

navy league



Navy League of the United States, Hampton Roads

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July 25, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi, Chairman
Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Re: Naval Air Station Oceana

Dear Chairman Principi:

The Hampton Roads Council of the Navy League of the United States, with a membership exceeding 1,000, strongly supports the continuation of NAS Oceana as a master jet base. The Secretary of Defense did not include NAS Oceana as a candidate for closure in his list of recommended actions submitted to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) for its consideration. Obviously, there was sound and persuasive data to support the Secretary's decision inasmuch as the Navy concurred in this decision.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to abandon any efforts to close Oceana. All the data that is before your Commission was considered by the Secretary in making his decision. There simply is no alternative receiving facility that can accommodate the aircraft inventory at Oceana, and it would be a serious and difficult arrangement to be accommodated by the Navy in the event the aircraft inventory was assigned to more than one receiving facility.

We recognize that the BRAC Commission has a difficult and challenging responsibility that is severely time constrained and we would urge you to direct your efforts at other closures and realignments where the underlying data assembled by the Secretary fully support the recommendations that he made to your Commission.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen B. Pickett'.

Owen B. Pickett