



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION

2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 703-699-2950

DCN: 3516

July 1, 2005

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

As you are aware, before the Base Closure and Realignment Commission can even consider making a change in your recommendations that would add military installations for closure or realignment, or expand a realignment, we are required by Section 2914(d)(3) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended, to seek an explanation from you as to why such actions were not included on your May 13, 2005 list. A series of issues on installations on which we seek such explanation is enclosed. No deliberation will be made on whether to include any of these installations for further study of closure or realignment until the Commission's open hearing of July 19, 2005. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate receipt of your explanation no later than July 18th.

In addition, we invite you or your representative to elaborate on these explanations at a public hearing to be held in the Washington, D.C. area at 8:30 a.m. on July 18, 2005.

If, at the July 19 hearing, seven or more Commissioners support adding an installation to your list for consideration, at least two Commissioners will visit each of the installations added to your list and public hearings will be conducted regarding them. While this is a requirement of law, the Commission's view is that such public hearings are not only mandatory, but also highly desirable.

At the Commission's final deliberations during the week of August 22, the vote of at least seven Commissioners will be required to effect any change in your recommendations that would close or realign an installation that you did not recommend for such closure or realignment, or expand a realignment that you recommended.

Your assistance in complying with this stringent timetable will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Anthony J. Principi
Chairman

Enclosure

Chairman: Anthony J. Principi

Commissioners: The Honorable James H. Bilbray, The Honorable Philip E. Coyle III, Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr.,
USN (Ret), The Honorable Jim Hansen, General James T. Hill, USA (Ret), General Lloyd Newton, USAF (Ret), The
Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, Brigadier General Sue Ellen Turner, USAF (Ret)

Executive Director: Charles Battaglia

1. MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO, CA

ISSUE:

- Why was Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) San Diego, CA, not closed and consolidated with Marine Corps recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, SC?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- The Marine Corps operates two stand-alone recruit depots -- one on each coast. Consolidation of all recruit training to MCRD Parris Island generates training efficiencies, reduces excess capacity, and saves recurring costs due to fence-line closure of MCRD San Diego, and may generate offsetting revenues due to potential commercial development after a DoD property transfer. Consolidating recruit training at one location may theoretically increase operational risks; however, the Department of Navy and Air Force have successfully implemented similar transformational options experiencing little or no actual risk to recruit training while maintaining a surge capability. Military value of MCRD San Diego is lower than MCRD Parris Island partially due to encroachment and land constraints.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- None
-

2. NAVAL SHIPYARD PEARL HARBOR, HI

ISSUE:

- Why was the Naval Shipyard Pearl Harbor, HI, not closed and the ship depot repair function realigned to Naval Shipyard Norfolk, VA; Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, ME; and Naval Shipyard Puget Sound, WA?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- Four naval shipyards perform depot-level ship refueling, modernization, overhaul and repair work. There appears to be sufficient excess capacity in the aggregate across the four shipyards to close either Naval Shipyard Pearl Harbor or Naval Shipyard Portsmouth. Naval Shipyard Pearl Harbor is less efficient than Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, according to Department of Navy data and additional savings could be found from reduced unit costs at the receiving shipyards because of a higher volume of work. Naval Shipyard Pearl Harbor has low military value compared to other shipyards according to DoD analysis supporting the recommendation to close Naval Shipyard Portsmouth.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- DON-23: Close Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, ME

3. NAVAL AIR STATION BRUNSWICK, ME

ISSUE:

- What considerations were given to a complete closure of Naval Air Station Brunswick, ME, and what were the driving factors in deciding on realignment?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- Closure would appear to reduce excess capacity, may save approximately four times more than DoD's realignment recommendation and could open land to State or community development to offset economic impact.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- DON-18: Realign Naval Air Station Brunswick, ME
-

4. NAVY BROADWAY COMPLEX, SAN DIEGO, CA

ISSUE:

- Why was the Navy Broadway Complex, San Diego, CA, not considered for closure and realignment of existing functions to Naval Station San Diego, CA?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- Consolidating Navy activities in a more secure location at the Naval Station complex at 32nd Street could improve security and allow for future commercial development.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATION:

- None
-

5. REALIGNMENT OF NAVAL MASTER JET BASE

ISSUE:

- What consideration was given to the realignment of the Master Jet Base located at NAS Oceana, VA, to Moody AFB, GA? Was movement of the assets assigned to Moody AFB, GA to Cannon AFB, NM, considered and if so, what were the driving considerations not to do so?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- Realigning the Master Jet Base at NAS Oceana, VA, to Moody AFB, GA, would appear to alleviate the severe encroachment which affects NAS Oceana training and operations as well as operations at the outlying field, Fentress OLF. Moody AFB, GA, would appear to have the necessary room for expansion and suffers less encroachment. Cannon AFB, NM, would appear to have ample space and facilities to accommodate any aircraft currently operating or planned for movement to Moody AFB, NM.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATION:

- AF-6: Realign Eielson AFB
 - AF-32: Close Cannon AFB
 - AF-35: Maintenance realignment from Shaw AFB
 - E&T-14: Realignment of Undergraduate Pilot Training.
-

6. GALENA AIRPORT FORWARD OPERATING LOCATION (FOL), AK

ISSUE:

- Was any consideration given to merging the missions of Galena FOL, AK, and Eielson AFB, AK? Why does the United States need to maintain two FOLs in Alaska, given the current national security environment and 20-year threat assessment?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- Galena is one of two FOLs in Alaska that serve as alert bases for air intercept aircraft in support of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) missions. The requirement for maintaining two FOLs in Alaska may no longer be valid. The mission could be accomplished by maintaining one FOL and two Air Force bases in Alaska.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- AF-6: Eielson AFB, AK; Moody AFB, GA; and Shaw AFB, GA
 - AF-7: Kulis Air Guard Station, AK; and Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK
 - AF-18: Mountain Home Air Force Base, ID; Nellis Air Force Base, NV; and Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK
 - AF-43: Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD; and Dyess Air Force Base, TX
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7. POPE AIR FORCE BASE, NC

ISSUE:

- What considerations drove the recommendation to realign, rather close Pope AFB NC, under Fort Bragg, NC? Are the joint operational synergies that exist between the XVIII Airborne Corps and the 43rd Airlift Wing/23rd Fighter Group able to be replicated from other locations?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- DoD appears to have determined that much of the benefits of the collocation of the joint forces that will operate together (CAS aircraft, operational planning staffs) are outweighed by the ability to schedule support as necessary through third parties.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- USA-8: Fort Gillem, GA
- USA-8: Fort McPherson, GA
- AF-35: Pope Air Force Base, NC, Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station, PA; and Yeager Air Guard Station, WV
- H&SA-35: Create Joint Mobilization Sites

8. GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, ND

ISSUE:

- What considerations drove the recommendation to realign rather than close Grand Forks AFB, ND? What is the number of UAVs planned for assignment to Grand Forks AFB, ND, and what is the timing of the potential deployment?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- While there is no “emerging mission” programmed within the BRAC timeline (2006-2011), there are indications that the Air Force is considering assigning UAVs to Grand Forks AFB, ND.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- AF-37: Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND
-

9. AIR NATIONAL GUARD

ISSUE:

- Were the Adjutants General and Governors of the States consulted in the re-allocation of aircraft, personnel, facilities and missions from their states? What impact does the realignment of the ANG have on the homeland defense and homeland security missions?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- Many of the Air Force’s recommendations address Air National Guard installations. While only four of these installations will completely close, many Guard installations will lose aircraft and personnel leaving only an “expeditionary combat support” unit remaining, with several states losing their entire flying missions. Many of these aircraft will relocate to other locations, which may negatively impact personnel recruiting and retention as well as State and Homeland Security missions.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATION:

- Various
-

10. DEFENSE FINANCE ACCOUNTING SERVICE

- DFAS Buckley Annex, CO
- DFAS Columbus, OH
- DFAS Indianapolis, IN

ISSUE:

- Why were keeping DFAS Buckley Annex, CO, DFAS Columbus, OH, and DFAS Indianapolis, IN, open and closing the remaining DFAS sites the only scenario

considered? Why did DoD not consider other options, which could have avoided military construction costs and possibly produced a more cost effective option?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- Closing or realigning these installations may reduce operating and sustainment costs, balance mission and strategic redundancy requirements, eliminate excess capacity and avoid closing other DFAS installations that provide a lower locality pay and have an existing infrastructure for expansion without military construction or additional leasing.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATION:

- HSA-37: Defense Finance & Accounting Service
-

11. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

- Naval Postgraduate School Monterey, CA
- Defense Language Institute Monterey, CA
- Air Force Institute of Technology Wright Patterson AFB, OH

ISSUE:

- What consideration was given to the closure or realignment of the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson AFB, OH, and the Defense Language Institute at Monterey, CA, with Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, CA, to create a consolidated professional development education center?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- Consolidating the Professional Development Education currently provided by the Air Force Institute of Technology, the Naval Postgraduate School, and the Army's Defense Language Institute would provide significant savings and efficiencies to the Department of Defense by (1) eliminating redundant support structure for advanced education, (2) reducing infrastructure; and (3) consolidating command and instructional staff.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- None
-

12. JOINT MEDICAL COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

- Navy Bureau of Medicine, Potomac Annex, DC
- Air Force Medical Command, Bolling AFB, DC
- TRICARE Management Authority, Leased Space, VA
- Office of the Army Surgeon General, Leased Space, VA

ISSUE:

- What consideration was given to establishing a Joint Medical Command Headquarters, through collocation of disparate Department of Defense Surgeons General, at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD?

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- Such a consolidation could eliminate 166,000 square feet of leased space within the National Capitol Region and enable the closure of the Potomac Annex, DC. The National Naval Medical Center, MD, has a higher military value ranking than present locations. Establishing a Joint Medical Command Headquarters would take advantage of the transformation of legacy medical infrastructure proposed in recommendation MED-4, which establishes the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD.

ASSOCIATED DOD RECOMMENDATIONS:

- MED-4: Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD
- TECH-5: Co-locate Extramural Research Program Managers

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August 1, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 01 2005

Received

The Honorable James H. Bilbray
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Bilbray:

I am writing in regards to the July 19, 2005, vote of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to consider Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana for closure, and to emphasize the State of Florida's overwhelming support that former NAS Cecil Field be considered as its replacement.

The recent vote by the Commission to consider closing NAS Oceana was based on the Navy's well documented testimony that NAS Oceana and its Navy Outlying Landing Field (NOLF) Fentress have suffered serious and unabated encroachment—a widely known situation that has worsened since the 1993 BRAC round that made Oceana the only Navy Master Jet Base for the Atlantic Fleet's Carrier based aviation force. Exacerbating matters, severe encroachment has impacted flight operations around NAS Oceana and NOLF Fentress to the point that our nation's naval aviators have had to adjust their flight training such that their flight profiles at Oceana/Fentress no longer replicate those flown for aircraft carrier approaches. The serious and increasing encroachment at Oceana/Fentress has also resulted in the Navy's Court-aborted attempt to spend more than \$100 million for a new NOLF in North Carolina.

As a result of these realities and the Commission's subsequent vote regarding NAS Oceana on July 22 at the BRAC Hearing in New Orleans, the Jacksonville community, Florida's Congressional Delegation, and I request that former NAS Cecil Field be considered as a replacement for NAS Oceana. As you know, NAS Cecil Field was the Navy's only other Atlantic Fleet Master Jet Base for about 50 years until it was closed in 1999. That closure resulted from excess Navy airfield capacity in the days when the Navy still had Vieques and the Puerto Rico training areas and properties around Oceana and Fentress were less developed and did not encroach upon those bases and their missions.

