pentagon's recommendations to create a Naval Integrated Weapons Center of Excellence at the Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division at China Lake, and the relocation of Sensors, Electronic Warfare and Electronics Research Development Acquisition Testing and Evaluation from Point Mugu to China Lake.

The size and topography of China Lake provides an excellent environment for the many sensitive tests that are necessary for weapons, sensors, and electronics development.

The future of weaponry will include an unparalleled complexity of sensors, avionics, electronics and weapons integration. China Lake will provide the best location to provide for the greater synergies necessary for development and testing this weaponry.

We appreciate the close consideration of the Pentagon's base closure and realignment recommendations and are confident that this review will show the merits of the recommendations related to China Lake.

Sincerely,

Ray A. Watson, Chairman
 Kern County Board of Supervisors