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**San Diego Military Advisory Council**  
**5330 Napa Street**  
**San Diego, California 92110**  
**(619) 299-9834**

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Mike Woiwode  
ARINC

June 23, 2005

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The San Diego Military Advisory Council would like to bring to your attention our views on the compelling military value of retaining the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. The Depot trains 18,000 Marines per year, and is capable of surging to over 21,000. We all know and appreciate how critical these young Marines have been to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. MCRD offers the service a surge capacity that we always hope we won't need; but must always be prepared to deliver.

The Marine Corps evaluated the comparative military value of all of its installations in response to the Secretary of Defense's direction. In compliance with the guidance of the BRAC legislation, the Commandant of the Marine Corps evaluated MCRD San Diego and reached the following conclusions:

The cost of replicating the training and support facilities of MCRD San Diego at Parris Island would exceed \$640 million dollars. The Marine Corps' analysis also determined that these additional costs would not be recovered in any reasonably foreseeable timeframe.

Moreover, the geographic, space, weather, encroachment, and environmental issues at Parris Island already constrain the capacity of that installation. Under some scenarios, peak capacity of Parris Island falls short of existing needs. Dependence on a single initial training facility would subject the entire training pipeline to risk of periodic interruption, with consequences that would ripple through the entire entry-level training pipeline. In this regard, it is important to note the Navy's decision to consolidate its training facilities was made prior to 9/11/2001.

While it's true that one-third (field training) of Marine recruit training is now conducted at Camp Pendleton, this base lacks sufficient infrastructure and environmentally suitable space to host the remaining two-thirds and still provide the training facilities necessary to ensure the accomplishment of that base's primary missions. In addition to these unsolvable problems, the cost of building the necessary infrastructure at Camp Pendleton was found to be prohibitive.

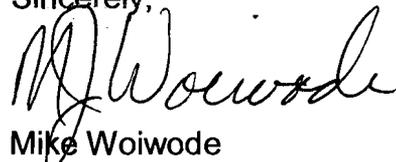
Because of these operational and cost factors, the Secretary of Defense concluded that MCRD San Diego should be retained.

Would the addition of MCRD's acreage to Lindbergh Field solve the Region's air transport needs? A 2001 study conducted by the Port of San Diego concluded that the additional land from MCRD would only increase the airport's capacity by 19%. The additional land would not be sufficient to add a second parallel runway with separation required for simultaneous operations.

The Mayor of San Diego is on record supporting retention of MCRD as a vital part of the Marine Corps' complex of installations in the Southwestern United States.

Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego is a vital part in the Marine Corps recruitment and training establishment that cannot be operationally or economically replicated elsewhere. The San Diego Military Advisory Council is convinced that Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego should be retained at its present location.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Woiwode". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "W".

Mike Woiwode  
SDMAC President