



CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Casey Lucius, City Council Member, and FORA Representative

MEETING DATE: July 15, 2015

SUBJECT: Report on Base Realignment and Closure Process

CEQA: Does not constitute a Project under CEQA Guidelines

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the report and provide desired direction to staff, as desired.

DISCUSSION

On June 22-23, 2015, I attended an Association of Defense Communities Conference in Washington DC as part of the FORA Board of Directors. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the process of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). This topic has been in our local newspapers recently and Monterey has hired a consultant to conduct a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) regarding the potential review of NPS and DLI and their impact on the local community. As a result of this conference, I have a better understanding of BRAC legislation and the decision making process. This report is simply to share this information with the Council and the community.

In 1987, Representative Dick Arme proposed a bi-partisan, independent commission to review military bases and make recommendations regarding realignment and/or closure. Commissioners are appointed by the President and are usually retired military, retired congressmen, etc. There have been five BRAC rounds since the commission was established. The next one is expected to begin with legislation guiding the process in 2017 and BRAC decisions in 2019. This will be guided in part by the 2018 military strategy and force planning documents known as the Quadrennial Defense Review.

Key considerations for reviewing a base for closure or realignment include the impact of that installation on joint warfighting readiness, training, economic impact to the community, and savings to DOD if the base were moved or closed. If a local base is on the BRAC list, each community impacted will be visited by the commission. There will be forums for public input and all documentation will be available to the public.

Importantly for us is how to keep DLI and NPS off the BRAC list. Public input and letters from public officials should highlight the constraints associated with redevelopment to include: lack of water, lack of transportation infrastructure, and lack of affordable housing. Also highlight that both

DLI and NPS support joint missions and both are innovative and transformational in order to make military personnel more adaptable to future challenges. The military is one of California's top five economic drivers (brings \$1.4 billion to Monterey County).

Currently there are 4 criteria to determine a base's military value. The truth is, DLI or NPS could be moved to Arizona or Texas and still provide value to the military in terms of intellectual development. We need to make the case for why these installations should continue in Monterey and how the students, faculty, and staff contribute to the community.

The best way to do this is to transform DLI and NPS so they have more uses than solely military uses. For example, we need to think about how NPS and DLI contribute to national, state, and local needs. Some examples include coordination with the Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security, turning the NPS and DLI libraries into county libraries, expanding local services contracts, etc. Additionally, military bases will be judged holistically including the availability of child care, the rating of the local school districts, and employment for spouses. As a community, we will need to come together to "show off" our school district, our public safety, our employment opportunities, our cultural diversity, and demonstrate how the military has become integrated into the larger community.

For more information, visit www.brac.gov to see all of the documentation and processes from the 2005 BRAC.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Casey Lucius
Councilmember