

LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART
21ST DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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(SENIORITY RETAINED)

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0921
August 9, 2005

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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MIAMI, FL 33166
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The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Creek Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

I write in support of a recent letter by Congressmen Ander Crenshaw (FL-04) and Cliff Stearns (FL-06) regarding the transfer of the Navy's F/A-18 fighter squadrons from NAS Oceana, VA to NAS Cecil Field, FL. While I strongly believe in a Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) process that is devoid of political interference, I felt it important to provide my support to this request based on important force training and readiness capacities provided at NAS Cecil Field.

As described in the letter from my colleagues, NAS Cecil Field has the necessary infrastructure to accommodate the F/A-18 squadrons from NAS Oceana. In addition, as resources were moved from Vieques training range, NAS Cecil Field provides the best training facilities without interference from surrounding civilian interests.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our nation's Armed Forces. I look forward to the final recommendations presented by the BRAC Commission under your direction as I know they will be in the best interests of our fighting men and women.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lincoln Diaz-Balart". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Lincoln Diaz-Balart