

BRAC Commission

AUG 08 2005

Received

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

August 5, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I would like to take the opportunity to share with you and your colleagues a viable alternative to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's recent vote to add Naval Air Station Oceana (NASO) to the proposed closure list. I am confident that Texas can provide you the best location for all assets associated with a Navy Master Jet Base. As the BRAC Commission considers Texas as part of its review of NASO, I would like to bring to your attention the current and future military value that a South Texas location would bring, not only to the US Navy but also to the joint warfighting, training, and readiness for all of this country's military forces.

The state is partnering with the South Texas Coastal Bend Defense Community to support an expanded military presence in South Texas and to provide the Department of Defense (DOD) with enhanced operations and training space to support ground, naval and air forces through a diversity of mission requirements to include the capability to surge in the event of national emergencies. We are very excited about this tremendous opportunity. We are prepared to support as many additional military personnel and their families as necessary in South Texas, and provide them with the operational space and quality of life to assure a ready and fully-trained military force.

Texas is prepared to make a significant offer to augment the already existing infrastructure and training areas available to the military missions at NAS Kingsville, NAS Corpus Christi, and NS Ingleside.

The Chief of Naval Air Training based at NAS Corpus Christi enjoys the availability of two unencumbered ranges: the 10,000 nautical square mile "Warning Area 228" range, which can support supersonic and tactical air maneuvering exercises over the Gulf, and the land-based McMullen Training Range. The State of Texas is prepared to provide support to expand the McMullen Training Range from its current size of 10,000 acres to 40,000 acres. The McMullen

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The state is making available a \$50 million grant for the balance of the land acquisition and any required environmental studies, range development, infrastructure needs, or as a supplement to the MILCON program for expenses that may arise from a relocation of NASO.

Additionally, a key infrastructure need for the light and mobile transformed Army forces located at Fort Hood, Fort Sill, Fort Bliss, and Fort Carson is efficient access to joint training areas and surface Ports of Embarkation. The State is prepared to assist in the construction of new infrastructure to support these needs, including the addition of a rail spur from Union Pacific's main rail line to Naval Station Ingleside. The Texas Department of Transportation has agreed to build, manage and operate the spur and to allow the DOD unlimited use at no cost. The cost of this project is presently estimated to be \$15.2 million and is predicated on the continuing need for the Naval Station as part of an expanded military mission in South Texas. These funds are in addition to the \$5.2 million investment already committed to the expansion of the deployment rail capability at the strategic seaport at the Port of Corpus Christi.

Texas has also recently made a \$457.5 million commitment to transportation infrastructure improvements in and around the surrounding counties of NAS Kingsville. Further, the state is committed to any additional identified transportation infrastructure expansions deemed necessary on and around NAS Kingsville and will commit to another \$100 million for the expansion of Chapman Ranch Road.

I am also pleased to provide the local defense community a \$200 million loan fund financed by the sale of State of Texas General Obligation bonds. A loan from this fund would be used by the local defense community to support the infrastructure and facility needs of the Navy and the defense community. Such a loan could augment the limited MILCON funding available early in the BRAC implementation process, and allow for the expedited planning and construction of infrastructure and facilities at NAS Kingsville.

Texas is pleased to provide these incentives for national defense purposes. The total package of new grants, infrastructure and loans is approximately \$365 million.

Mr. Chairman, the South Texas Coastal Bend Defense Community has no encroachment issues, no environmental issues, unrivaled operational air space and the ability to expand our already exemplary public/private family housing initiatives to meet DOD needs. Simply put, South Texas is Navy Country and we invite you and your colleagues to come and see for yourselves.

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We look forward to working with the BRAC Commission and DOD to achieve our common objectives.

