

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California

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NEWS

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Beale AFB to Remain a Prominent Reconnaissance Base in Northern California

Defense Department Proclaims Beale's "High Military Value"

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- Congressman Wally Herger (CA- 02) reports that the Department of Defense has recommended realignment for Beale AFB, allowing the base to remain open. The report cites Beale's role as a leading reconnaissance base in America.

"I am very pleased with today's news," Herger said. "We survived. We dodged a major bullet. Beale will not be closed."

Herger added, "It appears the economic impact of the realignment will be relatively negligible. However, Beale will lose 8 military and 171 civilian positions. My thoughts will be with those families, and I will do everything possible to help them should the recommendation ultimately be sustained. But the bigger picture is extremely positive news. Beale is the jewel of the Air Force. Today's announcement gives us great confidence that it will continue to play a vital role in our national defense and be a critical economic presence in Northern California.

"I want to thank our local communities for working literally thousands of hours these past two years supporting our base. This has been a team effort throughout the process.

"We must remember that this is not a done deal. The BRAC Commission will now review the recommendations, and submit its own recommendations to President Bush before September 8. The president and ultimately Congress will have an opportunity to approve or reject the final list. I will continue to work closely with our local communities to review the Defense Department's recommendations and discuss our next steps. We will do whatever it takes to increase the missions at Beale and ensure its long-term presence in Northern California."

Herger concluded, "Today, the Department of Defense confirmed what we knew all along: Beale AFB is a high military value for the United States armed forces."

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!