

DCN 6869

August 3, 2005

AUG 04 2005

Received

Dear Chairman Principi and BRAC Commissioners,

First, thank you for seeing through the politicians and realizing what the real picture is. Thank you so much for putting Oceana Naval Air Station on the closure list. It is long over due as the residents and visitors of Virginia Beach are just plain sick of the jet noise and the risks of disaster to this area should these hornets crash around here. Oceana Naval Air Station should be shut down now. We are so tired of hearing how encroached upon this base is when in fact we are the ones who are being encroached upon along with our homes, schools, families, businesses, etc. Please get these weapons of mass destruction of our quality of life out of Virginia Beach. The politicians are obsessed with the almighty dollars and are so worried that poor little old Virginia Beach can't make it without this sick master jet base at Oceana. Well, Virginia and Virginia Beach will survive a hell of a lot better with Oceana Naval Air Base out of here. We will be able to sleep, eat, shop, and live a decent peaceful life without these damn jets flying on top of us day in and day out. Our kids will be able to attend school and enjoy their lives without the damn Navy jets pounding over top of them. These are not sounds of freedom as some fools call it. It is a situation where the lives of people are being adversely affected for no reason at all because the damn base belongs somewhere else. Why do you think the State of North Carolina is suing the Navy to keep these damn hornets out of their backyards. Is North Carolina unpatriotic for fighting the Navy on this issue. Of course not! North Carolina is trying to protect its people from this horrible jet noise and jet pollution. Tell the Navy to stop whining about encroachment, and move the damn base away so it doesn't keep messing with peoples lives day in and day out. That base commander at Oceana is full of it when he whines about encroachment. There is no quality of life for people who have to put up with this unbelievable jet noise in such a heavy populated city.

Now for the important reminder. Isn't it strange that nobody has mentioned the fact that the Navy has been sued by over 2,000 residents of Virginia Beach because of the Oceana Naval Air Station. Hopefully the Navy will lose these court cases and will have to pay millions of dollars to those who have been hurt so bad by the hornet noise which never stops. And then there will be more cases brought against the Navy and we'll see how the ignorant politicians will like paying out taxpayer money to pay for the trouble the damn hornets have caused. Why don't you look more closely at all of these law cases that have been brought.

Send these hornets back to Cecil Field. They should never have been brought to Virginia Beach. Or just send them anywhere, but please get them out of Virginia Beach.

Thank you for the fine job you are doing. They keep saying it costs so much to close a base, Well, baloney, this country finds a way to do anything it wants and has the dollars to do it. So don't be misled by those who are trying their darndest to keep an unwanted creature where it doesn't belong.

Thank You,  
Virginia Beach Taxpayers

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Base Realignment & Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark St. Suite 600  
Arlington, Va. 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

Gentlemen:

Spending of \$500 million dollars or more to send Oceana's Jet Planes to bases that will require massive improvement is not a good deal for the American or Va. Beach taxpayer.

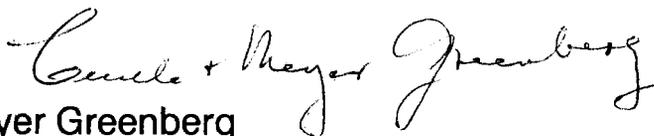
The economic impact would be very great, causing unemployment and change in the healthy economy we now enjoy. The families of Oceana are a vital part of what makes Hampton Roads great. We have a wonderful, integrated community and want to keep these neighbors HERE.

Please reconsider this closing in view of the great harm it will do to our community.

We value the military in our midst and want Oceana to remain a vital part of it.

Please do not close this base!

