

July 28, 2005

BRAC Commission

Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

AUG 1 2005

Received

Dear Commission:

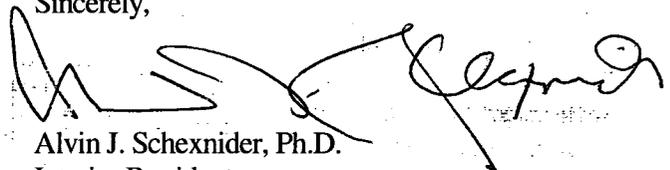
On behalf of Norfolk State University, I am writing in opposition to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's decision to include Naval Air Station Oceana as a candidate for closure or realignment. As a member of the Hampton Roads community and an educator, I am exceedingly aware of the contributions that NAS Oceana makes to the City of Virginia Beach, the Hampton Roads region and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Economically, Oceana supplies a 1.2 billion dollar annual contribution to the Virginia Beach economy and is the city's largest employer totaling nearly 10% of the city's economic output. In return, the City of Virginia Beach has worked rigorously to provide our service men and women and their families in Virginia Beach a quality of life that is unrivaled. Service men and women and their families are provided with copious job opportunities and many high-quality higher educational opportunities, like Norfolk State University. Also enjoyed by our service members and their families is great medical care, a superb support network for children with special needs, and a public school system that has received the United States Senate Productivity and Quality Award for Virginia --Medallion of Performance Excellence and has been labeled an "outperforming" school system because it surpasses the performance of other districts of similar size and demographics in reading and math proficiency.

During the 1995 BRAC process, NAS Oceana was ranked #1 Navy/Marine Corps air station in military value. Since then the City of Virginia Beach has worked tirelessly to address any issues that have arisen. The city has invested \$202 million in transportation improvements around NAS Oceana during the last 10 years, addressed encroachment issues through a recently completed Joint Land Use Study and the Airport Zoning Ordinance and relocated two elementary schools from the Accident Potential Zones (APZ).

Norfolk State University is proud to stand with the city and citizens of Virginia Beach and Hampton Roads in any efforts to support the valiant service members of our country. Hampton Roads has an extensive history of providing excellent support and services for our service members and we wish to continue this tradition by keeping NAS Oceana open for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Alvin J. Schexnider, Ph.D.
Interim President