



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 13, 2005

CONTACT: Marie Condron
213.580.7532
mcondron@lachamber.org

**LA AREA CHAMBER APPLAUDS PENTAGON DECISION
TO SPARE L.A. AIR FORCE BASE FROM CLOSURE**

Protecting base has been top legislative priority for the Chamber this year

LOS ANGELES – In a victory for the LA Area Chamber’s advocacy efforts on behalf of the regional economy, the Pentagon today announced that Los Angeles Air Force Base is not on its list for closure in this year’s military base realignment.

“We are obviously pleased that the Pentagon recognizes the critical importance that the Los Angeles Air Force Base plays in the defense of our country,” said Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Rusty Hammer. “Because of this recognition, the excellent work of the nearly 50,000 people in L.A. County who work every day with the Air Force Space Command and its related missions and industry sectors will continue and grow in the years ahead.”

Lobbying to spare LAAFB from closure was a central mission of the LA Area Chamber’s annual Access D.C. lobbying trip, April 17-20. A delegation of 75 business leaders from the L.A. region educated lawmakers about why no other region in the world is as well suited as Los Angeles to provide the skilled workforce and private sector support needed to adequately operate LAAFB’s unique missile defense facility.

“When we lobbied to protect the base in Washington, D.C. last month, it was clear that not all of our federal officeholders were familiar with the strategic and economic value of the base,” said Hammer. “While we are pleased that the base has been left off the list by the Pentagon, our lobbying efforts will continue with the Commission to make sure it stays off the list, and to make sure Congress sustains the BRAC recommendations as well.”

####

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with 1,400 members, represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information visit www.lachamber.org.