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Virginia is military. Virginia Beach is a military town. It brought my brothers here 35 years ago, my parents here 25 years ago, and myself here 15 years ago with full awareness of what and where I was coming to—a military installation, a place to feel protected and safe, where I do especially since 9/11. I like to hear the jets roar. To me they signify the sound of freedom, even more so since our borders were breached and our cities and people attacked and caught unaware. If the jet noise bothers those people there, move—it is America after all. They are free to go where they please and I am sure someone will gladly (move in) and take their place quickly enough.

We need Oceana strong to work in conjunction with the other bases to keep the east coast safe. Norfolk is one of the largest naval installations on the eastern seaboard. If that were attacked, where would we be? It is imperative to keep Oceana strong. It is the most suitable option for all east coast tactical aviation bases based on its proximity to the surrounding area bases for coordination efforts ie; Little Creek Navy Seals, Norfolk Naval Base with its many departing /arriving ships who transport air crews and their equipment. Oceana's jets deploy with the carriers at Norfolk Naval base. All these installations work cohesively and to undermine them would be detrimental to our safety and security. The security we take so lightly when we lay down our head at night could so easily be jeopardized. The Navy was here long before those houses and developments were built, that should never should have happened and anyone with any common sense should have realized that one day the base would grow and improve and with that growth and improvement come increased capabilities, noise, and improved aircraft and increased air traffic. To complain now about that increased security is like cutting off your nose to spite your face. Virginia Beach City Council and the developers allowed this to happen with the vision of dollar signs and not long term progression and you can't just make it all go away. For those retired military that complain now and say we supporters call them unpatriotic, I say, yes, I do. I am thinking of my children and grandchildren. They knew what they were buying from the start. After all, wasn't it the military that introduced them to the beauty to Virginia to begin with? They liked the area and decided to stay after retirement, but they were looking at the almighty buck, how much can I get with my retirement check? The cost of living is reasonable, and it is a beautiful place to live so why should I move—the jets get louder so lets get them out. Well buddy, I say this, can't stand the noise? Move, get out of the range. Those jets Are the sound of freedom. Those men and women put on that uniform every day to guard our skies, our borders, to protect us, risk their lives and we need them here.

Ironically Gov. Jeb Bush offered up Cecil Field for reopening after BRAC closed it because it interfered with commercial air traffic. How can you reopen something after its closed? Is that cost effective? Let's not let that happen to us. Oceana needs to stay to protect our coastline, to work in conjunction as it always has, with the surrounding area bases . It is a relationship that cannot be replicated, a relationship that took years to build, one that BRAC is asking to be destroyed in a moment. To lose Oceana would weaken our defenses. To lose Oceana would destroy the infrastructure of our armed forces on the east coast and weaken a nation.

Sincerely,

Susan Zimmerman

Wife of retired military