Sincerely,



Cecille & Meyer Greenberg  
1916 Beethoven Drive  
Va. Beach, Va. 23454

1 August 2005

BRAC Commission

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

AUG 6 2005

Received

Dear Honorable Commission Members:

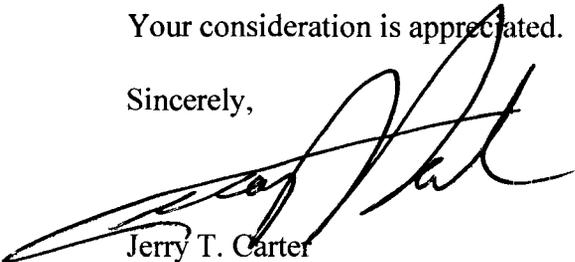
Please do not be misled by the local and state political leaders as they present their well rehearsed "dog and pony show" to your Commission. It is the same old song that they have practiced and presented many times in the past. In addition to their time-proven false promises, the political leaders and the economic interests of our area do not represent the average citizen of Virginia Beach. These "leaders" use their position to espouse a common party line that caters to the economic interests of a few and completely ignores the hardships experienced by the average "man on the street."

The average person has to contend with the daily threat that Oceana presents to our community. We have to endure daily flights of fuel-filled, pollution spewing jets that scream a few hundred feet over our shopping centers, schools, churches, housing developments, and businesses. Every one of us knows that a major disaster is in the making. There is NO way that this can continue occurring without a terrible tragedy in Virginia Beach. It is not a question of "if" but "when." When it does occur, you will see a major loss of life and property and the Navy will bear full responsibility for this event. I do not think that any jet-training mission is worth the life of a hard-working, innocent citizen of Virginia Beach.

You, of the Commission, must be able to see through the political distortion and make the right decision. Common sense tells us that a Master Jet base in the direct middle of the most populous city in Virginia is a colossal mistake. Only a fool would think that this makes any sense. Regardless of the strategic value of Oceana, you cannot continue to flirt with disaster. That is your job as Commission members. You must have the courage and clarity to move beyond political expediency and do the right thing. The lives and well being of many of the citizens of Virginia Beach depends on you and the courage that you must exhibit. I urge you to show this courage and vote to close Oceana.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jerry T. Carter  
741 High Point Ave  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

1404 Palermo Court  
Va. Beach, VA 23456

August 2, 2005

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

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

received

Dear Sir/Madam:

I support the closure of Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach. The problem of encroachment in the area is a serious one and will continue despite last minute promises to curtail development by the Va. Beach City Council. It's too little too late. Virginia Beach will continue to grow as more and more people desire to live in the area and become more vocal in regards to the noise, pollution and the encroachment of the base into their lives. The problems will continue and worsen. The Navy can't stop Va. Beach from growing and expanding any more than Va. Beach can stop itself from growing and expanding. Keeping Oceana open is just putting off the inevitable. The problems are not doing away. Having a major jet base in the heart of a city of half a million people is an accident waiting to happen. It would be heartbreaking but not devastating if Oceana were to leave. I feel confident the area could survive the economic impact and would be able to move forward in a positive manner.

Very truly yours,



Anna P. Hines



Ruth Willis  
508 Carnaby Ct.  
Virginia Bch., VA 23454 3448

*A proud Navy widow!*

THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT NATION & WORLD MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2005

COMMISSION

16 03 2005

Received

SAVE  
OCEANIA

[www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov)

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

721 Whiggen Walk  
Chesapeake Va 23322  
August 1, 2005

Dear Sue,

Please keep Oceana in Virginia Beach! A few malcontents are complaining, but the silent majority love the military. They are silent now that they realize what they have done. I see that the Virginia Beach Councilmen will follow the Navy's recommendation of curtailing new construction in the area.

We are in our sentiments and love the military! Please do not move our bases from the area.

Sincerely,  
John R. Gorman  
Joan C. Gorman

I also had a sister a nurse who served  
in Army on invasion to So. Africa + was with  
Gen. Patton's 3rd Army.

I also had a sister a nurse who served  
in Army on invasion to So. Africa + was with  
Gen. Patton's 3rd Army



V. D. Stauch  
321 Mace Hill St.  
Virginia Bch, VA 23451

AUG 03 2005

Received August 1, 2005

BASE Realignment & Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark St. Suite 600  
Arlington Va 22202

Gentlemen,

The Oceana, NAS and its fighter jets  
have been incompatible with its  
residential and urban surroundings  
for many years. I commend  
your wisdom and vision to  
finally have been the ones to  
recognize the noise and crash  
zone right near that Oceana, it's  
all around it. My young  
grandchildren hold their ears & run  
for shelter when the F-18 scream  
over head. Please end it by closing  
or Realigning Oceana.

