



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

PRESS RELEASE

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Chairman Hunter Statement on Base Realignment and Closure Commission Recommendations

Washington, D.C. --- U.S. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) delivered the following remarks today during floor debate on H. J. Res. 65, disapproving the recommendations of the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC):

“Today marks the end of a long and difficult process for selecting military installations for closure and realignment. Under BRAC law, the realignment and closure recommendations made by the 2005 BRAC Commission will become binding unless a joint resolution of disapproval – such as the one before us today – is enacted.

“For those of us with military installations in our districts, the BRAC process is a trying one. Every one of us spent the last four years making a case to the Pentagon and the BRAC Commission that our bases were of such high military value that they should not be closed or realigned.

“Nevertheless, both the Department of Defense and the BRAC Commission determined that a portion of our military infrastructure should be closed or realigned.

“As a result, the final recommendations of the commission include twenty-two ‘major’ closures, thirty-three ‘major’ realignments and many smaller closure and realignment actions. According to the commission, these actions will save more than \$15 billion over the next two decades, with annual savings of more than \$2.5 billion after implementation.

“Some of my colleagues have questioned the need for a round of BRAC and the timing of this round. While I understand and appreciate such concerns, I believe that these issues have been thoroughly discussed and debated. As such, I intend to vote to against House Joint Resolution 65 today, thereby allowing the BRAC Commission recommendations to stand. I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.”

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