Since the New Orleans hearing, Mayor Peyton of Jacksonville and I have conducted significant research and discussions in support of our proposal to the BRAC Commission. We firmly believe Cecil Field is the best alternative available for the U.S. Navy's East Coast Master Jet Base in the advent of a NAS Oceana closure.



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The Honorable James H. Bilbray
August 1, 2005
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Since the Navy left Cecil Field on September 30, 1999, the Federal government, the State of Florida, and the City of Jacksonville have worked closely to improve the infrastructure at Cecil Field and to protect NOLF Whitehouse from encroachment. In addition to the relatively minor encroachment around Cecil/Whitehouse, the state and City will commit to stemming future encroachment so that the Oceana experience is not repeated and so the Navy can be assured of operationally realistic training when the F/A-18 E/F's and the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft are operating from these facilities.

Approximately \$133 million has been invested at Cecil Field through federal, state, and local grants since 1999 to upgrade the control tower, eight hangars, utilities, drainage, and roads throughout the complex. The City of Jacksonville has secured \$130 million in funding for a high-speed access road to Interstate-10 to provide Cecil Field with outstanding accessibility. I will commit to accelerating this project if necessary to be timed with the re-opening of NAS Cecil Field. I am also prepared to work intimately with the Florida Legislature to address whatever assistance the state can provide to ensure this proposal is operationally and financially feasible for all parties involved.

A further advantage to Cecil Field is its close proximity to NAS Jacksonville that offers access to significant facilities to include a fully operational Naval hospital, a modern Commissary and Exchange, and many other support amenities present in a Fleet concentration area. Family housing could be built with a public/private initiative, which is already planned for the Southeast Navy Region next year. These are all support facilities that, if located elsewhere, would have to be funded and built from the ground up at great cost. Mayor Peyton has conducted an analysis that indicates the necessary infrastructure to complete NAS Cecil Field would be about \$250 million—far from the billion dollar estimates projected to build a new, future Master Jet Base from scratch.

After consultations with the Jacksonville Airport Authority, Mayor Peyton has committed to the BRAC Commission that necessary property issues concerning current tenants at Cecil Field can be resolved to permit complete turnover of all property to the DoD. I support this commitment and will assist the City as appropriate at the state level. We are prepared to work with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Navy to ensure that a Cecil Field Master Jet Base would be able to conduct continuous, unencumbered flight operations, training, and other required military activities.

To responsibly consider our proposal, I request the BRAC Commission and its analysts visit Cecil Field and the NOLF Whitehouse to see first-hand the significant improvements made by the state and city since the Navy left Cecil Field in 1999 and the relatively sparse encroachment since that date. Additionally, because of the importance of this issue and the relative dire consequences of not directing a replacement for NAS Oceana, I request that the Commission receive an official presentation on the Cecil Field alternative at the August 10 hearing in Washington, D.C.

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August 1, 2005
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In closing, let me say that there are literally no locations in the eastern United States where a new Navy Master Jet Base might be built today. Cecil Field is the last site on the eastern seaboard capable of accommodating the NAS Oceana mission and personnel, and it offers relatively open surrounding land, close training airspace and bombing ranges, and in-place significant infrastructure. I urge the Commission to seriously consider this proposal on behalf of the U.S. taxpayers and look forward to working with the Commission and the Navy to make this a reality for our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,



Jeb Bush



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August 1, 2005

The Honorable James V. Hansen
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Hansen:

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Since the New Orleans hearing, Mayor Peyton of Jacksonville and I have conducted significant research and discussions in support of our proposal to the BRAC Commission. We firmly believe Cecil Field is the best alternative available for the U.S. Navy's East Coast Master Jet Base in the advent of a NAS Oceana closure.