P.S. I AM A 20 YEAR RESIDENT  
OF 321 MACE HILL ST.

V. D. Stauch  
LT. COL. USMC (Ret)

BRAC Commission

AUG 02 2005

Received

948 CARRIAGE HILL ROAD  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. 23452-6319  
AUG. 1, 2005

BASE REALIGNMENT & CLOSURE COMMISSION

REF.: NAS OCEANA  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.

GENTLEMEN:

1. KEEP OPEN NAS OCEANA: DO NOT CLOSE OR REALIGN THAT MASTER JET BASE.
2. EXPAND NAS OCEANA BY ACQUIRING ADJACENT PROPERTY.
3. MY PROPERTY IS UNDER THE APPROACH PATTERN INTO NAS OCEANA. MY PROPERTY IS AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR \$250,000.00 CASH, LUMP-SUM, "AS IS" CONDITION, WITH NEGOTIABLE CLOSING COSTS.

SINCERELY,



JOSEPH E. SUHOSKI

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

August 1, 2005

Dear Base Realignment & Closure Commission,

I want you to leave NAS Oceana open as an active part of the Virginia Beach community. Please ignore the "jet noise" whiners and, we hope, the stupidity of Virginia Beach City Council.

My residence at Virginia Beach began in 1944 so I have heard Oceana's aircraft plenty. My reaction is not upset but awe when they are passing over.

Please listen to those of us who care about our City and U.S. Military, not just our own personal quiet. Keep NAS Oceana open. It is a welcomed, valued neighbor.

Sincerely,

Stuart R. Bryant

1525 Shoreham Court

Virginia Beach, VA 23454

757-481-5274

Ralph & Dianne Ferebee  
3524 Douglas Rd.  
Chesapeake, VA 23322-3113

BRAC Commission

**AUG 02 2005**

Received

7/31/05

To Whom It May Concern:

We love our country and we love our military.

We just hope that your Closure Commission will not even think about closing Oceana.

Here are our points:

- Hate to see a few people that have their own agenda—to get rid of jet noise, rule the day. Vast majority of people, do not want to see Oceana closed. Could the real estate developers be going crazy to get this land? Oceana was there long before all of the development—if they bought a house there they knew what they were getting.
- Base commander said in a statement that nothing has been compromised—that the landing and taking off patterns are fine.
- Why would anyone move a base away from one of the best and largest Bays in the world.
- All of the ships are here—all of the aircraft carriers
- Largest Naval Hospital
- Etc., etc., etc.

All of these things are here now—you don't have to build them. You have already built them. AND one of the finest, master jet bases in the world.

It just makes good economic sense to leave Oceana where it is.

Sincerely,



Ralph & Dianne Ferebee

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

1 August 2005

From: James R. Flanagan  
708 Arctic Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Subj: Don't let the whiners close NAS Oceana  
(Base: NAS Oceana, State: Virginia)

Received

Dear sirs;

Having served as an officer for 6 years (4 years as president or vice-president) of the Shadowlawn Civic League, one of the neighborhoods directly in the path of one of the most active runways on NAS Oceana, I think I can speak with some authority and experience when I say that the vast majority of the residents of this over 1000 home neighborhood, as well as the rest of the city of Virginia Beach, are disgusted with the whining, clueless, but highly vocal few who want to see Oceana closed. The vast majority are very much in support of the base and the military personnel who rotate through the area and want to let you know that, although we are mostly silent (as opposed to the screaming complainers), we constitute the majority position.

My family is one of the few who can truthfully state that we were here before Oceana, having bought the land and built the first of three houses in the early and mid 1920's. And yet we, unlike the complaining minority of recent home purchasers who clearly knew of the existence and potential noise effects of Oceana before they bought, are very much in favor of keeping Oceana just where it is. These new-comers are like the fools who buy a home next to an interstate and then are "amazed" at the road noise or who buy a home adjacent to a golf course and then complain that golf balls sometimes hit their windows (duh!). Does anyone really have to listen to or entertain their complaints?