If we can assist you with any questions you may have regarding the state's resources available to help with the DOD's decision to relocate NAS Oceana, please contact my deputy chief of staff, Phil Wilson, by phone at 512/463-9490, or by e-mail at pwilson@governor.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,


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Enclosures

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The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy
Admiral Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations
General Daniel James III, Director, Air National Guard
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Comparison of NAS Oceana to NAS Kingsville for Flight Operations

	<u>NAS Oceana</u>	<u>NAS Kingsville</u>
Main Runways	4—Encroached	4—No Encroachment
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Community Support	Stressed	Universal Support
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Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

1305 N. Shoreline Blvd, Ste. 205, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-1500
361-885-6202 (phone) • 361-883-7801 (fax)

August 1, 2005

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Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

A local effort is underway to convince the Commission and Department of Defense to expand the mission of NAS Kingsville to include hosting the new F/A -18 Super Hornet jets. As the director of a local conservation organization I was asked by the folks advocating this expanded mission for my opinion and comments.

In my review of this proposal, I have visited several websites addressing the various issues (environmental impacts, bird strike safety issues, and noise level concerns) regarding the proposed location of these jets at NAS Oceana and the proposed OLF in Washington County, North Carolina. I have also spoken directly with Mr. Derb Carter of the Southern Environmental Law Center regarding that organization's concern about stationing the F/A - 18 at NAS Oceana and the use of the proposed OLF. I am pleased to report that the concerns associated with those facilities would be avoided by moving the F/A -18 Super Hornet jets to NAS Kingsville here in South Texas.

In my comments I will address four potential concerns; 1) the expanded mission at NAS Kingsville, 2) the use of the Orange Grove Auxiliary Landing Field for F/A-18 training, 3) the use of the McMullen County Range for live fire and bombing, and 4) the use of Naval Station Ingleside by an aircraft carrier.

Naval Air Station Kingsville already plays an important role as a Navy jet training facility. The addition of F/A -18 Super Hornets at the base will not cause any additional environmental impact and while it is impossible to eliminate all risks, the bird strike threat will be much lower than that at NAS Oceana or the new proposed OLF in Washington County, North Carolina. The best thing about NAS Kingsville is its very rural location and lack of encroachment by residential or commercial activities. Increased noise levels should not be a problem.

The Orange Grove NALF is also in a rural location with little encroachment. The facility is currently being used by the Navy for jet "touch and go" training. The use of this location by the F/A -18 Super Hornets would not be a problem.

The local advocates have indicated that the McMullen County Range would need to be expanded both in size and activities. I have checked with people knowledgeable about the existing site and adjacent area and have concluded that this additional activity would be acceptable from an environmental perspective. We would certainly encourage the Navy to consider the needs of local wildlife and to develop a management plan to help minimize impacts. Close consultation with County officials and area ranchers is also advised.

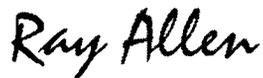
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NAS Kingsville and associated facilities will make an ideal location for the F/A –18 Super Hornet jets. I am certain that from an environmental perspective there are no fatal flaws in this proposal and that the environmental review process would go smoothly.

Thank you for considering my comments and please do not hesitate to contact me at (361-885-6204) if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ray Allen
Executive Director



COASTAL BEND GROUP
SIERRA CLUB

P.O. BOX 3512
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78404

August 2, 2005

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Arlington, Va. 22202**

Dear Chairman Principi:

These comments are being submitted on behalf of the Coastal Bend Sierra Club and the Coastal Bend Environmental Coalition in support of the local efforts to expand the mission of Kingsville NAS and Naval Station Ingleside. It is our understanding that new F/A Super Hornet Jets would be a major part of the mix proposed and that there would be expanded use of areas of McMullen County as a bombing range. These environmental groups were asked to consider if there were any "deal killers" in this proposal.

There have been jet training operations at the Kingsville site for at least 40 years without any memorable conflicts between those operations and the local fish, wildlife, or citizens. There are no subdivisions, wetlands, or sanitary landfills near the landing fields that would restrict flights or pose the threat of bird strikes. The closest areas of significant recreational and biological sensitivities are the Padre Island National Seashore and the South Bird Island colonial water bird rookery about 40 miles east and northeast of NAS Kingsville. Over flights of these areas by military aircraft, with the exception of frequent surveys along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline by Coast Guard jets and helicopters based elsewhere, are rarely noticeable, much less low enough to cause significant aesthetic or other environmental impact. The Navy maintains a liaison with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Corpus Christi to assure that environmental issues and opportunities are addressed early and thoroughly. Mrs. Pat Clements is the Service's local contact (361-994-9005).

Naval Station Ingleside was originally designed to berth a carrier, a battle ship, and auxiliary vessels, and underwent significant environmental reviews in the Homeport EIS. A large adjacent area of undeveloped natural habitat has been proposed for acquisition to facilitate amphibious warfare training. This proposed military use would be less damaging than if the property were turned into subdivisions or industrial sites, and has the approval of the local conservation groups.

The McMullen County site already has some old target ranges, but one has recently been enlarged, and there are ongoing discussions with the landowners about making it big enough to allow live bombing in addition to firing small arms and served weaponry on the ground. Although greater expansion, to include over 34,000 acres, was discussed over a year ago, there still remains little but a general concept of the operations and impacts, and very little ground-truthing has been conducted. However the area is remote and little used except for ranching and hunting. The Texas tortoise, the Indigo snake, the horned toad and a few other species are of concern as they occur on the site. If a large buffer zone is established around the perimeter and the site managed for these species there should be no major difficulties. Hunting, and possibly cattle grazing might continue to be allowed as management tools.

A full-scale EIS would, of course, have to be done to address both the projects impacts and the potential mitigation for them, but there is no reason known at this time why the expansion would be any more damaging, except in scale, than the existing target range operations.

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Patricia H. Suter

Patricia H. Suter, Chairman
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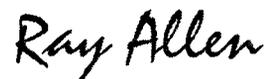
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Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

1305 N. Shoreline Blvd, Ste. 205, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-1500

361-885-6202 (phone) • 361-883-7801 (fax)

August 1, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

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Ray Allen

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Executive Director



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SIERRA CLUB

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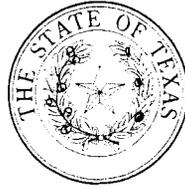
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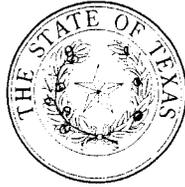
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Sincerely,

Patricia H. Suter

Patricia H. Suter, Chairman
(President, Environmental Coalition)



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

August 5, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

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The state is partnering with the South Texas Coastal Bend Defense Community to support an expanded military presence in South Texas and to provide the Department of Defense (DOD) with enhanced operations and training space to support ground, naval and air forces through a diversity of mission requirements to include the capability to surge in the event of national emergencies. We are very excited about this tremendous opportunity. We are prepared to support as many additional military personnel and their families as necessary in South Texas, and provide them with the operational space and quality of life to assure a ready and fully-trained military force.

Texas is prepared to make a significant offer to augment the already existing infrastructure and training areas available to the military missions at NAS Kingsville, NAS Corpus Christi, and NS Ingleside.

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Additionally, a key infrastructure need for the light and mobile transformed Army forces located at Fort Hood, Fort Sill, Fort Bliss, and Fort Carson is efficient access to joint training areas and surface Ports of Embarkation. The State is prepared to assist in the construction of new infrastructure to support these needs, including the addition of a rail spur from Union Pacific's main rail line to Naval Station Ingleside. The Texas Department of Transportation has agreed to build, manage and operate the spur and to allow the DOD unlimited use at no cost. The cost of this project is presently estimated to be \$15.2 million and is predicated on the continuing need for the Naval Station as part of an expanded military mission in South Texas. These funds are in addition to the \$5.2 million investment already committed to the expansion of the deployment rail capability at the strategic seaport at the Port of Corpus Christi.

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I am also pleased to provide the local defense community a \$200 million loan fund financed by the sale of State of Texas General Obligation bonds. A loan from this fund would be used by the local defense community to support the infrastructure and facility needs of the Navy and the defense community. Such a loan could augment the limited MILCON funding available early in the BRAC implementation process, and allow for the expedited planning and construction of infrastructure and facilities at NAS Kingsville.

Texas is pleased to provide these incentives for national defense purposes. The total package of new grants, infrastructure and loans is approximately \$365 million.

Mr. Chairman, the South Texas Coastal Bend Defense Community has no encroachment issues, no environmental issues, unrivaled operational air space and the ability to expand our already exemplary public/private family housing initiatives to meet DOD needs. Simply put, South Texas is Navy Country and we invite you and your colleagues to come and see for yourselves.

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August 5, 2005
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If we can assist you with any questions you may have regarding the state's resources available to help with the DOD's decision to relocate NAS Oceana, please contact my deputy chief of staff, Phil Wilson, by phone at 512/463-9490, or by e-mail at pwilson@governor.state.tx.us.

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RP:jek

Enclosures

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The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy
Admiral Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations
General Daniel James III, Director, Air National Guard
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United States Congressmen Solomon P. Ortiz, Ruben Hinojosa, Henry Cuellar and
Lloyd Doggett
Texas State Senators Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Judith Zaffirini, Ph.D., and Eddie Lucio
Texas State Representatives Gene Seaman, Vilma Luna, Abel Herrero, Juan Escobar,
and Yvonne Gonzales Toureilles
Texas Department of Transportation Commissioners
Michael W. Behrens, P.E., Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation
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Comparison of NAS Oceana to NAS Kingsville for Flight Operations

	<u>NAS Oceana</u>	<u>NAS Kingsville</u>
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Airspace	Encumbered	Unencumbered
Target Ranges	Dare County Range—Inerts	McMullen Ranges—Inerts (Live Capability Potential)
Community Support	Stressed	Universal Support
Environmental Issues	Legal Action	Documented Support
Weather	Fair to Good	Excellent
Training Effectiveness	Amended Fleet Training	Full Fleet Training



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

1305 N. Shoreline Blvd, Ste. 205, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-1500

361-885-6202 (phone) • 361-883-7801 (fax)

August 1, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

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In my review of this proposal, I have visited several websites addressing the various issues (environmental impacts, bird strike safety issues, and noise level concerns) regarding the proposed location of these jets at NAS Oceana and the proposed OLF in Washington County, North Carolina. I have also spoken directly with Mr. Derb Carter of the Southern Environmental Law Center regarding that organization's concern about stationing the F/A - 18 at NAS Oceana and the use of the proposed OLF. I am pleased to report that the concerns associated with those facilities would be avoided by moving the F/A -18 Super Hornet jets to NAS Kingsville here in South Texas.

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Naval Air Station Kingsville already plays an important role as a Navy jet training facility. The addition of F/A -18 Super Hornets at the base will not cause any additional environmental impact and while it is impossible to eliminate all risks, the bird strike threat will be much lower than that at NAS Oceana or the new proposed OLF in Washington County, North Carolina. The best thing about NAS Kingsville is its very rural location and lack of encroachment by residential or commercial activities. Increased noise levels should not be a problem.

The Orange Grove NALF is also in a rural location with little encroachment. The facility is currently being used by the Navy for jet "touch and go" training. The use of this location by the F/A -18 Super Hornets would not be a problem.

The local advocates have indicated that the McMullen County Range would need to be expanded both in size and activities. I have checked with people knowledgeable about the existing site and adjacent area and have concluded that this additional activity would be acceptable from an environmental perspective. We would certainly encourage the Navy to consider the needs of local wildlife and to develop a management plan to help minimize impacts. Close consultation with County officials and area ranchers is also advised.

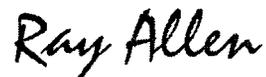
Chairman Principi
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August 1, 2005

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NAS Kingsville and associated facilities will make an ideal location for the F/A -18 Super Hornet jets. I am certain that from an environmental perspective there are no fatal flaws in this proposal and that the environmental review process would go smoothly.

Thank you for considering my comments and please do not hesitate to contact me at (361-885-6204) if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

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Ray Allen
Executive Director



COASTAL BEND GROUP
SIERRA CLUB

P.O. BOX 3512
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78404

August 2, 2005

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2005 Base Realignment and Closure
Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Va. 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

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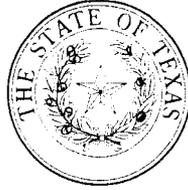
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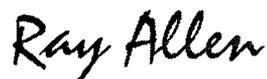
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P.O. BOX 3512
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I am also pleased to provide the local defense community a \$200 million loan fund financed by the sale of State of Texas General Obligation bonds. A loan from this fund would be used by the local defense community to support the infrastructure and facility needs of the Navy and the defense community. Such a loan could augment the limited MILCON funding available early in the BRAC implementation process, and allow for the expedited planning and construction of infrastructure and facilities at NAS Kingsville.

Texas is pleased to provide these incentives for national defense purposes. The total package of new grants, infrastructure and loans is approximately \$365 million.

Mr. Chairman, the South Texas Coastal Bend Defense Community has no encroachment issues, no environmental issues, unrivaled operational air space and the ability to expand our already exemplary public/private family housing initiatives to meet DOD needs. Simply put, South Texas is Navy Country and we invite you and your colleagues to come and see for yourselves.

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
August 5, 2005
Page 3 of 3

We look forward to working with the BRAC Commission and DOD to achieve our common objectives.

If we can assist you with any questions you may have regarding the state's resources available to help with the DOD's decision to relocate NAS Oceana, please contact my deputy chief of staff, Phil Wilson, by phone at 512/463-9490, or by e-mail at pwilson@governor.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,


Rick Perry
Governor

RP:jek

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy
Admiral Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations
General Daniel James III, Director, Air National Guard
BRAC Commission Members
United States Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn
United States Congressmen Solomon P. Ortiz, Ruben Hinojosa, Henry Cuellar and
Lloyd Doggett
Texas State Senators Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Judith Zaffirini, Ph.D., and Eddie Lucio
Texas State Representatives Gene Seaman, Vilma Luna, Abel Herrero, Juan Escobar,
and Yvonne Gonzales Toureilles
Texas Department of Transportation Commissioners
Michael W. Behrens, P.E., Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation
The Honorable Loyd Neal, Chairman, South Texas Military Facilities Task Force
Adjutant General Charles Rodriguez, Texas National Guard

Comparison of NAS Oceana to NAS Kingsville for Flight Operations

	<u>NAS Oceana</u>	<u>NAS Kingsville</u>
Main Runways	4—Encroached	4—No Encroachment
Outlying Fields	NALF Fentress—Major Encroachment	NALF Orange Grove—No Encroachment
Airspace	Encumbered	Unencumbered
Target Ranges	Dare County Range—Inerts	McMullen Ranges—Inerts (Live Capability Potential)
Community Support	Stressed	Universal Support
Environmental Issues	Legal Action	Documented Support
Weather	Fair to Good	Excellent
Training Effectiveness	Amended Fleet Training	Full Fleet Training



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

1305 N. Shoreline Blvd, Ste. 205, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-1500
361-885-6202 (phone) • 361-883-7801 (fax)

August 1, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

A local effort is underway to convince the Commission and Department of Defense to expand the mission of NAS Kingsville to include hosting the new F/A -18 Super Hornet jets. As the director of a local conservation organization I was asked by the folks advocating this expanded mission for my opinion and comments.

In my review of this proposal, I have visited several websites addressing the various issues (environmental impacts, bird strike safety issues, and noise level concerns) regarding the proposed location of these jets at NAS Oceana and the proposed OLF in Washington County, North Carolina. I have also spoken directly with Mr. Derb Carter of the Southern Environmental Law Center regarding that organization's concern about stationing the F/A - 18 at NAS Oceana and the use of the proposed OLF. I am pleased to report that the concerns associated with those facilities would be avoided by moving the F/A -18 Super Hornet jets to NAS Kingsville here in South Texas.

In my comments I will address four potential concerns; 1) the expanded mission at NAS Kingsville, 2) the use of the Orange Grove Auxiliary Landing Field for F/A-18 training, 3) the use of the McMullen County Range for live fire and bombing, and 4) the use of Naval Station Ingleside by an aircraft carrier.

Naval Air Station Kingsville already plays an important role as a Navy jet training facility. The addition of F/A -18 Super Hornets at the base will not cause any additional environmental impact and while it is impossible to eliminate all risks, the bird strike threat will be much lower than that at NAS Oceana or the new proposed OLF in Washington County, North Carolina. The best thing about NAS Kingsville is its very rural location and lack of encroachment by residential or commercial activities. Increased noise levels should not be a problem.

The Orange Grove NALF is also in a rural location with little encroachment. The facility is currently being used by the Navy for jet "touch and go" training. The use of this location by the F/A -18 Super Hornets would not be a problem.

The local advocates have indicated that the McMullen County Range would need to be expanded both in size and activities. I have checked with people knowledgeable about the existing site and adjacent area and have concluded that this additional activity would be acceptable from an environmental perspective. We would certainly encourage the Navy to consider the needs of local wildlife and to develop a management plan to help minimize impacts. Close consultation with County officials and area ranchers is also advised.

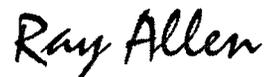
Chairman Principi
Page 2 of 2
August 1, 2005

Naval Station Ingleside is well suited to either occasionally host or have an aircraft carrier stationed at the base. NS Ingleside was originally built as a homeport for an aircraft carrier to help with Navy flight training. The use of this facility by an aircraft carrier is completely appropriate and will not have a negative impact on the environment or the community.

NAS Kingsville and associated facilities will make an ideal location for the F/A -18 Super Hornet jets. I am certain that from an environmental perspective there are no fatal flaws in this proposal and that the environmental review process would go smoothly.

Thank you for considering my comments and please do not hesitate to contact me at (361-885-6204) if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ray Allen
Executive Director



COASTAL BEND GROUP
SIERRA CLUB

P.O. BOX 3512
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78404

August 2, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure
Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Va. 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

These comments are being submitted on behalf of the Coastal Bend Sierra Club and the Coastal Bend Environmental Coalition in support of the local efforts to expand the mission of Kingsville NAS and Naval Station Ingleside. It is our understanding that new F/A Super Hornet Jets would be a major part of the mix proposed and that there would be expanded use of areas of McMullen County as a bombing range. These environmental groups were asked to consider if there were any "deal killers" in this proposal.

There have been jet training operations at the Kingsville site for at least 40 years without any memorable conflicts between those operations and the local fish, wildlife, or citizens. There are no subdivisions, wetlands, or sanitary landfills near the landing fields that would restrict flights or pose the threat of bird strikes. The closest areas of significant recreational and biological sensitivities are the Padre Island National Seashore and the South Bird Island colonial water bird rookery about 40 miles east and northeast of NAS Kingsville. Over flights of these areas by military aircraft, with the exception of frequent surveys along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline by Coast Guard jets and helicopters based elsewhere, are rarely noticeable, much less low enough to cause significant aesthetic or other environmental impact. The Navy maintains a liaison with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Corpus Christi to assure that environmental issues and opportunities are addressed early and thoroughly. Mrs. Pat Clements is the Service's local contact (361-994-9005).

Naval Station Ingleside was originally designed to berth a carrier, a battle ship, and auxiliary vessels, and underwent significant environmental reviews in the Homeport EIS. A large adjacent area of undeveloped natural habitat has been proposed for acquisition to facilitate amphibious warfare training. This proposed military use would be less damaging than if the property were turned into subdivisions or industrial sites, and has the approval of the local conservation groups.

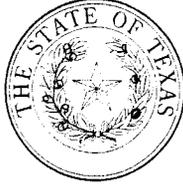
The McMullen County site already has some old target ranges, but one has recently been enlarged, and there are ongoing discussions with the landowners about making it big enough to allow live bombing in addition to firing small arms and served weaponry on the ground. Although greater expansion, to include over 34,000 acres, was discussed over a year ago, there still remains little but a general concept of the operations and impacts, and very little ground-truthing has been conducted. However the area is remote and little used except for ranching and hunting. The Texas tortoise, the Indigo snake, the horned toad and a few other species are of concern as they occur on the site. If a large buffer zone is established around the perimeter and the site managed for these species there should be no major difficulties. Hunting, and possibly cattle grazing might continue to be allowed as management tools.

