

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFIED ORIGINAL

SWORN STATEMENT OF
PHIL GRANDFIELD, CAPTAIN, USN RETIRED

August 22, 2005

Virginia Beach, Virginia

DELIVER TO:

FOR DELIVERY TO THE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE
COMMISSION, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

1 CAPTAIN GRANDFIELD: My name is Phil
2 Grandfield, former naval aviator and retired Navy
3 captain. I have about 4,000 hours of experience
4 flying F-14s, F-4s, and F-18s. I also have ten years
5 of experience as a landing signals officer where my
6 primary responsibility was training naval aviators to
7 fly aboard the ship and prepare to fly aboard the
8 ship.

9 The decision to support the question
10 about what is best for the Navy and the future of
11 naval aviation should be the primary focus of the
12 decision on NAS Oceana or the former NAS Cecil Field.
13 Foremost, the decision must support quality of
14 training for F-18 fleet training squadrons and the
15 fleet squadrons.

16 Despite the interviews with NAS Oceana
17 pilots by BRAC commissioners and the articles and the
18 press quoting disgruntled pilots, NAS Oceana's
19 location with easy access with over-water and
20 air-to-ground range has provided quality training to
21 TACAIR pilots for decades.

22 Despite comments to the contrary, NAS
23 Oceana's resources continue to provide high-quality
24 training. There's never been any official Navy
25 statement referencing degraded training capabilities

1 before or during the BRAC process, nor is there any
2 difference in measured readiness levels of NAS Oceana
3 squadrons and those based elsewhere.

4 As stated before, each field has its own
5 pluses and minuses. The flight restrictions imposed
6 by the FAA upon operations at Cecil Field have been a
7 negative impact for years and will likely get worse as
8 air traffic through Florida increases. The expanded
9 traffic flow into Orlando will likely adversely affect
10 the use of the Pinecastle bombing range in the future.

11 On the contrary, NAS Oceana's location
12 allows much improved synergy to train in accordance
13 with the DOD Training Transformation Guidelines,
14 particularly when compared to Cecil Field.

15 Fighter squadrons at NAS Oceana need to
16 train with Navy E-2 squadrons, surface ships, Special
17 Forces, Marine Corps units at Camp Lejune, and at MCAS
18 Cherry Point, as well as active duty Air Force
19 squadrons at Langley Air Force Base.

20 This synergy and training extends to
21 enlisted training as part of the Navy's Revolution In
22 Training and Sea Enterprise concept as well as joint
23 level training for air crews.

24 More and more training resources are
25 being collocated in the Hampton Roads area to include

1 enlisted and maintenance training.

2 The System of Systems for training
3 systems extends into Homeland security with combined
4 area resources for force protection.

5 This consolidation of training assets in
6 the fleet concentration center will improve readiness
7 if NAS Oceana stays here in this area as well.

8 To emphasize my previous comments with
9 reference to field carrier landing practice
10 differences between OLF Whitehouse and OLF Fentress.

11 I reject the implications that aviators
12 are at any greater risk when flying aboard an aircraft
13 carrier if their field carrier landing practice
14 training was conducted at OLF Fentress, vice OLF
15 Whitehouse. The pattern differences that exist are
16 considered acceptable deviations in training and have
17 served us well in the past.

18 Cecil Commerce Field is only a guess as
19 to who gets hurt if we guess wrong. The Cecil
20 proposal is immensely speculative and if adopted could
21 easily impair and degrade the Navy's readiness and
22 mission capabilities in the future.

23 We cannot create tomorrow's Navy by
24 relying on the opinions of yesterday's naval
25 leadership. The current Navy leadership and the

1 Secretary of Defense have made their decisions crystal
2 clear: NAS Oceana must not be closed and remains the
3 best choice for naval aviation training on the East
4 Coast.

5 The Navy trains its people for demanding
6 skills, piloting aircraft, operating nuclear
7 propulsion on submarines, surface ships, and on and on
8 as I referred to in the System of Systems.

9 There is an exemplary record of success
10 to show how this long-established training syllabus
11 has worked here at NAS Oceana. There's absolutely no
12 credible evidence that pilots trained at NAS Oceana
13 are any less qualified and competent and capable of
14 those trained anywhere else.