The proximity of NAS Oceana to NOB Norfolk and the Norfolk Port, the proximity to Naval facilities at Dam Neck and Little Creek, the excellent schools, recreational facilities and family support for the military and their family members (vitaly important with repeated long deployments of the military sponsor) all argue in favor of keeping Oceana just where it is.

NIMBY is a major issue in our country. The same people who insist that we must reduce our nation's dependency on foreign oil immediately seek legal means to stop solutions such as drilling for oil in Alaska or off the coast of Virginia or even to install wind farms in the Chesapeake Bay (a bird might fly into the spinning windmill!!!) The elected leaders of our nation, who were elected by the majority, not just the minuscule number of whiners, need to do what they were elected to do: lead. Decisions affecting national security should be based on what is best for our country, not whether we are "bothering" some clueless whiner who is making no effort to contribute to the solution, only add to the problem. And keeping Oceana where it is, doing what it was built to do, is clearly in the best interest of our nation and all of it's citizens, even those who aren't bright enough to recognize it.

When originally built, NAS Oceana was isolated. Does anyone really believe that a base built to replace Oceana (unless it was built on another planet) would not suffer the same fate of being

surrounded by the homes and businesses of those people drawn to the economic opportunities offered by proximity to a thriving military installation? Even military installations in God forsaken locations like Clovis, New Mexico and Minot, North Dakota generated towns that encroached on the base. And it surely was not due to the wonderful scenery at these locations. The economic opportunities generated by a military installation will always attract people and once attracted there, should their presence be a valid reason to close the base?

Let's look beyond the hype and noise of the few number of complainers and recognize that NAS Oceana serves a vital mission partly because of it's location not in spite of it. Do we really want to lose that advantage? I certainly hope not.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Flanagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "F".

James R. Flanagan

1204 New Market Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464  
757/474-0550

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

September 3, 2002 / ~~NOW 8/1/05~~ Received

Commander, Atlantic Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Att: Mr. Fred Pierson (BD32FP)  
1510 Gilbert Street  
Norfolk, VA 23511

the Honorable  
Thelma Drake  
U.S. Congresswoman

Dear Mr. Pierson:

I am writing to voice my concerns about transferring the F-18 Super Hornets to our area.

For the past 35 years my wife and I have lived in a home we had custom built in the Kempsville area of Virginia Beach. We have since retired and enjoy our home, neighborhood, and the many amenities that Virginia Beach has to offer. Unfortunately, this has recently changed. We are no longer able to sit outside, open our windows and doors, garden, or basically do any outdoor activity. Why? Because of the *current* noise from the jets. What is it going to be like when the F-18s arrive?

Our home is located approximately 7-10 miles from both Oceana and Fentress which means we are burdened with noise from both bases. On many occasions we have to put up with noise starting before 7:00 a.m. and not stopping sometimes until after 2:00 a.m. This is a constant noise with no relief whatsoever. We have become prisoners in our own home with the doors and windows shut and the air conditioner running in an attempt to block out the noise without any relief.

Not only am I concerned about my own sanity, but what about the noise and air pollution these jets are causing? We live in a highly populated area and the thought of a mishap is extremely disturbing. Is this really the best decision for the City of Virginia Beach? The City seems to only think of the additional citizens and their economical impact the new jets will bring. The City should not be so greedy and take into consideration the wonderful lifestyle we currently enjoy that may be ruined.

I always thought I would spend my retirement years enjoying my home; however, it appears that if the City of Virginia Beach continues to allow more jets to be stationed at Oceana, I will have no choice but to move from this area and away from my family, my friends, my doctors, etc. This would be an extreme hardship at my age. I even wonder if the value of my home will decrease. I would invite you to come and live in my house for a month or two and then tell me what you think of the jet noise, that is if you could stand it that long.

Please do something about this God awful noise!

Sincerely,



Rodney N. Catron

"NOW"

Base Realignment  
Closure Commission  
8/1/05

cc: The Honorable George Allen  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Meyera E. Oberndorf, Mayor  
City of Virginia Beach  
Municipal Center  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

The Honorable Edward L. Schrock  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John W. Warner  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

RICHARD W. MISTER

560 RIVER GATE ROAD  
(757) 546-8993

CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA 23322

BRAC Commission

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

AUG 03 2005

Received

August 1, 2005

Dear Secretary Principi,

The purpose of my letter is to encourage the Commission to realign the base at Oceana. I have lived in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake for 33 years and the progression of enroachment around Oceana has gone unabated irrespective of what you are led to believe by the City Council and all the retired Navy hired guns they have enlisted to speak for keeping the base open.

