



# OneRegion OneVoice

San Diego Mission to Washington D.C.



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## Chamber Policy Positions

### Defense, Military, and Veterans

#### Action Items for 2014 DC Trip:

- 1) **Support Critical Infrastructure Upgrades Needed to Homeport a Greater Number of Navy Ships and the Homeporting of a Third Carrier in San Diego**
- 2) **Protect Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Operations in San Diego**
- 3) **Protect Fleet Readiness Center Southwest (FRCSW)**
- 4) **Support the Presence of SPAWAR and SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific (SSCPAC) and Integrated Industries Including Cyber Security and Unmanned Systems (UAS)**
- 5) **Provide Support for Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen and Their Families**
- 6) **Protect Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) and United States Marine Corps (USMC) West Recruiting in San Diego**

#### Background:

San Diego is home to the largest concentration of Navy and Marine Corps forces, one-of-a-kind training ranges, and the third-largest number of veterans in any one region in the United States. San Diego has a vibrant defense industrial base and is a leader in military research and development. Both the Department of Defense (DoD) and the San Diego Defense economy benefit from the collaboration between private and public sectors.

The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and San Diego Military Advisory Council, along with the San Diego business community, support the DoD and strive to continually strengthen our long-standing partnership. In an increasingly difficult budget environment, San Diego stands ready to protect our current military assets and expand capabilities to meet DoD's current and future needs.

We support the preservation and expansion of our unique air, land and sea training range complexes and oppose policies that would encroach upon operations and training. We are cognizant of the value of our defense industrial base, our innovation economy, our outstanding universities, and the people of our community bring to the DoD.

- 1) **Support Critical Infrastructure Upgrades Needed to Homeport a Greater Number of Navy Ships and the Homeporting of a Third Carrier in San Diego**
  - a. Naval Base Coronado has pier space, facilities, and capabilities to support three Nuclear Powered Aircraft Carriers. This is in alignment with the Navy's plan to rebalance the fleet while mitigating major costs associated with building new infrastructure.
    - i. The addition of a third carrier would have an economic impact of \$500 million per year to the San Diego region.



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- b. Naval Base Point Loma has pier space, facilities and capabilities to support additional Nuclear Submarines beyond the six currently home-ported there. San Diego's proximity and access to Sea Ranges expands the Navy's ability for submarine training, joint training and homeporting options.
- c. Naval Base San Diego also has pier space, facilities and capabilities to support additional surface ships beyond the fifty-three currently homeported there. However, infrastructure upgrades on base, recapitalization and upgrades to current piers are necessary to accommodate new ship designs and capabilities.
- d. San Diego's private sector shipyards include four Master Ship Repair Contractors, BAE Systems, Huntington Ingalls Continental Maritime, GD NASSCO, and Pacific Ship Repair and Fabrication, plus more than 100 ship repair-related businesses have the capacity and capabilities to support maintenance and repair, including dry-docking, for all classes of the Navy's surface ships. The ability to do repairs in direct proximity to the ship's homeport ensures maximum readiness and training timelines for fleet operations.
- e. San Diego's close proximity to sea and air ranges and excellent year-round climate provides training capabilities not available anywhere else in the U.S.
- f. San Diego is the only West Coast location designated as a defense mobilization port.

### 2) Protect Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Operations in San Diego

- a. GD NASSCO is the only full-service shipyard on the West Coast (full service: new construction, US Navy; new construction, commercial; and repair of US Navy ships). Their economic impact to the San Diego region is estimated at \$3.4 billion. It also accounts for nearly 3,000 direct jobs and supports 460 suppliers. San Diego's business community and supporting organizations are committed to protecting this asset. We seek support in creating policies that protect the working waterfront while mitigating impact on surrounding communities.
- b. GD NASSCO is a vital part of the nation's industrial base. The skilled workforce, supply chain, and modern infrastructure that support them are well-established and lead to contracts completed on schedule and the creation of the most efficient, high-quality, and innovative ships for the Navy and for its commercial customers.
- c. With the Navy's rebalance taking place, it is essential that this critical asset is protected and utilized to maximize Navy surface readiness.



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### 3) **Protect Fleet Readiness Center Southwest (FRCSW)**

- a. FRCSW is the only Depot Level Aviation Repair Facility on the West Coast. It is vital to the maintenance and repair of Navy and Marine Corps Aviation units located in the Western United States.
- b. FRCSW is co-located with NAS North Island, MCAS Miramar and MCAS Camp Pendleton, and within tactical flying distance of NAS Lemoore, NAS El Centro and MCAS Yuma. It also maintains and repairs LM 2500 Gas Turbine Engines that power US Navy Cruisers, Destroyers, and Frigates.