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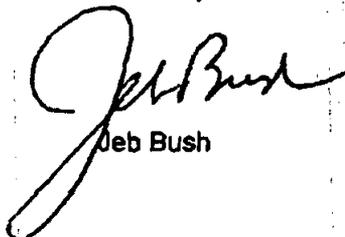
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To responsibly consider our proposal, I request the BRAC Commission and its analysts visit Cecil Field and the NOLF Whitehouse to see first-hand the significant improvements made by the state and city since the Navy left Cecil Field in 1999 and the relatively sparse encroachment since that date. Additionally, because of the importance of this issue and the relative dire consequences of not directing a replacement for NAS Oceana, I request that the Commission receive an official presentation on the Cecil Field alternative at the August 10 hearing in Washington, D.C.

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In closing, let me say that there are literally no locations in the eastern United States where a new Navy Master Jet Base might be built today. Cecil Field is the last site on the eastern seaboard capable of accommodating the NAS Oceana mission and personnel, and it offers relatively open surrounding land, close training airspace and bombing ranges, and in-place significant infrastructure. I urge the Commission to seriously consider this proposal on behalf of the U.S. taxpayers and look forward to working with the Commission and the Navy to make this a reality for our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeb Bush". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, trailing underline.

Jeb Bush



JEB BUSH
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BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
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General Lloyd W. Newton, USAF (Ret)
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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August 1, 2005
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General Lloyd W. Newton
August 1, 2005
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeb Bush". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name "Jeb Bush".

Jeb Bush



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com
850-488-7146
850-487-0801 fax

August 1, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 01 2005

Received

Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN (Ret)
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Admiral Gehman:

I am writing in regards to the July 19, 2005, vote of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to consider Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana for closure, and to emphasize the State of Florida's overwhelming support that former NAS Cecil Field be considered as its replacement.

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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
August 1, 2005
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Sincerely,



Jeb Bush



JER BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com
850-488-7146
850-487-0801 fax

BRAC Commission

AUG 01 2005

Received

August 1, 2005

General James T. Hill, USA (Ret)
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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General James T. Hill
August 1, 2005
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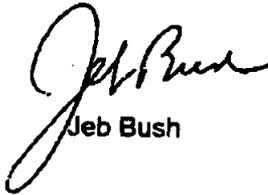
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Jeb Bush



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

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850-488-7146
850-487-0801 fax

August 1, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 01 2005

Received

Brigadier General Sue E. Turner, USAF (Ret)
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Turner:

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August 1, 2005
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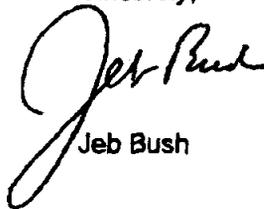
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Sincerely,



Jeb Bush



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

BRAC Commission

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850-488-7145
850-487-0801 fax

AL 8/2/05

August 1, 2005

Received

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioner Skinner: *Sam:*

I am writing in regards to the July 19, 2005, vote of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to consider Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana for closure, and to emphasize the State of Florida's overwhelming support that former NAS Cecil Field be considered as its replacement.

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August 1, 2005
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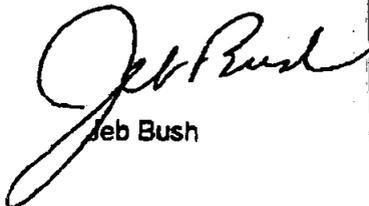
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Sincerely,



Jeb Bush



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

DCN 6142

Office of the Governor

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August 1, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I am writing in regards to the July 19, 2005, vote of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission to consider Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana for closure, and to emphasize the State of Florida's overwhelming support that former NAS Cecil Field be considered as its replacement.

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Frank Cirillo
Director
Review & Analysis

Review & Analysis

Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2018	100	100	100	100
2019	100	100	100	100
2020	100	100	100	100
2021	100	100	100	100
2022	100	100	100	100

DCN 8034

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Richard J. O'Connell, Acting
County Manager and Clerk of the Board

www.claycountygov.com



CLAY COUNTY

P.O. Box 1366, 477 Houston Street
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
(904) 284/269-6376 • Fax: (904) 278-4731

August 17, 2005

BRAC Commission

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

AUG 19 2005

Received

Dear Chairman Principi:

As a former Navy Veteran stationed at NAS Cecil Field during the Viet Nam War, I know first hand of the benefits Cecil Field offered to the mission of the United States Navy. I was proud to be stationed there when the base was designated a Master Jet Base by the Department of Defense.