The Navy has lied to the public for years and published extremely inaccurate EISs each time they made a major aircraft move into Oceana. They used those poorly constructed EISs to justify moving in aircraft that would not only exasperate the public with their noise but would actually create a significant accident hazard.

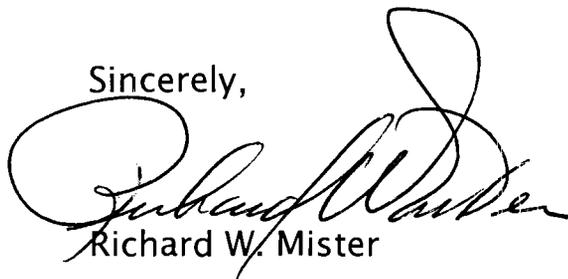
I keep hearing that noise is not a consideration for the Commission but I have to tell you that noise is a significant consideration for many of us near the flight patterns. The new F/A-18E/F is orders of magnitude louder than previous versions and of an even greater differential from earlier airplanes. Some persons say that we shouldn't have built so close to the flying areas but formerly it was no problem when quieter planes were flying. We are told that enroachment and accident potential are the major considerations along with reduced training capabilities. I can tell you that a reduced training capability is happening "now" and a fact they will continue to live with. Current training is not realistic in this area and needs to be moved somewhere else. I watch the aircraft and for at least the last year or longer the aircraft have significantly enlarged their flight patterns beyond anything that is safe, necessitated by the new aircraft. They fly low and slow (and sometimes not very slow) over many housing areas. I have at times been able to read the side numbers on the aircraft, and I live two miles outside Fentress. An accident is going to happen and

it will be a disaster, and it is only a matter of time. Many of these new pilots appear to be cowboys.

Basically, the Virginia Beach City Council wants it all. They want the military for the money it brings in and they want all the rapid development also for the money it brings in. Their surplus is higher now than ever and they have no desire to change anything and to hell with the complaining of anyone. That is the attitude I perceive, particularly from Mayor Obendorf. The city has hired many many retired flag officers to try and browbeat the Commission into submission, but I am hoping that the Commission will be extremely objective and make their decision only on the facts and not the emotion of the crazies.

A move for the aircraft and realignment for Oceana would be in the best interests of the Navy and ultimately would be in the best interests of the Virginia Beach and Chesapeake families that live there. I am urging you and your Commission to strongly consider completing that realignment or at least make it a very very strong recommendation to Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Mister". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the beginning and end. Below the signature, the name "Richard W. Mister" is printed in a simple, black, sans-serif font.

Richard W. Mister

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

ALAN L. LUTZ  
5260 LOCKE LANE  
VA BEACH, VA 23464

AUG 1, 2005

B. R. A. C.

2521 SOUTH CLARK ST, SUITE 600  
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

Dear BRAC members,

I am writing to urge that you do not put NAS Oceana on the BRAC list. I am 65 years old and retired. My wife and I have lived in Virginia Beach for 31 years, sending our two sons through the excellent public school system.

Yes, safety and crash zones are a problem, but I do not feel that there is sufficient justification for closing the base. The City has tried, maybe not enough, to cooperate with the Navy and I'm sure they will provide a lot of facts and figures to support their position. Certainly, the current "scare" will insure complete cooperation in the future with the Navy on crash zone issues.

If the Navy wants to keep NAS Oceana open as does the city and the commonwealth, why do you want to waste all sorts of money moving the Navy to another location? It just does not seem feasible that by spending big bucks to close NAS Oceana and also spend money to either renovate an existing base or to build a new base, the U.S. Government will save money. Sure,

The financial "experts" can make their figures justify whatever position they support; however, plain common sense doesn't appear to support the closing of NAS Oceana.

If safety is really the most important concern, then building some "touch and go" runways in some isolated nearby location would seem to be the most logical solution.

