

DCN 7453

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August 16th, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chair
Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 13 2005

Received

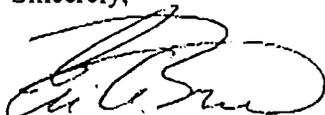
Dear Mr. Principi:

I wish to express my support for the BRAC recommendations made by the Secretary of Defense to create a Naval Integrated Weapons and Armaments RDAT&E Center at China Lake and to realign the Sensors, Electronic Warfare and Electronics RDAT&E from Point Mugu to China Lake. These forward looking recommendations fully support the Secretary's goals to position the country's base infrastructure to meet our armed forces transformation needs for the 21st century.

The business leaders in Ridgecrest are united to provide the new members of our community with a level of service they are not familiar with. Our infrastructure is strong and through careful planning Ridgecrest has prepared itself to be a community ready and able to handle such expansion. We look forward to the arrival of the uniformed and civilian employees and support contractors. Ridgecrest, California and Kern County, hosts for the Naval Air Weapons Station, have already made the necessary long-term infrastructure investments in anticipation of growth, and plans are in place to support the new arrivals.

Our community is ready for this type of expansion and we are capable of providing the necessary infrastructure to make China Lake a valuable military asset for the next fifty years. Our sons and daughters fighting across this nation deserve the best possible use of our military resources and creating a center with this scope can provide that. We are a Navy town that supports our base and its users from our own services and our allies. I urge your approval of the Secretary's recommendations regarding China Lake.

Sincerely,



Eric A. Bruen
President/CEO
Searles Lake Community FCU

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