

BRAC Commission

AUG 22 2005

Received

8-17-05

BRAC-

I hope this reaches you well. I am a navy wife currently stationed in Virginia Beach at Oceana. We only been here for 8 months and in this short period of time we've seen and been through a lot. The majority of the residents here truly dis-like the military and they don't try to hide it. If that doesn't make life hard enough, the cost of living is crazy, houses selling for three times there worth. Which forces military families to rent and the rental prices are very high also. Military life is so tough and to add all this on top just makes it unbearable. I am a very proud military wife and it hurts to live in a place where none really appreciates what my husband does for them. Please let us go back to Florida, the quality of life is so much better and that's what military families deserve. Please shut Oceana down so we never have to come back to this horrid place again!

Thank you for your time-

*Amanda Medlock*  
Amanda Medlock

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AUG 22 2005

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August 19, 2005

B R A C C  
2521 South Clark St.  
Arlington VA  
22202

Dear Sirs,

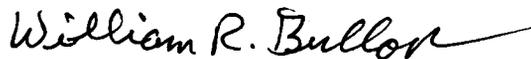
As a thirty five year resident of Virginia Beach I am writing to ask you to close Oceana Naval Air Station.

In spite of the city council's feeble and expensive efforts, this city cannot be made reasonably safe for the type of operations Oceana must perform.

One hears much about the economic impact Oceana has on the area. I wonder how much support Oceana will have after a major incident.

In closing may I request that you close Oceana and move it's operations to a remote and safer location.

Yours Truly,

  
William R. Bullock

3810 Atlantic Ave.  
# 406  
Virginia Beach, VA  
23324

757 428-1486

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17 August 2005

To all BRAC Commissioners and Navy Staff,

Since C-SPAN2 did not broadcast the BRAC vote, for the add-on's, on Tuesday 19 July 05; I anxiously awaited the results about NAS Oceana via e-mail or phone call. I received the bad news, that NASO had been added, almost immediately after the vote was taken. Later, I was given the following account:

.....Commissioner Samuel Skinner initially said that he would vote against adding NAS Oceana to the potential closure list, for fear of overloading the BRAC Commission Staff with lengthy analysis. Jim Hanna, Navy Team Leader for the commission staff, said that would not be the case, on that note, Commissioner

Skinner changed his mind. He was the deciding vote.....

I was initially dumbstruck by the outcome, so I decided to look into the guiding principles of another DOD commission currently in progress. I wanted to see what their philosophy was on realignment, particularly on "quality of life" issues. On a web search I found the "Overseas Basing Commission (OBC), Report to the President and Congress," dated 09 May 05.

Reading over their report I noticed that there were several Navy BRAC staffers also listed as members of the "Overseas Basing Commission" staff: James Hanna, listed as a Regional Director; Marilyn Wasleski, as a Staff Analyst and Rumu Sarkar, listed as General Counsel.

In the OBC's "Executive Summary," (on PDF page 8 of 262) there is a paragraph entitled, "Quality of Life." It reads as follows: (quote)

**QUALITY OF LIFE** The nation relies on an armed force of committed volunteers. Throughout our history, they have served nobly in peace and war under sometimes rigorous conditions and with varying degrees of risk. They have never failed us. The Commission notes all that has been done to secure their well being and to look after their needs under current conditions of war and transformation. It is

concerned, however, that unless some reordering of priorities takes place we are in danger of straining active and reserve forces and their families beyond the degree they should be asked to accept.

As we reposition tens of thousands of family members to localities that may not have been given adequate time or budget to prepare for their proper reception, and as we subject service members to repeated rotations abroad for extended periods of time (even in eras of unbroken peace), we may find ourselves unable to acquire the requisite numbers of recruits and reenlistments to maintain a viable volunteer force.

The Commission believes that in the short run planners must take a "last day -- first day" approach to the movement of units and families from one location to another. Furthermore, the Commission suggests close monitoring of attitudes toward the military service in times of frequent and extended separations from home and family. Most importantly, the Commission recommends that quality of life considerations be a priority in the global realignment process. (unquote)

So what am I getting at and what does the "Overseas Basing Commission" have to do with the BRAC 2005 process and NAS Oceana? The answer is simple. They both involve major decisions that can/will have a monumental affect on the quality of

life and morale of our dedicated and professional service members and their families.

Granted, the OBC's actions will affect a vastly larger population, approximately 60,000-70,000 military members and their dependents, mostly Army service personnel. However, should the BRAC Commissioners vote to close NAS Oceana that action will affect over 9,250 Navy personnel and their families.

Do our sailors and their families deserve less consideration on quality of life issues than their Army brothers and sisters? .....I think not!

The most fundamental and basic principle of leadership is....TAKE CARE OF YOUR PEOPLE.....and they will take care of you.

In our new CNO's NAVADMIN message (DTG: 231853ZJUL05), subject....."ALL AHEAD FULL," he stated the following in paragraph "D" entitled, People:

".....There will be few, if any decisions I make where I do not ask my commanders first about the impact those decisions have on you. The same holds true for families. I believe our families are every bit a factor in our readiness as our technology and our training. Their love and support make it possible for us to do what we do each and every day. Deborah and I are

dedicated to improving the quality of life for our families and our larger Navy family that shares a rich tradition of sea service....."

I fully realize the issues with NAS Oceana are not about jet noise, it's all about encroachment. During BRAC 1995, NAS Oceana was also singled out for encroachment issues but it still ended up as the DOD/DON's.....#1 Naval Air Station in Military Value.

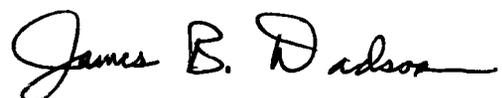
SECDEF did not put NAS Oceana on his recommended closure list (for BRAC '05) because the Department of the Navy had deemed that the encroachment issues were..... "manageable." The VCNO and stated exactly that to the BRAC Commission at the BRAC Hearing in Washington D.C., on Monday, 18 July 05. Later, on the 04 Aug 05 BRAC hearing our new CNO, ADM Mullen, stated the same thing. Was anybody listening?

It's the time for some common sense. We're fighting a "Global War on Terrorism" and it just might continue for a decade or even more? Now is not the time to put an additional burden on our Navy aircrews, our great sailors and their wonderful families stationed at NAS Oceana with some knee-jerk plan to close the base or farm out some arbitrary number of F/A-18 Hornet/Super Hornet squadrons to multiple receiving bases up and down the East Coast. Wasn't the BRAC process supposed to save money?

Now is the time to take care of our people.....with  
deeds greater than lip-service.

Nobody asked me but.....

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Dadson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Captain James B. Dadson, USN (Ret)  
103 Caribbean Ave  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451-4716