Please do not be swayed in your decision by those small but vocal citizens against jet noise (they could have bought elsewhere or could move).

I love Virginia Beach and I surely hope you won't decide to close NAS Oceana.

Sincerely,  
Alan L. Sutz

August 1, 2005

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

RECEIVED  
 BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

Dear Sir/Madame:

In 1996, we uprooted our family from Canada and moved to Virginia Beach, VA. We settled in this community because of its wonderful reputation for great schools and low crime. Now, there is one more reason we are here – our neighbors.

We first moved into a house beside a navy family based at Oceana. Immediately upon noticing that we had two small children and no vehicle, they handed us the keys to their car. We could never repay this kindness and have always felt so lucky to have gotten to know such a hospitable, fun-loving family. Over the past nine years, we have met many other families stationed at Oceana Naval Base. These are the people that make this community great. The incredible sense of commitment to this beautiful country and the inspiring endurance through tough times that is so unwittingly portrayed is an inspiration to all. We feel fortunate to live in the midst of such quality individuals and truly believe that they deserve to live in Virginia Beach and should benefit from the excellent opportunities that abound here.

On our first trip to Virginia Beach we spotted a pair of awesome jets overhead. We loved this sight and sound and still, after nine years, watch with interest as they fly overhead. We marvel at the incredible design and hold a great respect for the talented pilots that fly so diligently. This unique aspect of our community is always positively remarked on by our visitors from Canada. They, too, love to hear and see the jets pass overhead. We all know and respect the job that this 'leader of a country' is doing for the world and all of mankind. We are honored to live in a city that is full of people with heart.

Please let Oceana Naval Base stay in Virginia Beach, VA. To a city with great schools and low crime, Oceana is the most special of neighbors.

Sincerely,

*Nat*  
*Danielle*  
*M. Seri Kubicki*  
*Lee Kubicki*  
 The Kubicki Family  
*Amanda*  
*Pat*

2369 North Wolfsmare Dr.  
Virginia Beach Va. 23454  
August 1, 2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

Brac Commission,

I voted against the flight noise, but after 9/11 I have different feelings concerning the jet noise. I would like my name removed from the list. When I hear a jet now I think of freedom (democracy) and fly the American flag in our front yard.

Here's a prayer I was inspired to write after 9-11. I continually think about our forefathers and the word "Patriot".

PATRIOT.  
I am thankful to our military personnel and their families. My husband just retired from Civil Service after 30 years at Ft. Story. You should talk to him!  
Jeta  
Alpha

## Women of the World in Prayer

This is a prayer I was inspired to write believing that Great-grandmothers, Grandmothers, mothers, stepmothers, mothers-in-law, sisters, sisters-in-law, daughters, daughters-in-law, aunts, nieces, other relatives, and friends will be united in our faith to change the world in which mankind lives today. As co-creators with the Creator of the Universe, the emotional, mental, and physical pains and burdens of our hearts are instantaneously received and heard through prayers. PLEASE SHARE THIS PRAYER WITH THE OTHER WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE; here's to the men joining the "spiritual" journey, together with us, as each accepts what is believed at this moment and what resonates in each heart to be true.

Creator of the Universe,

Everyday, may Your LIGHT and LOVE surround us. Guide and protect our families, friends, and other people we come in contact with daily. May we connect with You: mind to mind, heart to heart, soul to soul, and spirit to spirit. Remove fear and doubt, so negativity is replaced with God's love, mercy, grace, and compassion offered through the Universe's energy. You are the force that holds the Universe together. May we always keep our eyes upon You.

As we pray for the President of the United States and the World Leaders, descend Your Holy Spirit upon all. Guide and protect our leaders, military personnel, and their families. May each leader and every citizen, of every nation, become more moral and wiser as You unveil Your knowledge and wisdom, so senseless acts of violence are not tolerated because we sense the sacredness and reverence of life, of nature.

This day, as we pray, we humbly ask each home to be blessed, so every person is given a second awakening to have a more "opened" heart. Bless us by deepening our belief and faith in You as our friend, our Heavenly Father. Knowledge, belief, and hope are our seeds of trust, so we believe and experience that You are as close as our next breath.

