



DCN: 6130

BRAC Commission

AUG 01 2005

Received

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**JOHN PEYTON**  
MAYOR

July 28, 2005

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JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

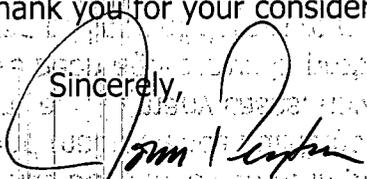
With the support of Governor Bush, I am writing to request an opportunity to present information to the BRAC Commission relative to the possible return of military operations to Cecil Field.

As you know, Cecil Field was one of four master jet bases created in the U.S. and was fully operational for fifty years. In the six years since its closure, more than \$100M in federal, state and city funds has been invested to improve the infrastructure of the base. The runways, hangars and maintenance buildings which once supported squadrons of F/A-18's are intact, and in many cases, have been refurbished. In addition, the state and city have been aggressive in protecting the area from encroachment and have invested millions of dollars to create an adjacent greenway which serves as a natural buffer for flight operations.

There are other regional synergies which are beneficial to this analysis. The area possesses an unencroached and unrestricted Outlying Field, close proximity to aerial bombing ranges, ideal flying conditions and aerial corridors, and depot-level jet maintenance.

While there has been a concerted effort by the state and city to redevelop Cecil Field into a valuable commerce zone, the opportunity to return military operations to this great base remains available. Governor Bush and I would appreciate the chance to share our thoughts regarding this opportunity with you and the BRAC Commission as soon as it can be arranged. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
John Peyton  
Mayor

JP/dm



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