

2nd District - California

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BRAC Commission Deliberates On Final Closure Recommendations

Vote sustains decision to move Beale's 940th Air Refueling Wing

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- Congressman Wally Herger confirmed the BRAC Commission vote this morning to keep Beale Air Force Base open, but to "realign" the 940th Air Refueling Wing (Air Force Reserve) and its KC-135 tanker aircraft. Although a preliminary vote has occurred, the Commission still must vote on all recommendations together before they are finalized. These votes will determine the composition of the Commission's final closure and realignment recommendations to the President, to be submitted by September 8, 2005. Congressman Herger had the following to say:

"As we stand, both the Department of Defense and the BRAC Commission have recommended that our Beale Air Force Base remains open. After more than three years of work, Beale is finally in the clear, with a re-focused mission to be the foremost reconnaissance asset in our nation's military."

"This is extremely positive news for northern California. Although the base is expected to lose 8 military and 171 civilian positions, related to the 940th ARW, local leaders and base experts agree the overall economic impact of the realignment will be relatively small."

Text of Beale-relevant Section of BRAC Commission Base Closure Bill, available on-line at http://www.c-span.org/pdf/BRAC_Bill.pdf (pg. 33, Section 82).

"Realign Beale Air Force Base, CA. The 940th Air Refueling Wing (AFR) will realign its KC-135R tanker aircraft while its expeditionary combat support (ECS) elements will remain in place. Beale's KC-135R aircraft will be distributed to the Air National Guard at Selfridge ANGB, MI (four aircraft) and 134th Air Refueling Wing (ANG), McGhee-Tyson Airport Air Guard Station, TN (four aircraft)."

For additional information, log on to http://www.brac.gov/Deliberations.aspx on the Internet.