



Washington, D.C. Visit

March 24-26, 2025



2025 Washington Visit Report

➤ Introduction:

- ◆ Mission Statement
- ◆ 2025 Team
- ◆ Visit Purposes

➤ Trip Report: Gene Fisher

- ◆ Primary Issues for 2025 Visit
- ◆ Secondary Issues & Discussion Topics
- ◆ Offices Visited & Discussion
- ◆ Results To Date



2025 Team

- **Supervisor Long, County of Ventura District-3**
- **Gene Fisher, Executive Director RDP**
- **Supervisor Lopez, County of Ventura-District 5**
- **Martha McQueen-Legohn, Port Hueneme City Council**
- **Celina Zacarias, Dir. of Community and Gov't Relations, CSUCI**
- **Terry Clark, RDP Strategic Planning Committee**
- **Brian Miller, Chief of Staff, County of Ventura-District 3**
- **Lynn Jacquez, HB Strategies**
- **John Assini, HB Strategies**



Washington Visit Purposes

- **Make & Support Legislative Requests & Issues.**
- **Address Important Issues With Appropriate Offices.**
- **Visit Potential New Work Sponsors to Show Community Support for them.**
- **Visit Base Sponsors and Customers to Show Community Appreciation and Support.**
- **Information Gathering and Socializing New Potential Issues**



2025 Primary Issues

- 1. Working Capital Fund (WCF) Issue**
- 2. Electrical Power Resilience**
- 3. Range Back-up Power (Micro Grid)**
- 4. Range Encroachments**
- 5. Self Defense Test Ship**
- 6. Spectrum Relocation**
- 7. Water treatment**



Talking Points for 2025 Visit

- 1. Ventura County Unmanned Systems Complex**
- 2. Stingray And Numbers And Concerns For Hangars And Housing, Etc.**
- 3. Pier Upgrades: Support for DDG 1000, Unmanned Surface Ships**
- 4. MILCONs for Laboratories**
- 5. Infrastructure Funding**



Offices Visited 2025



Congressional Offices

S E N A T E

Sen. Adam Schiff: David Grannis, Senior Policy Advisor

Sen. Alex Padilla: Jose Villalvazo, Policy Advisor



Congressional Offices

H O U S E

Congresswoman Julia Brownley

Congressman Salud Carbajal

House Armed Services Committee

Ethan Pelissier, Professional Staff Member



California State Offices

**Federal Affairs Office
of Governor Gavin Newsom**

Jonathan Cousimano, Director



DoD Offices Visited 2025

Department of Defense

Director Operational Test and Evaluation:

Dr. Raymond O'Toole, Jr

Test Resource Management Center (TRMC)

Joseph Tinch, Deputy Director

Office of Local Defense Community

Dan Glasson, Deputy Director

Assistant Sec'y for Energy, Installations & Environment

Robert Thompson

Department Of Navy :

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Facilities

Brenda Johnston-Turner

**Chief of
Naval
Operations**

CNO N94, Director Test & Evaluation Division: Rick Quade

Naval Installations Command: Timothy Bridges, Executive Director

Naval Sea Systems Command: Christopher Miller, Executive Director

Naval Surface and Undersea Warfare Centers : RDML Todd Evans



Congressional Offices Visited

Office of Senator Adam Schiff: David Grannis, Senior Policy Advisor

- ◆ Initial Visit With This Office: Spent Most of the Time Educating to NBVC & RDP
- ◆ Discussed All Major Issues (*Including the Water Issue*) and They Seemed Eager to Support Us.
- ◆ Fire fighting Came up in our Brief on ANG 146th and We Brought Up Our Long Battle To Get a Change: (They were Eager to take this Issue On)

➤ Office of Senator Alex Padilla: Jose Villalvazo, Policy Advisor

- ◆ Discussed Our Issues with emphasis on Infrastructure issues and need for upgrade to the power grid.
 - ◆ Very Supportive And Ask That We Get Our Input To The Senate Armed Services Committee
- ◆ Discussed and Educated on Working Capital Fund (WCF). Looking for proper place to get language in to legislation.
- ◆ Keep Informed and Reach Out If Issues develop



