

BRAC Commission

JUL 19 2005

Received



300 Wavy Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704
757-393-1010
757-673-5300 fax

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Doug Davis
President & General Manager
WAVY/WVBT-TV

doug.davis@wavy.com

July 15, 2005

Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter is to voice my strong support of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's decision not to include Naval Air Station Oceana as a candidate for closure in the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process. As a business manager in the area, I am naturally concerned about the potential closure of Oceana. The air base produces a \$1.2 billion annual impact on the Hampton Roads area, and the base is Virginia Beach's largest employer. Nearly 10% of the city's economic output comes from NAS Oceana. The ripple effect on local businesses is clear.

In addition, Oceana has provided an invaluable service to the Military. The quality of life for the service men and women stationed at Oceana is unexcelled. Job opportunities for spousal and family employment, higher educational opportunities, great medical care, a tremendous support network for children with special needs, and world-class recreational opportunities all exist in this area. These benefits influence military retention. Plus, Oceana's location next to the majority of the East Coast aircraft carriers is advantageous from a military standpoint, and again adds to the quality of life for the service personnel by allowing them to spend more time with their families.

The City of Virginia Beach has addressed encroachment concerns. The City has instituted an Airport Zoning Ordinance, and the State of Virginia and the City have invested \$202 million in transportation improvements around NAS Oceana during the last 10 years. Virginia Beach recently completed a Joint Land Use Study to insure coexistence with Oceana. The city relocated two elementary schools from the APZ following the 1993 BRAC round. Surveys have shown that less than one tenth of one percent of the citizenry is actively opposed to Oceana operations and only 1.5% of the citizens have responded that jet noise was a reason they were unhappy with their decision to select where they live.

For economic and military reasons, it is important that Naval Air Station Oceana be allowed to continue to operate.

Best regards,

Doug Davis
President and General Manager

/bj