15 NAS Oceana served us well for decades
16 with the resources that still exist today.

17 It's wrong to rely on the biased opinions
18 of a few disgruntled aviators and disregard and ignore
19 the informed, honest, and comprehensive statements of
20 the Chief of Naval Operations.

21 Only he has knowledge from every level of
22 command and every unity in his organization concerning
23 the quality of training and morale of his people. And
24 the CNO has stated that he prefers to remain at NAS
25 Oceana.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

The Navy is an increasingly complex and interdependent organization and is moving away from stovepipes formed of military organizations into the System of Systems that I have described.

Moving a key element such as NAS Oceana will have far-reaching, adverse consequences to the Navy's revolution training as it collocates in Hampton Roads.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AT LARGE, to wit:

I, Scott D. Gregg, RPR, a Notary Public for the Commonwealth of Virginia at Large, of qualification in the Circuit Court of the City of Norfolk whose commission expires July 31, 2008, do hereby certify that the within person, CAPTAIN PHIL GRANDFIELD, RETIRED, appeared before me at Virginia Beach, Virginia, as hereinbefore set forth; and after being first duly sworn by me, thereupon made the above statement; that his statement was recorded in stenotype by me and reduced to typescript under my direction; and that the foregoing transcript constitutes a true, accurate, and complete transcript.

I further certify that I am not related to nor otherwise associated with any party to this proceeding, nor otherwise interested in the event thereof. Given under my hand and notarial seal at Norfolk, Virginia this 22nd day of August, 2005.

