



Washington, D.C.  
July 12, 2005

07152005

Joseph R. Thomas  
Vice President

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of GEICO, an employer of over 1,500 citizens in the Virginia Beach area.

I strongly support Secretary Rumsfeld's decision to not include Naval Air Station Oceana as a candidate in the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

The quality of life for service men and women and their families in Virginia Beach is unexcelled. Higher educational opportunities, great medical care, a tremendous support network for children with special needs and world-class recreational opportunities are all factors that positively influence retention in the area. In addition, companies such as GEICO offer excellent employment opportunities for military spouses, doing skilled work for good wages in a comfortable and professional environment.

GEICO's building is located in the noise zone and we find that it in no way interferes with our ability to conduct business. This sentiment coincides with research by an independent firm that asked the citizens of Virginia Beach whether jet noise was a reason they were unhappy with their decision to select where they live and only 1.5% responded yes.

Lastly, Oceana produces a 1.2 billion dollar economic impact annually and the base is Virginia Beach's largest employer. Nearly 10% of the city's economic output comes from this Naval Air Station.

I urge you to continue to support the Secretary of Defense's position in keeping Naval Air Station Oceana in operation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.R. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "J" and "T".

Joseph R. Thomas  
Regional Vice President