



AUG 01 2005

Received

July 27, 2005

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

Dear BRAC Commissioners:

I live in a house on the water in Virginia Beach. It is located at 509 55th Street. My house is situated on a canal off of Crystal Lake (part of the Chesapeake Bay). In addition, I am only a four block walk to the ocean. I could probably sell my house today for \$1.5 Million. I have lived in this house since 1998 and in Virginia Beach since 1984.

I also own two office buildings on Holly Road across the street from Dudley's Cavalier Garage. I rent out one of them and use the other for my business. I could probably sell these two buildings for \$1.5 Million today if I so desired. I purchased these office buildings in 1999.

Recently the flight path(s) around Oceana have changed. The jets and other aircraft now routinely fly directly over my home when headed out to sea. Often they fly exactly the same route when returning. It is a wonderful noise that I would not trade for anything in the world.

My office buildings are (and always have been) directly in the flight path for landings. They come over low and slow. Sometimes when we are on conference calls we either have to wait or we have to put our phones on mute so the calls can continue. Again, this is such a minor nuisance that I feel silly even mentioning it. We consider ourselves fortunate to be in the flight path. There have been times when everyone in the office goes out in the parking lot to watch a carrier air wing return from combat. It is a sight that is hard to describe to someone who has not witnessed it. It will bring a tear to the eye of even the manliest person I know.

When I bring clients in from out of town, I always take them to play golf at either the Princess Anne Country Club or the TPC course. During any given round one can see C-130s, Orion P-3s, F-14s, F-18s, helicopters, etc. Clients of mine from Florida referred to it as "Airshow Golf". We stop and watch every time a different type of aircraft comes by. There is nothing like the sound an F-14 makes when its wings are swept back and it is moving along at just under Mach 1. It gives me chills every time I see/hear it.

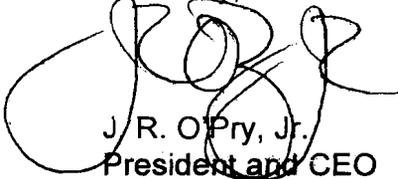
I love my country very much and am proud of the sacrifices made every day by the men and women in the military. It is impossible to live in an area like Hampton Roads and not become close with people in the armed services. I personally know people from all branches of the service. Of course a lot of my friends are Navy due to the sheer number of naval personnel in our area. I am proud to call individuals from E2 to Admiral as friends.

Please do not consider closing Oceana. It is an important, vital part of Virginia Beach. Instead, please consider doing something to inhibit the encroachment our city leaders have allowed to happen over the years. We just need to find a way to peacefully coexist. I can promise you I speak for the majority of people in our city when I say that we will do anything to keep this base open and these wonderful people here in Virginia Beach.

I know this is outside the scope of what you were tasked to do but consideration of developing a new master jet base seems silly. It would take years and years to build even if you could find a parcel of land on the East coast that was free from current and future encroachment on a new base. It would really have to be situated somewhere on the East coast to service the aircraft carriers stationed there. And the cost to do something of this magnitude would be outrageous. Wouldn't we be better off as Americans spending less money to purchase land to make the area around Oceana safer?

In closing I would ask you again to please take Oceana Naval Air Station off of your list. Please come and see us. Hold a town meeting. Let us show you what Oceana means to us.

Sincerely,



J. R. O'Pry, Jr.
President and CEO

CC: Senator John Warner
Senator George Allen
Representative Thelma Drake