This knowledge and Your love's energy are the sources given to us, so we may love and

take care of one another, serve one another, love unconditionally, and with forgiveness.

Our faith in You, lets us feel assured that we are where we need to be presently. We sense that You are present in our physical world by the way You “lift us up” more than we will ever know. Your presence is in “ all things” as we: read Your words, see the beauty of a flower, hear a newborn baby’s cry, feel the sun’s warmth, smell the ocean’s breeze, taste the quenching water... Your love expressed in many forms and beyond in the realm of the nonphysical world we believe to exist.

We pray, especially now, against evil in our world. We pray, that as we are tested individually while here on Earth, that we call once more upon You and Your help in every detail we are faced with daily. Let us remember not to place human characteristics on Your omnipotent power. The earnest desires of our heart and the motivations behind each heart are known by You. Knowing this, believing this, and having faith in this, we may ask for anything we need without ceasing. We pray against evil, destruction, and even terrorism. We pray that terrorism is disbanded, lead to a state of confusion, and discovered before any harm comes to any people or country. Send Your Warring Angels and Your Angels of Principality to guard and protect us by air, land, and water.

As we pray together, speak Your name more and more, seek You daily, remember to thank You for our blessings, blessed or personal trial, extend a grateful heart to You, Father, Son, Holy Sprit; extend your love to us. We will continue to ask “specifically” and very “detailed” for what we need. Thank You for hearing our prayers. Let us be Your instruments of love as each soul evolves, so life is lived and perfected according to Your will. Let it be...let it be according to Your agreement with us and Your Master Plan

---

until we return Home to be with You through Eternity.

Let us remember and rejoice with childlike faith again in innocence we once expressed with bowed heads, folded hands in prayer, and on bent knees before Almighty God.

YOU, ALONE, KNOW AND PERSONALLY UNDERSTAND OUR HUMAN FAULTS AND FRALITIES, LAUGH, CRY, AND STILL LOVE US NO MATTER WHERE WE ARE STANDING AND NO MATTER WHAT THE TIME. YOU ARE AMONG US; YOU ARE ALWAYS WITH US. BLESS THESE WOMEN (AND MEN) WHO PRAY AND WALK IN FAITH WITH ME THIS DAY. AMEN. AND AMEN.

Mrs. Lou Alphin  
2369 N. Wolfsnare Drive  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454  
1-757-481-0082  
Corrected: 01-18-02 / 03-02-03

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

KEEP NAS OCEANA !!!

sincerely,

*George R. Winn*

GEORGE R. WINN  
CPO, USN, RET.  
3773 S. PLAZA TRAIL  
VA. BEACH, VA 23452

BRAC Commission

August 1, 2005

AUG 03 2005

Received

Base Realignment & Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Ste 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

To Whom It May Concern:

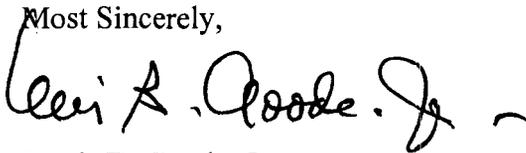
I am a patriotic Korean War veteran with a grandson fighting in Iraq. Having said that, I am very much opposed to Oceana Air Station continuing its jet training program in Virginia Beach, VA.

Selfishly, it will temporarily negatively affect the local economy, but the area is much too densely populated and a major disaster is waiting to happen. When that training jet crashes in one of our neighborhoods and kills a lot of innocent people (including children) it will weigh heavily on your hearts and minds if you don't do the right thing.

Please vote to move the program elsewhere. Thank you.

No reply to this letter is expected.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lewis B. Goode, Jr." with a small flourish at the end.