Congressional Offices Visited

Congresswoman Julia Brownley

- **Comprehensive Discussion and Education on WCF.**
 - **Possible GAO Report request?**
- **Discussed All of Our Issues (Very Supportive on All)**
- **Discussed in depth the Infrastructure Issues at NBVC**
 - **Emphasis on The Electrical Power Grid**
 - **Micro Grid Approach**
 - **Secondary Issue on Water**
- **Discussed Port Security and Funding**
- **Water Project Support**
- **Maintaining Dredging Funding**



Congressional Offices Visited

Congressman Carbajal

- **Discussed All of Our Issues**
- **In Summary:**
 - **He said that he would support anything Julia Brownley put forth.**



Congressional Offices Visited

House Armed Services Committee

Ethan Pelissier, Professional Staff Member

RDP Presented In Detail Concerns On:

- Condition Of R&D Facility Infrastructure and PT Mugu Power Issue in Particular.
 - Requested To Take Action on Recommendations in Report from NBVC (Provided as Requested by NDAA 2024) Which would be the First Phase Funding needed.
- Working Capital Fund Issues and Need for Some Legislative Protection.
- She Suggested MILCON possibilities on Power Upgrade and/or Privatization
- Much Discussion About the Extent The Navy's Infrastructure is /has been Underfunded & Number of Locations With Similar issues.



Department of Defense

➤ **Director of Operational Test & Evaluation: Acting Director Dr. Raymond O'Toole, Jr.,**

Removed From Position in June 2025

- ◆ We Presented Him With Issues of Spectrum sell-off issue , Need for SDTS Replacement, Maintaining Strong Test Capability and Infrastructure issues
- ◆ He Continues to be a strong proponent of the T&E Infrastructure and Capability.
- ◆ Was Supportive of Actual Tests, not just simulations.
- ◆ There Are No Current Plans For A New Self Defense Test Ship(SDTS), But Was Supportive Of Need In Future.
 - He Believed That A Replaced Self Defense Test Ship Would Be A National Asset And We Need To Develop National Capability Through This Platform

No Other Range Like Pt Mugu, National Asset



Department of Defense

Test Resource Management Center: Joseph Tinch, Deputy Director (Joyce Heilman) Rumford on Travel, Joyce led Discussion

- ◆ We Discussed Our Issues On: (Very Supportive of Issues)
 - ◆ SCIF
 - ◆ Spectrum Sell Off
 - ◆ Infrastructure Issues With Emphasis on Power.
 - ◆ RDP Idea of Program Funding for Micro Grid, Supportive of Concept
- ◆ Workforce 2030 (retirements are going up as Boomers start to age out)
 - ◆ They have a big focus on Developing Range Support People.
 - ◆ TRMC Has Started an Intern Programs For Jobs Not Requiring College Degrees
 - ◆ Already Working With Moorpark College & CSUCI

Ventura Community Colleges & CSUCI Have Become a Big Part of TRMC Intern Program



Department of Defense

Office of Local Defense Community: Dan Glasson, Deputy Director

- Received a Good Update on Status of DCIP, but all Areas are Waiting for Final Decisions & Possible Impacts.
- Presented Our Concerns on Infrastructure and NBVC Power Issues
- Re stated Mr. O'Brien Offer from 2024 To Help With The Base's Ongoing Infrastructure Problems:
 - ◆ Offered To Help Convene Local Offices, Base Commanders, And Utility Company To Hash Out A Deal To Improve The Electric Grid On Base.