Today, I serve as Chairman of the Clay County Commission. Clay County with a population of over 160,000 people has part of Cecil Field located within the County. Clay County is well known to Navy families all over the world with our high quality public schools and friendly atmosphere and low cost of living. Clay County stands ready to assist the Navy and our Country in any effort needed should the opportunity arise for the reopening of NAS Cecil Field.

I personally know of no other base that would offer so much year round to the flight operations and training of our Naval Aviators and support personnel than Cecil Field.

Please be assured that Clay County fully supports the efforts of Governor Bush and Mayor Payton in the reopening of NAS for the benefit of America's defense.

Sincerely,

George A. Bush
Chairman

cc: Honorable Jeb Bush, Governor, State of Florida
Honorable John Peyton, Mayor, City of Jacksonville
Clay County Commissioners

Christy Fitzgerald - District 1 • Patrick D. McGovern - District 2 • George A. Bush - District 3
Glenn R. Lassiter - District 4 • Harold Rutledge - District 5

GCS (904) 284-6300 • KH (352) 473-3711 • KL (904) 533-2111 • OP/MBG (904) 269-6300 • Suncomm: 827-1300

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
July 27, 2005
Page 2

As recent testimony by Navy and Defense Department officials has confirmed, encroachment of NAS Oceana is manageable and does not significantly impact the Navy's ability to operate and provide realistic training at NAS Oceana. The recently completed Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) addresses the Navy's most pressing encroachment concerns for Oceana and Fentress Field, and JLUS recommendations have been adopted without reservation by all three participating cities.

Responsive to Oceana's exceptional advantages and recognized military value, we urge you to support the Secretary of Defense and U.S. Navy position on NAS Oceana.

Sincerely,



W. Douglas Caskey
County Administrator

WDC:cms

cc: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Mr. Jacob P. Stroman, IV, County Attorney
The Honorable Meyera Oberndorf, Mayor, City of Virginia
Beach
Mr. Arthur L. Collins, Executive Director, Hampton Roads
Planning District Commission

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

July 19, 2005

The Honorable Gordon England
Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I was stunned to read the letter you sent on July 14, 2005 to BRAC Commission Chairman Principi, responding to the Commission's request for information on proposed scenarios for additional base closures. In reference to the future of Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia, your letter stated "We concluded the best long-term basing alternative for East Coast Navy tactical aviation would be to build a new 21st century naval air station...but such action would optimally occur outside the BRAC window." Your letter continued, "Selecting a location and building from the ground up is by far the preferred choice as it gives us the most flexibility to ensure we accommodate future capabilities, while allowing for sufficient 'buffers' to preclude potential encroachment issues."

I find it hard to believe that in the midst of the BRAC process, the Department would make such a surprising announcement. Given the many requirements for increased funding for the Navy to maintain adequate levels of shipbuilding, why would the Department even consider a basing alternative that would cost in excess of \$1.4 billion to replicate the capabilities currently existing at NAS Oceana? Where is the written documentation used to justify this conclusion? I request that you provide the Committee the detailed analysis, data, and procedural steps that led to such a dramatic decision.

Making such a troubling announcement in the context of a routine response to the BRAC Commission casts a dark cloud over the local communities surrounding NAS Oceana that have patriotically supported the U.S. Navy for 65 years. Such an announcement puts them in a permanent state of limbo that will linger well beyond the BRAC process. The local communities have been aggressively cooperating with the base to address issues related to the encroachment of local development--a common issue on many other installations in a suburban setting. In testimony before the BRAC Commission on July 18, 2005, Vice Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Willard described the encroachment issues regarding Oceana "as manageable." How can the Navy now continue to ask in good faith for assistance from local community leaders if the Department is stating its intent of building a new Master Jet base at another location?

This is simply not the way I would expect a significant basing decision to be made.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



John Warner
Chairman

