



News from . . .

Senator Dianne Feinstein

of California

Senators Feinstein and Boxer ‘Disappointed’ that Final BRAC Criteria Do Not Reflect California Legislators’ Concerns

February 12, 2004

Washington, DC – The final criteria for the upcoming round of base closures, published today by the Department of Defense, do not reflect concerns raised by Senators Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, and other California legislators.

“I am deeply disappointed that the final criteria do not reflect the legitimate issues that I and other members of the California Congressional delegation raised during the public comment period,” Senator Feinstein said. **“I think this is unfair and unwise, and I intend to do everything I can to make sure that California does not bear an undue burden in this upcoming round of base closures. In my view, California has done its fair share, and I will continue to work with members of the California delegation to prevent additional closures.”**

“The DoD’s base closure criteria are out of touch with reality and threaten the military readiness of the country,” Senator Boxer said. **“The DoD does not rule out the mothballing of military bases which is a waste of military assets and could cause huge economic downturns; the DoD does not take into account the prior four rounds of base closures that disproportionately affected certain regions and they pay no attention to the surrounding intellectual infrastructure that is so necessary to our national security. I will work with my California colleagues at the state and federal level to fight for our state's critical military installations.”**

Earlier this year, Senators Feinstein and Boxer asked the Department of Defense to revise its draft evaluation criteria so that the commission considers the large number of bases already closed in California and other factors that argue against closing additional California bases including:

- The value of intellectual capital and the synergy created between the military, academia, and the private sector;
- The need to maintain long term testing facilities and operational ranges, which accommodate both individual and joint forces; and
- California's substantial contribution to the streamlining of our military's base structure in past rounds.

“I strongly believe that decisions about which bases are to be closed must be based on legitimate national security grounds, and I am concerned that by not addressing these

additional factors the BRAC process may unduly harm California,” Senator Feinstein said. **“California bases and military personnel are playing a key role in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the ongoing war against terror.”**

In previous rounds of closures, 31 bases and military installations were closed or realigned in California – and there are still environmental clean-up issues that need to be addressed.

###