

September 27, 2005

BRAC Commission

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

OCT 03 2005

Received

RE: Cecil Field, Jacksonville, FL

Dear Commission Members,

The Mayor of Jacksonville, John Peyton, has grossly misstated the wishes of the people of Jacksonville. He states that we welcome the Navy back to Cecil Field. That is totally untrue. Some of the people of Jacksonville, including Mayor Peyton, will surely benefit from the base re-opening. Those of us who moved to the Cecil Field area will not benefit in any way whatsoever. Our homes have now lost value, any future home sales are questionable and our lives are now in turmoil. We were NEVER told of Mayor Peyton's plans to offer Cecil Field back to the Navy. We would NEVER have allowed even the mention of it. Since the Navy left Cecil Field in 1999, this area has bloomed. The Navy base has now become home to aviation related businesses, colleges and home to retirees. The area around the base has been developed into communities that relish in the quiet, peaceful life the Westside provides. Communities offer new homes, schools and recreation areas. Businesses are moving into the area to accommodate these new developments. The Westside area surrounding Cecil Field has become a truly "little piece of Heaven". We do not want the roar of FA-18 Hornet Jets to disrupt our lives. We read of the horror stories at Oceana-the noise levels, the pollution, the harm to the environment, the citizens in utter misery. Please don't do that to us. Please don't destroy our "little piece of Heaven". Surely there are other sites available along the Atlantic Coast or Gulf of Mexico that would be more suitable to the training of these jets. Round the clock jet noise is detrimental to the human mind, body and spirit. Please think of us before you make final decisions.

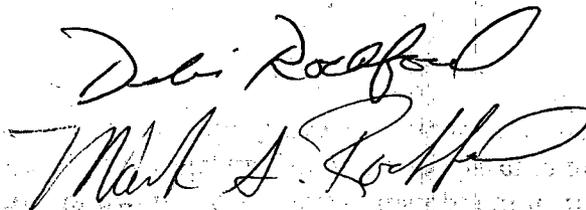
We have attached a copy of our letter to the Mayor.

Please visit the Westside community website for more information

www.BetterWestside.com

Regards,

Debi & Mark Rochford
6241 Buck Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32221



September 17, 2005
An open letter to Mayor Peyton

DCN: 10580

RE: Cecil Commerce Center

Two years ago, in March 2003, we found a couple of acres on the west side of Cecil Commerce Center off of Nathan Hale Rd. The land was in a great location, next to The Jennings Forest, where there are deer, eagles, wild turkeys and other wildlife that we had never seen living in the heart of Mandarin. The land was away from the noise of the city, very peaceful and quiet, just what we were looking for. Cecil Commerce Center was expanding, the roads were being improved, and the area was thriving with new development, retail & residential. So we bought the land and spent over a year clearing it to build our new home. We worked almost every weekend for a year, pulling stumps, chopping wood, hauling dirt, & putting up fence. We had help from friends & neighbors who believed in our vision of a "quiet life in the country". We moved into our new house on March 1, 2005. Our "quiet, country life" has been all that we could have hoped for.

Until that fateful day in July when we heard the news of Cecil Field re-opening, we were living out a dream. Then, everything just crumbled. Now we are facing a master jet base literally in our back yard. (SEE OUR LOCATION ON A MAP). Words just cannot describe how this news has devastated our future here. Not only will we be bombarded constantly by noise and pollution from the fighter jets, but our home will certainly decrease in value and may be impossible to sell. The peace and quiet we sought, the backbreaking work we did and the dream of our better life will be yanked out from under us by the very men we trusted to run our city and our state.

We ARE patriotic, Mr. Peyton! We DID NOT know that Cecil Field would re-open. We had NO warning whatsoever, contrary to your belief. You, Mr. Peyton, have spent our taxpayer monies to bring new companies onto the Commerce Center. You have a wonderful Web site showing all the benefits of relocating there. You are now going back on your word to those companies and all of the new residents and businesses in the surrounding area. We all have made a new life here on the Westside. Don't destroy it now and for future generations. Are you not a "big enough" man to retract your offer, for the good of the people? You say you will listen to the people. Listen to this. WE DO NOT WANT A MASTER JET BASE IN OUR BACKYARD!!!!!!

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cc: City Council Members
Anyone Who Will Listen