



CITY of NORFOLK

Office of the Mayor

Paul D. Fraim
Mayor

July 18, 2005

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Norfolk City Council, I am writing in support of the Secretary of Defense's decision to not include Naval Air Station Oceana (Oceana) as a candidate for closure in the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

The quality of life for service members and their families in Norfolk, Virginia Beach and the Hampton Roads region is unmatched. Our region provides outstanding educational and employment opportunities, state-of-the art medical care, and world-class recreational opportunities. All of these factors positively influence the Navy's ability to recruit and retain sailors. In fact, 53,000 military members are retired here and provide an especially supportive community to active duty military and their families.

Norfolk is proud to be home of the world's largest naval base. Oceana's proximity to the majority of the aircraft carriers based in Norfolk is advantageous from a military standpoint, but also allows service members to spend more time with their families. Furthermore, this arrangement supports the Navy's "Homesteading Policy" initiated in the mid-1990s.

We understand during the 1995 BRAC, NAS Oceana was ranked the #1 Navy/Marine Corps air station in military value. Additionally, no Air Force or Navy Air Base east of the Mississippi meets the training or aircraft requirements of the F/A-18 E/F Superhornets. Over the past 18 months, the cities of Virginia Beach, Norfolk and Chesapeake along with the Navy and the US Office of Economic Adjustment completed a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) that proactively addresses any encroachment issues that may have previously existed and will allow the base to retain its military value.

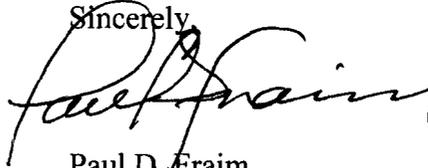
In light of our region's exceptional quality of life for families, the close proximity of NAS Oceana to Naval Station Norfolk, and the documented military value of Oceana, we request your support for the Secretary of Defense's position on this installation.

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Thank you for your consideration and the work of your Commission.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Fraim". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul D. Fraim
Mayor

C: Governor Mark Warner
City of Virginia Beach City Council
Norfolk City Council
Norfolk City Manager
Art Collins, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission