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BRAC Commission

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# FAX TRANSMISSION

TOWN OF ORANGE PARK

2042 PARK AVENUE

ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA 32073

(904) 278-3018

Fax: (904) 278-3025

**To:** Base Realignment and Closure Commission

**Date:** August 9, 2005

**Attn:** The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman

**Fax #:** 703-699-2735

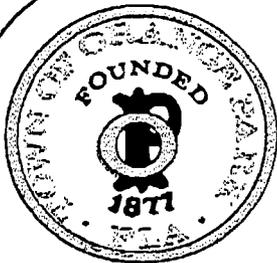
**Pages:** 2 , including this cover sheet.

**Telephone #:**

**From:** JOHN W. BOWLES,  
Town Manager

**Subject:** Re-establishment of Cecil Field as a Naval Air Facility

**COMMENTS:**



## Town of Orange Park

2042 Park Avenue • Orange Park, Florida 32073 • Telephone 904/264-9565

August 9, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman  
2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

For the past several weeks, many here in North Florida have been following very closely deliberations of the Commission as it relates to proposed base closures. It seems that the proposed closure of the Oceana Naval Air Station is a distinct possibility and is still under review by the Commission.

Should the Oceana closure become a reality, I am quite certain that the Department of the Navy and the Commission would be very concerned regarding a suitable location able to accommodate a large number of jet aircraft. Apparently, the re-establishment and reopening of the Cecil Field facility could become a very real and viable possibility.

Prior to its closure in 1999, the Cecil Field Naval Air Station was designated as a Master Jet Base and did accommodate many Navy Attack Squadrons and other related aircraft. Since Cecil Field was closed, the City of Jacksonville has made many improvements to the facility's infrastructure. Needless to say, the base is in excellent shape and provides ready access to training areas already designated both in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Atlantic Seaboard. Other training facilities, bombing ranges and target sites area are within minutes of Cecil Field. There also seems to be plenty of air space in the area offering almost unlimited flight availability. Since the closure of Cecil Field in 1999, the State of Florida has since built a new north/south highway along the eastern boundary of the base, and has established a State forest along the southern boundary.

On the behalf of our Mayor, and every Council Member, the Town of Orange Park fully endorses and supports the efforts of Governor Bush and Mayor Peyton to re-establish Cecil Field as a Naval Air Facility.

Sincerely,

  
John W. Bowles  
Town Manager

JWB/jb

cc: Mayor/Members of Council  
Honorable Jeb Bush, Governor, State of Florida  
Honorable John Peyton, Mayor, City of Jacksonville  
Honorable George Bush, Chairman, Clay County Commission