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**FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**



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TO: Commissioner Anthony Principi/  
Bill Fetzer, Sr. Analyst Navy Team

COMPANY: BRAC Commission

BRAC Commission

FROM:

DATE 08/22/05

**AUG 22 2005**

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Jeb Bush  
Governor

# Department of Environmental Protection

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Colleen M. Castille  
Secretary

August 22, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing in response to the BRAC hearing held on Saturday, August 20, 2005, where testimony was presented by both the State of Florida and State of Virginia on the future of the Navy's East Coast Master Jet Base. There were several junctures during the Virginia testimony where the environmental suitability and cleanup of Cecil Field were brought into question. For the record, I feel compelled to clarify the facts. In sum, the environmental condition of the Cecil Field property has substantially improved since 1993 and should not deter or prevent the Navy from relocating its East Coast Master Jet Base there.

Progress in environmental cleanup at Naval Air Station Cecil Field has proceeded at a remarkable pace. Most cleanups have been completed or are in long-term maintenance and monitoring. Since the base was placed on the BRAC list in 1993, the Navy has achieved impressive environmental cleanup results. Approximately 95% of the acreage on base has been delisted from the Superfund National Priorities List. All underground and aboveground petroleum tanks have been either removed or transferred to the City of Jacksonville for operation. Only 20 of the 235 petroleum contamination sites are open with remaining contamination being addressed. Remedies are in place for most of the non-petroleum sites and over 90% of the base has been transferred for unrestricted reuse. Environmental cleanups have also conformed with Florida requirements, which are more stringent than those of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The environmental cleanup of Cecil Field under the BRAC program is significantly more stringent than that typically required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) at an operating base. Under BRAC, every piece of property is evaluated to determine its environmental condition and remediation requirements under several environmental programs, including asbestos, lead-based paint, pesticide contamination, CERCLA releases, petroleum storage and releases and radon. As such, the environmental condition of the base has dramatically improved since

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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman

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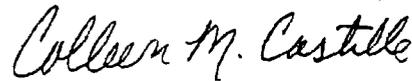
August 22, 2005

the base has undergone cleanup through the more encompassing BRAC process and would make an ideal location for the Navy's East Coast Master Jet Base.

I certify that the information contained in this submission to the BRAC Commission is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief as required by Section 2905 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Castille  
Secretary