Communities Of Less Than 100,000 People, Can Get A Waiver For The Federal Match



Department of Defense

Deputy Ass't Sec'y for Energy, Installations, & Environment (Robert Thompson (Principle Deputy & Division Leaders))

- Presented Our Concerns on Infrastructure.
- Long Discussion on WCF,
 - ◆ Agreed That **WCF's Probably Need Additional Exemption Emphasis**
- Not Sure How Some of the Policies Will Change, *(Resiliency to Meet Mission Will Still Be Important''*
 - ◆ Office Scheduled to Lose 20% of Billets
 - ◆ Certain That Energy & Energy
- Their Comments:
 - ◆ Installation Energy Plan – required of each DoD installations
 - The Resilience Plan is not a public document as it reveals vulnerabilities
 - The plans focus on the on-base infrastructure and seldom look at the external feeds
 - ◆ National Coastal Erosion Project – may be a source of funding for the erosion issues

Navy Has Sufficient Authority to Execute Power Upgrades



Department Of Navy

**Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Facilities,
Brenda Johnston-Turner**

- We Presented A Summary Of All Our Issues:
 - ◆ Power ◆ Water ◆ Climate-Beach Erosion ◆ Etc.
 - ◆ Working Capital Fund

- Their Inputs/Comments
 - ◆ Infrastructure Under Funded And Major Backlogs Exist
 - ◆ Many Activities Have Power Issues Similar TO NBVC
 - ◆ Figuring out how to meet that \$32 billion backlog shore investment
 - ◆ MILCON has a 7-year timeline



Department Of Navy

Chief of Naval Operations (N94): Rick Quade,

Director Test & Evaluation Division

*Transferred from this Navy Position in June 2025 to
DoD position of Director of Operational Test & Evaluation*

- RDP Presented Our Issues.
- Opened Dialog on Program Micro Grid Program for Power Resiliency.
 - ◆ Not Against the Idea: **Provide Him a Proposal**
- A Strong Supporter of The Self-Defense Test Ship, BUT
 - ◆ TEMPS for PEO IWS for 2030 and Out Do Not Support The Need For The SDTS.
 - ◆ "Program offices' Are Not Saying They Need a SDTS
 - ◆ **Lack of A Ship Becoming Available and Above Issues, Budgeting for is On Hold.**

Work Needed With Program Offices & PEO IWS on SDTS Requirements for Out Years



Department Of Navy

Chief of Naval Operations (N94): Rick Quade,

Director Test & Evaluation Division

(Continued)

- Strongly Supports Infrastructure Investments, Recognizing That They Often Do Not Make The Cut For Funding Priorities.
- Spectrum Sale Off Legislation Concerns & Agrees Need A Longer Sustaining Tail And N94 Would Be Supportive Of A Bill To Do That



Department Of Navy

Naval Installations Command: Timothy Bridges, Executive Director

- RDP Briefed on NBVC Resiliency Issues
- Utility Infrastructure bad across the service.
 - ◆ Electrical Power Is Failing All Over Navy Facilities (Major Readiness Issue)
 - ◆ Pushing Hard For Public Private Partnerships With Utilities .
 - 2030 in the POM utility privatization; -Norfolk & Pearl Harbor in queue I
 - n Order To Complete A Deal You Have To Have Willing Participants
 - Privatization Is Onerous and A Five-Year Process and Needs to be Changed
- Supportive of Micro Grid Concept as part Of Resiliency
- Supportive of NBVC Privatizing; maybe Doable in 2030 Timeframe
- Infrastructure Resources Will Continue to Not Meet Need
- Concerned About CIC Staffing To Execute Need

Utility Privatization Appears to Be the Only Way Forward



Department Of Navy

Naval Sea Systems Command : Christopher Miller, Executive Director

- RDP Briefed on RDP Mission & Support for NSWC PHD
- Discussed Various Issues
 - ◆ SDTS After 2030 (IWS Not Showing need) Availability of a Candidate DDG
 - ◆ Navy Needs Help Advocating For Spectrum Protections. (Golden Dome will Need Spectrum)
 - ◆ Working Capital fund: Supportive Of RDP Initiative To Seek Legislation To Protect WCF
- Comments:
 - ◆ Competing Pressure To Do More Test In Side (Open range easier to surveillance from Chinese and Russians)
 - ◆ Need For High-end Test Environment; (Simulation and test range)
 - ◆ Concerned for Future Of The Organization/Staffing
 - ◆ Ability to Award Contracts and Loss of Manning Will Have a Local Impact



