

Airbase Relocation Evaluation



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Riverside Operational Unit

Dale T. Geldert
Director

Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: www.fire.ca.gov
(916) 653-9424



October 14, 2005

Riverside County Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon Street, Fifth Floor
Riverside, California, 92501

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

First, I wish to thank you for your patience while we, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), conducted a detailed and in-depth research, review and analysis of two possible CDF Air Attack Base locations. As you know, a decision to locate, build and staff an Air Attack Base requires the best available and most accurate information. Also, selecting such a location requires a determination of needs and a commitment to fire services support from that Air Attack Base for 50 years or more. Fifty years of experience gives us insight as to the advances in aircraft, air base construction, facilities and fire mission support needs which CDF must address as selection requirements for our future base sites.

Over the last 60 days my staff has conducted a contrast-and-comparison examination of Hemet-Ryan Airport and March Air Reserve Base as the two available locations for a CDF Air Attack Base. These locations were juxtaposed against the same criteria, each location was examined utilizing only factual data for comparison and the examination was conducted objectively and without prejudice.

Given the above, I am providing the final report to you for your comments. It is my intention to make a final location determination only after you and the county staff have had a reasonable period of time to thoroughly review the report. To assist your review of the report, I have directed my technical and professional staff to be available to discuss any and all issues. Following your comments, I will meet with my staff to discuss any outstanding issues. I will need your final comments by the end of November so that I can make my decision in December.

In conclusion, I again wish to thank you for your patience, concern and assistance with this very important decision. You and I take the responsibility of leadership seriously, and we all strive to provide the very best fire protection services to the public we serve. I am confident that by working together in the final review process we will fulfill our agencies' public safety responsibilities.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale T. Geldert". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dale T. Geldert
Director

cc: Riverside County Executive Officer

Airbase Relocation Evaluation – Sections

- March Air Reserve Base from 30,000 feet
- Hemet-Ryan Air Base from 30,000 feet
- Comparison of March Air Reserve Base and Hemet-Ryan Airbase
- Hemet/March Relocation Review: Aviation Safety and Technical Analysis
- Assessing current fire protection capability of two different air base locations
- Hemet-Ryan AAB Capital Outlay Project: Relocation or Replacement Analysis
- Potential Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan issues at the two air bases

Appendices

- Riverside Unit Fire Management Plan 2005 (posted June 16, 2005)
- July 18, 2005 letter introducing draft air base report
- Air Attack Base Location Analysis, Riverside County July 18, 2005. Draft report submitted by Craig Anthony
- E-mail of Hemet-Ryan air base questions from Mike Jarvis to Rob Field
- Response by Rob Field to questions