### 4) **Support the Presence of SPAWAR and SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific (SSCPAC) and Integrated Industries Including Cyber Security and Unmanned Systems (UAS)**

- a. SPAWAR is the Navy's major acquisition command responsible for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) technologies, products and systems. They also provide 5,000 quality STEM jobs.
- b. SSCPAC is the Navy's premier research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) laboratory for C4ISR technologies, products and systems.
- c. San Diego provides co-location with the largest concentration of major USN and USMC operating forces, the end users of the technologies, products and systems acquired and developed by SPAWAR and SSCPAC. The proximity of technology development to implementation and testing allows for on-time development cycles and fast implementation of systems with greater feedback from forces using the technology.
- d. There is a significant amount of synergy that exists between these two commands and San Diego's high-tech innovation economy, impacting nearly 19,000 jobs in the region.
- e. Access to intellectual capital and research capability is increased by its close proximity and relationships with major colleges and universities (UCSD, USD, SDSU, CSU San Marcos, PLNU) unavailable in other areas of Navy/Marine Corps concentration.
- f. San Diego is also home to the two largest UAS manufacturers, General Atomics and Northrop Grumman, which develop key systems for DoD use. These manufacturers are developing the next generation of aerial capability. They rely on the engineering talent in the San Diego area, relationships with universities, and access to testing and DoD end-users in close proximity.



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- g. The region supports the UAS INSIGHT proposal to become a UAS Center of Excellence, as designated by the FAA, to provide research and development needed to safely integrate systems into the national airspace.
- h. There are also more than 100 Core Cyber firms in the San Diego Region, which can be attributed in part to the presence of SPAWAR.
- i. San Diego has a strong cyber workforce within and outside of SPAWAR, and a strong cyber workforce pipeline. The region is home to more than 40,000 IT workers. The region's universities and colleges graduate several thousand computer scientists, computer engineers and other IT workers, and have access to thousands of USN and USMC transitioning personnel with security clearances and prior cyber security training.

j.

### **5) Protect Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) and United States Marine Corps (USMC) West Recruiting in San Diego**

- a. Neither MCRD San Diego nor MCRD Parris Island can be expanded to support all USMC recruit-training requirements. We support the Marine Corps position to maintain two recruit depots.
- b. Relocation of Recruit Training to MCB Camp Pendleton is not cost-effective and would strain access to training areas for existing marine training activity, as MCRD would have priority.
- c. The surrounding community does not have the commercial infrastructure to support the addition of MCRD on Camp Pendleton. With an average graduation attendance of 2000 people, the surrounding community would be strained to provide hotels, dining establishments, adequate entry to base, etc.
- d. MCRD San Diego is an established installation with no major issues preventing it from fulfilling its mission with the highest effectiveness.

### **NEW for 2015: Provide support for Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and their families:**

- a. San Diego County is estimated to have the highest number of post 9/11 veterans in the nation. Over 20,000 sailors and marines stationed in San Diego leave service each year, and approximately a third of those veterans and their families will stay here. This transitioning population is one of great promise, and they are a tremendous asset to our employers and region. These individuals are well trained, team oriented, and hardworking, but they can also



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face challenges with transitioning to civilian life that existing community support in San Diego can help resolve.

- b. The Military Transition Support Project (MTSP) began as a planning project convened by a broad coalition of community organizations that represent employers, military, public officials, social services, education and philanthropy. A comprehensive plan was developed to support transitioning military families 9 months prior to leaving the military through 12 months post-service. This plan was implemented in close coordination with the US Navy and Coast Guard as MTSP's **zero8hundred** program. This groundbreaking partnership with the military allows this program to be presented to service members (and spouses) at mandatory on-base transition classes, ensuring help from peer-Navigators (case managers) is available as early in transition as possible, so service members and their families can be connected to a broad range of existing resources. The D.C. delegation supports initiatives in the Defense Authorization Act to support programs, such as **zero8hundred**, which provide community-based transition programs as part of the community handoff from the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program.

*(Note: see additional discussion here: <http://scottpeters.house.gov/issues/veterans-issues>)*

- c. Our veterans would benefit from greater opportunities to re-enter the workforce with specialized skills to meet the demands of San Diego's priority sectors (high-growth industries). These are: Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy, Health Care, Information and Communication Technologies, and Life Sciences *(Note: source is San Diego Workforce Partnership Industry Report at <http://workforce.org/reports>)*. The D.C. Delegation supports initiatives and legislation to allow veteran education benefits to be used for vocational and pre-apprenticeship programs.