Department Of Navy

Naval Sea Systems Command : RDML Todd Evans, Commander of Naval Surface and Undersea Warfare Centers (In same initial meeting with NAVSEA)

After Departure of NAVSEA Meeting Continued

- **Workforce Is A Major Issue for NAVSEA/NSWC**
 - ◆ Not Sure What The Downsize Will Do Overall
 - ◆ More Retirements Will Hamper The Command
 - ◆ Working To Support Hiring/Replacement As Best They Can
- **Comments:**
 - ◆ Bumpy ride on the budget-front
 - ◆ Unclear How Contractors Will Be Used By This Government
 - ◆ Very Supportive OF RDP Initiative on WCF(WCF Needs To Be Allowed To Grow To Meet Demand)
 - ◆ CG47 Cruisers Could Be Mothballed Soon
 - ◆ R&D Space Could Be Impacted
 - ◆ Hueneme Should Be Mostly Fine

Very Complementary on NSWC/PHD: “Hueneme Should Be Mostly Fine”



Post Trip Activities

➤ DoD Recent Activities That Could Have Major Impacts:

- ◆ DOGE given the power to review all of the Pentagon's unclassified contracts.
- ◆ Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has directed the downsizing and reorganization of the independent office of Developmental, Operational, Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) that oversees Pentagon weapons testing.
 - ❖ The office currently has a staff of 94 -- 82 civilians and 12 military. The office will be reduced to a staff of 30 civilian positions, with no more than one Senior Executive Service member and 15 assigned military personnel. All contracted support terminated. Within the next seven days, all civilians working at DOT&E not retained will receive a "Specific Notices of RIF" and be placed on approved administrative leave.
- ◆ Rick Quade Has Been Reassigned From Department Of Navy N94 To Serve As The New Director Of OT&E, Replacing Dr. O'Toole

➤ Follow up On Visit

- ◆ RDP Working with Lobbyist on Possible Allocation of Some of the Added Funds For DoD for Local Issues
- ◆ Economy Act Action
- ◆ Micro Grip Program Possibilities



QUESTIONS?



RDP Update

- July Meeting the Washington trip 2025 Report Presentation
- DoD Recent Activities of Interest:
 - **DOGE given the power to review all of the Pentagon's unclassified contracts.** The Pentagon acquisition chief's office has 14 days to create a "workflow to facilitate" the new review process. "The Department of Defense (DOD) Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) team will have the opportunity to provide input on all unclassified contracts," the memo states.
 - **Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has directed the downsizing and reorganization of the independent office of Developmental, Operational, Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) that oversees Pentagon weapons testing.**
 - The office currently has a staff of 94 -- 82 civilians and 12 military. The office will be reduced to a staff of 30 civilian positions, with no more than one Senior Executive Service member and 15 assigned military personnel. All contracted support terminated. Within the next seven days, all civilians working at DOT&E not retained will receive a "Specific Notices of RIF" and be placed on approved administrative leave.
 - **Rick Quade has been reassigned from Department of Navy N94 to serve as the new director of OT&E, replacing Dr. O'Toole**



RDP Update

- DoD Recent Activities of Interest continued:
 - **DoD Seeks to reduce the costs of moving military families .**
 - The memo directs the department to develop a strategy to **reduce the number and periodicity of “discretionary” permanent change of stations.**
 - **Reduce** travel budgets by 10% by fiscal year 2027, 30% by FY-28, 40% by FY-29 and 50% by FY-30.
 - **DIU seeking dual-use tech startups with roots in academia**
 - The Defense Innovation Unit is seeking submissions for U.S.-owned and operated startups with roots in academia to participate in a 12-week accelerator program preparing them for engagement with the Pentagon’s acquisition ecosystem, according to a newly released solicitation from the military’s innovation arm.
- RDP Working with Lobbyist on Possible Allocation of Some of the Added Funds For DoD for Local Issues