GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL ON BASE SUPPORT AND RETENTION WHICH WILL BE CO-CHAIRED BY LEON PANETTA OF MONTEREY. THE COUNCIL WILL ADVISE THE STATE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON BASE REALIGNMENT (AND CLOSURE STRATEGY) AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEEKS A NATIONWIDE REDUCTION OF ITS MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE BY 24 PERCENT. THE 18 MEMBER COUNCIL IS COMPRISED OF RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS AND CIVIC LEADERS AND IS CO-CHAIRED BY PANETTA (A FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF) WITH BUSINESSWOMAN AND FORMER DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DONNA TUTTLE. ANOTHER LOCAL MAN APPOINTED TO THE COUNCIL IS PEBBLE BEACH RESIDENT ADMIRAL HENRY H. MAUZ, JR. HE IS CURRENTLY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL FOUNDATION.

The Council will be tasked with the following responsibilities:

* Inventory and characterize California's existing military installations, commands, and missions and how our bases complement each other.
* Identify the current status of Department of Defense activities in California, the retainability of these activities, and the opportunities for California to compete for additional defense activities from outside the state and attract future military force and infrastructure over the next 20 years.
* Evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities associated with California's base activities and determine how the existing base missions relate to each other and the state's economic development goals and capabilities.
* Coordinate base retention and realignment activities among local communities, the state and the Department of Defense.
* Develop tactics to strengthen California's competitiveness for Department of Defense activities.
* Recommend strategies to state agencies and local communities which will promote base retention and mitigate the adverse effects of potential closure or downsizing.