

United States Senate

Washington, D. C., 9-13-05, 19

Respectfully referred to

CHAIRMAN ANTHONY
PRINCIPI

@ DEFENSE BASE
REALIGNMENT + CLOSURE
COMMISSION

John Warner

U.S.S.

Lighthouse Pointe Retirement Residence
933 Cedar Road
Chesapeake VA 23322

August 14, 2005

Chairman Anthony J. Principi
Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Principi,

We are a group of over one hundred senior citizens, many of whom have served in the military. We are severely concerned with the possibility of the transfer of the vital defense facility of Oceana Naval Air Station to a remote principally undeveloped alternate site.

Oceana, the Navy's only master jet base on the East Coast has been repeatedly emphasized by Navy Command as the only suitably located and fully operational base on the East Coast for its attack and defense fighter forces.

Oceana, with its 12,000 employees firmly attached to their homes, schools, hospital care, and municipal facilities, has no need to plan, design, and construct those facilities over the years ahead. They are here now!

To transfer this operation to a basically undeveloped, abandoned location would totally ignore the presence of the world's most extensive harbor with vast naval docking, maintenance, and repair accommodations, together with its ability to refurbish repair, and construct all manner of aircraft carriers and supporting vessels. The proximity of this infrastructure is vital to the training of naval aircraft operation.

Oceana is not merely an aircraft landing field, but is an integral and essential factor in the defense of the entire East Coast.

We are vitally concerned not only with the cost of reproducing Oceana, but also the considerable gap while a new base is planned, financed, and constructed.

We urge you to retain the location and integrity of Oceana Naval Air Station.

Yours truly,

Residents of Lighthouse Pointe
Chesapeake, Virginia