



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600

Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone: 703-699-2950

August 15, 2005

The Honorable John Warner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Senator Warner:

I am pleased to provide the information you requested in your letter of August 4, 2005, in which you ask my assistance in locating in the public record Admiral Vern Clark's views about closing NAS Oceana.

The only communication I have had with Admiral Clark was on the record at our public hearing of May 17, 2005. Admiral Clark said at that time, and I quote from the transcript of the proceedings. I asked: "Did you look at alternatives for Oceana, and even extreme alternatives, like maybe moving to an Air Force Base?" He responded: "The answer to that question is absolutely. Do you want me to say more?"

Admiral Clark continued: "Okay. I talked to – at length to [General] John Jumper; said, 'Can I have an Air Force Base?' You will see – and I have some – as we looked at military value and operational imperatives, getting a base in the middle of the country was not going to be of much value to me. I've got to have one that's closer to the water, or else it's not – it ends up – it's back to the Secretary's [Secretary England], the operational costs are – cost me a fortune. So, you know, we had some rules. We worked at it. The places that we could go – oh, and there's one other factor. It was going to cost us more money to split a place like Oceana – you know, we have a – first of all, it's a large base – to do it we had – we had to have a large place to take it, or to split it among a large – you know, a number of places, which then runs your overhead up. And when you do the business analysis of that, it didn't work out."

My understanding of Admiral Clark, and I believe it to be reasonable and correct, was and remains that he wanted to close Oceana. Further, but for his failure to locate an available site that was affordable, large enough, close to the water, and otherwise met his needs, he would have closed Oceana and moved the Master Jet Base.

Thank you for this opportunity to clear up any confusion about what Admiral Clark and I said about Oceana.

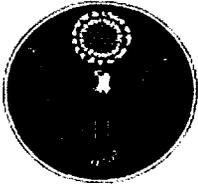
Sincerely,

James T. Hill
General, U.S. Army, Retired

Chairman: Anthony J. Principi

Commissioners: The Honorable James H. Bilbray, The Honorable Philip E. Coyle III, Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr., USN (Ret), The Honorable Jim Hansen, General James T. Hill, USA (Ret), General Lloyd Newton, USAF (Ret), The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret)

Executive Director: Charles Battaglia



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703-699-2950
August 15, 2005

The Honorable John Warner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Senator Warner:

I have not spoken to Vern Clark on this matter before or after the hearing. I may be hearing.

I am pleased to provide the information you requested in your letter of August 4, 2005, in which you ask my assistance in locating in the public record Admiral Vern Clark's views about closing NAS Oceana.

The only communication I have had with Admiral Clark was on the record at our public hearing of May 17, 2005. Admiral Clark said at that time, and I quote from the transcript of the proceedings. I asked: "Did you look at alternatives for Oceana, and even extreme alternatives, like maybe moving to an Air Force Base?" He responded: "The answer to that question is absolutely. Do you want me to say more?"

Admiral Clark continued: "Okay. I talked to – at length to [General] John Jumper; said, 'Can I have an Air Force Base?' You will see – and I have some – as we looked at military value and operational imperatives, getting a base in the middle of the country was not going to be of much value to me. I've got to have one that's closer to the water, or else it's not – it ends up – it's back to the Secretary's [Secretary England], the operational costs are – cost me a fortune. So, you know, we had some rules. We worked at it. The places that we could go – oh, and there's one other factor. It was going to cost us more money to split a place like Oceana – you know, we have a – first of all, it's a large base – to do it we had – we had to have a large place to take it, or to split it among a large – you know, a number of places, which then runs your overhead up. And when you do the business analysis of that, it didn't work out."

My understanding of Admiral Clark, and I believe it to be reasonable and correct, was and remains that he wanted to close Oceana. Further, but for his failure to locate an available site that was affordable, large enough, close to the water, and otherwise met his needs, he would have closed Oceana and moved the Master Jet Base.

Thank you for this opportunity to clear up any confusion about what Admiral Clark and I said about Oceana.

Sincerely,

James T. Hill
General, U.S. Army, Retired

Chairman: Anthony J. Principi

Commissioners: The Honorable James H. Bilbray, The Honorable Philip E. Coyle III, Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr., USN (Ret), The Honorable Jim Hansen, General James T. Hill, USA (Ret), General Lloyd Newton, USAF (Ret), The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret)

Executive Director: Charles Battaglia