



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

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

**July 28, 2005**

*The Honorable Jeb Bush  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001*

*Dear Governor Bush:*

*During the Base Closure and Realignment Commission's Regional Hearing at New Orleans on 22 July, several members of the Florida delegation suggested relocating the Navy's east coast Master Jet Base, presently at Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia, to Cecil Field. You, however, did not mention the possibility of such a move in your remarks.*

*If you do in fact support the move, the Commission would appreciate your written comments regarding this concept in order for the present Cecil Field complex to be considered as a potential alternative site. The Department of Defense and the Navy would require the removal of all the industrial and commercial activities (non-DoD related) presently operating at the Cecil Field complex so that the Navy Master Jet Base would be able to conduct continuous, unencumbered flight operations, training and other required military activities. Additionally, a suitable outlying field would be required to conduct high tempo flight operations.*

*Please advise the Commission whether the state and local governments have formal interest in the concept and would support, direct or comply with the foregoing conditions and any other restrictions (for example, environmental restrictions from building within the fence line, encroachment into clear zones or accident potential zones, etc.) that may arise should the BRAC Commission consider the relocation of the Navy's Master Jet Base to Cecil Field as a potential alternative. In addition, the Commission would be interested in knowing whether your office has communicated its interest in pursuing this concept with the Department of Defense or the Department of the Navy and the outcome of those communications.*

*Your timely response will help the Commission to better understand the feasibility of such an option prior to our final deliberations now scheduled for the week of August 22nd. Naturally, we will be reviewing operational and legislative issues regarding this consideration on a parallel track to your research and reply activity.*

*Sincerely,*

*Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman*

**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