A full-scale EIS would, of course, have to be done to address both the projects impacts and the potential mitigation for them, but there is no reason known at this time why the expansion would be any more damaging, except in scale, than the existing target range operations.

Sincerely,

Patricia H. Suter

Patricia H. Suter, Chairman
(President, Environmental Coalition)



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY

GOVERNOR

August 5, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I would like to take the opportunity to share with you and your colleagues a viable alternative to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's recent vote to add Naval Air Station Oceana (NASO) to the proposed closure list. I am confident that Texas can provide you the best location for all assets associated with a Navy Master Jet Base. As the BRAC Commission considers Texas as part of its review of NASO, I would like to bring to your attention the current and future military value that a South Texas location would bring, not only to the US Navy but also to the joint warfighting, training, and readiness for all of this country's military forces.

The state is partnering with the South Texas Coastal Bend Defense Community to support an expanded military presence in South Texas and to provide the Department of Defense (DOD) with enhanced operations and training space to support ground, naval and air forces through a diversity of mission requirements to include the capability to surge in the event of national emergencies. We are very excited about this tremendous opportunity. We are prepared to support as many additional military personnel and their families as necessary in South Texas, and provide them with the operational space and quality of life to assure a ready and fully-trained military force.

Texas is prepared to make a significant offer to augment the already existing infrastructure and training areas available to the military missions at NAS Kingsville, NAS Corpus Christi, and NS Ingleside.

The Chief of Naval Air Training based at NAS Corpus Christi enjoys the availability of two unencumbered ranges: the 10,000 nautical square mile "Warning Area 228" range, which can support supersonic and tactical air maneuvering exercises over the Gulf, and the land-based McMullen Training Range. The State of Texas is prepared to provide support to expand the McMullen Training Range from its current size of 10,000 acres to 40,000 acres. The McMullen

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
August 5, 2005
Page 2 of 4

Range is currently used by the Navy, Air National Guard and Air Force active and reserve forces with inert and electronic training and would support live ordnance. We are prepared to extend its capability to support an expanded aviation mission at Naval Air Station Kingsville.

The state is making available a \$50 million grant for the balance of the land acquisition and any required environmental studies, range development, infrastructure needs, or as a supplement to the MILCON program for expenses that may arise from a relocation of NASO.

Additionally, a key infrastructure need for the light and mobile transformed Army forces located at Fort Hood, Fort Sill, Fort Bliss, and Fort Carson is efficient access to joint training areas and surface Ports of Embarkation. The State is prepared to assist in the construction of new infrastructure to support these needs, including the addition of a rail spur from Union Pacific's main rail line to Naval Station Ingleside. The Texas Department of Transportation has agreed to build, manage and operate the spur and to allow the DOD unlimited use at no cost. The cost of this project is presently estimated to be \$15.2 million and is predicated on the continuing need for the Naval Station as part of an expanded military mission in South Texas. These funds are in addition to the \$5.2 million investment already committed to the expansion of the deployment rail capability at the strategic seaport at the Port of Corpus Christi.

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
August 5, 2005
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We look forward to working with the BRAC Commission and DOD to achieve our common objectives.

If we can assist you with any questions you may have regarding the state's resources available to help with the DOD's decision to relocate NAS Oceana, please contact my deputy chief of staff, Phil Wilson, by phone at 512/463-9490, or by e-mail at pwilson@governor.state.tx.us.

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August 1, 2005

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2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
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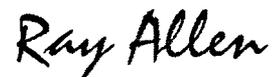
Chairman Principi
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August 1, 2005

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Ray Allen
Executive Director



COASTAL BEND GROUP
SIERRA CLUB

P.O. BOX 3512
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78404

August 2, 2005

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Chairman
2005 Base Realignment and Closure
Commission
2521 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Va. 22202

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