

Hampton Roads Mayors and Chairs Caucus



July 25, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

RE: NAS Oceana
(BRAC:2005)

Dear Chairman Principi:

On behalf of the Mayors and County Chairmen of the sixteen communities comprising the Hampton Roads region of southeast Virginia, I am taking this opportunity to voice our unanimous and unequivocal support for retaining NAS Oceana as a U.S. Navy Master Jet Base.

Hampton Roads offers unparalleled quality of life for service members and their families. Its world-class recreational features, educational and spousal employment opportunities, state-of-the-art medical facilities, mild climate and moderate cost of living make Hampton Roads a favorite duty assignment and retirement location.

NAS Ocean's co-location with the major Atlantic Fleet home port facilitates squadron movements to and from aircraft carriers, allows personnel to access to numerous Navy schools and training activities without leaving home, and provides **ample opportunities for sea/shore duty rotations within the Hampton Roads region.** These advantages save money while enhancing morale and retention.

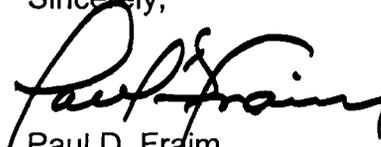
As recent testimony by Navy and Defense Department officials has confirmed, encroachment of NAS Oceana is manageable and does not significantly impact the Navy's ability to operate and provide realistic training at NAS Oceana. The recently completed Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) addresses the Navy's most pressing encroachment concerns for Oceana and Fentress Field, and JLUS recommendations have been adopted without reservation by all three participating cities.

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In light of Ocean's exceptional advantages and military value, we urge you to support the Secretary of Defense and U.S. Navy position on NAS Oceana.

Thank you for your consideration and the work of your Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Fraim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul D. Fraim
Chairman

DMG:kp

copy: Hampton Roads Mayors & Chairs Caucus
Hampton Roads Chief Administrative Officers