DCN: 7824

BRAC Commission

AUG 19 2005

Received

CITY OF CHESAPEAKE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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August 18, 2005

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

Dear Chairman Principi:

During its meeting of August 16, 2005 City Council of the City of Chesapeake approved the enclosed resolution in support of retaining the Naval Station at Oceana as a United States Navy Master Jet Base. Pursuant to NALF Fentress the City has initiated numerous efforts to minimize development impacts and preserve the integrity of the training experience. The City of Chesapeake has a longstanding and effective working relationship with the Navy regarding NALF Fentress and has demonstrated its support and understanding of the Navy's mission well over 20 years.

The City will actively support the proposed State legislative initiatives. In addition, we have a purchase of development rights program and will continue to pursue opportunities to further enhance the Navy's experience in Chesapeake.

Mr. Chairman, please be assured that the City of Chesapeake completely supports the retention of Oceana and fully supports the U.S. Navy and has for many years undertaken an active approach to address jet noise and development encroachment issues to the fullest extent allowed under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

Dalton S. Edge
Mayor

DSE/mas

Copied:

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
The Honorable John W. Warner
The Honorable George Allen
The Honorable J. Randy Forbes
The Honorable Thelma Drake
Members, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
Chesapeake Legislative Delegation
The Honorable Members of City Council
Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic
Commanding Officer, NAS Oceana

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING THE NAVAL AIR STATION AT OCEANA AS A UNITED STATES NAVY MASTER JET BASE.

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) added the Naval Air Station at Oceana (NAS Oceana) to the list of facilities under consideration for closure or realignment; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach recently completed and endorsed by resolution the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) process under the Office of Economic Adjustment, Department of Defense with the United States Navy. The study was a proactive initiative to address encroachment issues in order to ensure retention of the military value of NAS Oceana, the Naval Air Landing Field at Fentress (NALF Fentress), and Chambers field. The endorsed recommendations of the JLUS included an ongoing partnership between the Cities and the Department of the Navy as well as the structure to expand this effort region wide; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chesapeake has a longstanding and effective working relationship with the Navy regarding NALF Fentress and has demonstrated its support and understanding of the Navy's mission; and

WHEREAS, the Navy has been able to maintain the integrity of the training experience as demonstrated by the Navy retaining its flight pattern for over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chesapeake recognizes the further efforts of the Navy to enhance the quality of life for residents by implementing comprehensive and effective public notification and information processes; and

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WHEREAS, the City has undertaken numerous initiatives to address encroachment issues in the past as provided for by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, has requested changes in State laws regarding real estate disclosure and State building codes for sound attenuation, and will actively support the proposed State legislative initiatives to expand local land use authority; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chesapeake agrees with Admiral M. G. Mullen who, in his August 4, 2005, letter to BRAC Chairman Anthony J. Principi, stated that NAS Oceana remains the best option for the Navy Master Jet Base on the East Coast, largely due to operational capabilities and proximity to the fleet and training areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, that it supports the retention of NAS Oceana as a United States Navy Master Jet Base and urges the BRAC Commission to remove its name from the list of bases being considered for closure.

BE IT FURTHER resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Mark Warner, the BRAC Commission, and Chesapeake's and Virginia Beach's State legislators.

ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, this 16th day of August, 2005.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Council

TRUE COPY

CITY CLERK