Scott D. Gregg

Scott D. Gregg, RPR

Notary Public

Phil Grandfield

Phil Grandfield, Captain, USN Retired

-2-	3:1	constitutes [1] 7:13	extends [2] 3:20	high-quality [1] 2:23
2005 [2] 1:10 7:18	-C-	continue [1] 2:23	4:3	Homeland [1] 4:3
2008 [1] 7:5	Camp [1] 3:17	contrary [2] 2:22	-F-	honest [1] 5:19
22 [1] 1:10	cannot [1] 4:23	3:11	F-14s [1] 2:4	hours [1] 2:3
-3-	capabilities [2] 2:25	Corps [1] 3:17	F-18 [1] 2:14	hurt [1] 4:19
31 [1] 7:5	4:22	Court [1] 7:4	F-18s [1] 2:4	-I-
-4-	capable [1] 5:13	create [1] 4:23	F-4s [1] 2:4	ignore [1] 5:18
4,000 [1] 2:3	CAPTAIN [3] 1:9	credible [1] 5:12	FAA [1] 3:6	immensely [1] 4:20
-A-	2:1 7:6	crews [1] 3:23	far-reaching [1] 6:6	impact [1] 3:7
aboard [3] 2:7	Captain [1] 7:24	crystal [1] 5:1	Fentress [2] 4:10	impair [1] 4:21
2:7 4:12	captain [1] 2:3	current [1] 4:25	4:14	implications [1] 4:11
above [1] 7:9	carrier [3] 4:9	-D-	few [1] 5:18	imposed [1] 3:5
absolutely [1] 5:11	4:13 4:13	D [2] 7:2 7:20	Field [4] 2:12 3:6	improve [1] 4:6
acceptable [1] 4:16	Cecil [5] 2:12	decades [2] 2:21	3:14 4:18	improved [1] 3:12
access [1] 2:19	3:6 3:14 4:18	5:15	field [3] 3:4 4:9	include [1] 3:25
accordance [1] 3:12	4:19	decision [3] 2:9	4:13	increases [1] 3:8
accurate [1] 7:13	center [1] 4:6	2:12 2:13	Fighter [1] 3:15	increasingly [1] 6:1
active [1] 3:18	certify [2] 7:6	decisions [1] 5:1	first [1] 7:9	informed [1] 5:19
adopted [1] 4:20	7:14	Defense [1] 5:1	fleet [3] 2:14 2:15	interdependent [1] 6:2
adverse [1] 6:6	Cherry [1] 3:18	degrade [1] 4:21	4:6	interested [1] 7:16
adversely [1] 3:9	Chief [1] 5:20	degraded [1] 2:25	flight [1] 3:5	interviews [1] 2:16
affect [1] 3:9	choice [1] 5:3	DELIVER [1] 1:14	Florida [1] 3:8	-J-
Air [2] 3:18 3:19	Circuit [1] 7:4	DELIVERY [1] 1:15	flow [1] 3:9	joint [1] 3:22
air [2] 3:8 3:23	City [1] 7:4	demanding [1] 5:5	fly [2] 2:7 2:7	July [1] 7:5
air-to-ground [1] 2:20	clear [1] 5:2	described [1] 6:4	flying [2] 4:12	-K-
aircraft [2] 4:12	closed [1] 5:2	Despise [2] 2:16	focus [1] 2:11	key [1] 6:5
5:6	CLOSURE [1] 1:15	2:22	Force [2] 3:18	knowledge [1] 5:21
allows [1] 3:12	CNO [1] 5:24	deviations [1] 4:16	3:19	-L-
appeared [1] 7:7	Coast [1] 5:4	difference [1] 3:2	force [1] 4:4	landing [3] 2:5
area [3] 3:25 4:4	collocated [1] 3:25	differences [2] 4:10	Forces [1] 3:17	4:9 4:13
4:7	collocates [1] 6:7	4:15	foregoing [1] 7:12	Langley [1] 3:19
ARLINGTON [1] 1:16	combined [1] 4:3	direction [1] 7:12	Foremost [1] 2:13	LARGE [1] 7:1
articles [1] 2:17	command [1] 5:22	disgruntled [2] 2:18	formed [1] 6:3	Large [1] 7:3
assets [1] 4:5	comments [2] 2:22	5:18	former [2] 2:2	leadership [2] 4:25
associated [1] 7:15	Commerce [1] 4:18	disregard [1] 5:18	2:12	4:25
August [1] 1:10	COMMISSION [1] 1:16	DOD [1] 3:13	forth [1] 7:8	Lejune [1] 3:17
aviation [2] 2:11	commission [1] 7:5	duly [1] 7:9	future [3] 2:10	less [1] 5:13
5:3	commissioners [1] 2:17	during [1] 3:1	3:10 4:22	level [2] 3:23 5:21
aviator [1] 2:2	COMMONWEALTH [1] 7:1	duty [1] 3:18	-G-	levels [1] 3:2
aviators [3] 2:6	Commonwealth [1] 7:3	-E-	Given [1] 7:17	likely [2] 3:7
4:11 5:18	compared [1] 3:14	E-2 [1] 3:16	GRANDFIELD [3] 1:9 2:1 7:7	3:9
away [1] 6:2	competent [1] 5:13	East [1] 5:3	Grandfield [2] 2:2	location [2] 2:19
-B-	complete [1] 7:13	easy [1] 2:19	7:24	3:11
BASE [1] 1:15	complex [1] 6:1	element [1] 6:5	greater [1] 4:12	long-established [1] 5:10
Base [1] 3:19	comprehensive [1] 5:19	elsewhere [1] 3:3	Gregg [2] 7:2	-M-
based [1] 3:3	concentration [1] 4:6	emphasize [1] 4:8	7:20	maintenance [1] 4:1
Beach [2] 1:11	concept [1] 3:22	enlisted [2] 3:21	guess [2] 4:18	Marine [1] 3:17
7:8	concerning [1] 5:22	4:1	4:19	MCAS [1] 3:17
best [2] 2:10 5:3	conducted [1] 4:14	Enterprise [1] 3:22	Guidelines [1] 3:13	measured [1] 3:2
between [1] 4:10	consequences [1] 6:6	event [1] 7:16	-H-	
biased [1] 5:17	considered [1] 4:16	evidence [1] 5:12	Hampton [2] 3:25	
bombing [1] 3:10	consolidation [1] 4:5	exemplary [1] 5:9	6:7	
BRAC [2] 2:17		exist [2] 4:15 5:16	hand [1] 7:17	
		expanded [1] 3:8	hereby [1] 7:6	
		experience [2] 2:3	hereinbefore [1] 7:8	
		2:5		
		expires [1] 7:5		