Lewis B. Goode, Jr.  
700 Oriole Dr., 513-C  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451



FROM THE DESK OF  
**JOHN O. PARMELE, JR.**

PNCM, USN (RETIRED)

1316 YAWL POINT, LAUREL COVE, VA. BEACH, VA. 23454-2041  
(757) 481-1259

August 1, 2005

Members of  
Base Realignment & Closure Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street (Ste. 600)  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Commission Members:

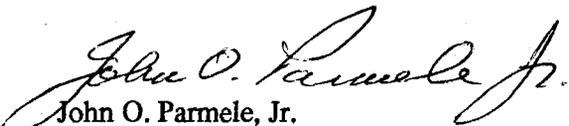
As a matter of interest, I have enclosed three (3) clippings from one of our local area military newspapers, *SOUNDINGS*, issue dated July 27, 2005. Perhaps you have already seen them. If not, I think they cover most of the facts regarding the proposal to close NAS Oceana, so I will not repeat that which is already known.

From a personal point of view, my family and I came to Virginia Beach for duty with VF-103 at NAS Oceana in 1967. Things were much quieter, and more peaceful, way back then. It was a simple time in our lives, and we enjoyed being residents of such a wonderful city. Over 30 years later, we *STILL* have that "glad to be here" feeling, even though times have changed and, yes, the jets have become much louder. We do not live in close proximity to NAS Oceana, but do live close enough to drive to the Commissary on a weekly basis to shop and enjoy the savings I earned as a result of my 23 years in the U.S. Navy (1961-1984). Although we don't use many of the facilities now, we have done so in the past and would not want to see those privileges go away if NAS Oceana were closed or relocated. The base is part of the Virginia Beach "family" and we are proud to have them here - forever if possible.

I think this latest round of base closures list, with NAS Oceana recently added, could be the "wake up call" that the Virginia Beach City Council *NEEDS* to make them realize that in order to keep NAS Oceana a functional Master Jet Base, development around the base *MUST* be better controlled. Over 100,000 people came to Va. Beach from 1980-1990, and the city just grew and grew to accommodate them. Malls and hotels were built in the flight paths, much to the chagrin of Navy officials who tried to be reasonable in their requests, but to no avail.

My recommendation, for whatever it is worth, is to develop some type of *MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING* that would outline what could, and could not, be further developed around the base from a certain point in time. Both Navy officials and local elected officials would be required to sign this memorandum, and would be bound by its terms regarding encroachment of NAS Oceana. I'm sure the legalities of such a memorandum could be worked out by both government and civilian lawyers. That might be one way to keep NAS Oceana off the base closure list for many years to come. Obviously, something needs to be done, and fast. Local City Council elections will be held again in May 2006.

Thank you, and sincerely,

  
John O. Parmele, Jr.  
Independent Candidate  
82nd Virginia House of Delegates (NOV 2005)

Enclosures

# Loss of NAS Oceana could devastate all of Hampton Roads

Dear Debi:

*What are your thoughts about the Powers That Be getting rid of NAS Oceana? I am so pissed off at why millions of dollars were spent to build new hangars, a new tower, new gate, new pass office and to put a new link fence completely around the base costing some ungodly amount only to just throw it all away at tax payer's expense.*

**I grew up in a small town in Northern Minnesota that lost its active-duty Air Force base in 1982. Residents had complained relentlessly over the previous three decades how they hated the constant influx of strangers in uniform, the long lines these outsiders created at supermarkets and retail stores, the turbulent melting pot too many Air Force service members in the community contributed to.**

*Because the "money people" in Virginia Beach wanted all the riches from housing, they allowed the encroachment around the air station, and everyone complains about the noise.*

*The Navy wants to go elsewhere and spend more than a billion dollars to build a new air station. I say, move the new houses out and tell these people to hit the bricks. Your take?*

— Signed, Joe Turnbloom  
(CWO4 USN Ret.)

**A**s I respond in this column to Joe's email — one of many e-mails I received last week about NAS Oceana, the Navy's only master jet fighter base on the East Coast — which was recently

placed on the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Commission) list — it's important to mention the following.

A cargo plane unexpectedly thundered over my humble abode approximately three minutes after I pushed myself out of bed to get ready for work at O Dark Thirty this morning.

During that sudden ultra-intense "OH MY GOD" moment, the walls shuddered and the floor quaked. Terrified, I ran from window to window, toothbrush clenched in my jaw.

"Daryl, what's happening?" I screamed. "It sounds like a plane is getting ready to crash!"

"It's just a C-5 going over," he laughed quietly, strolling out of the bedroom. "Don't sweat it, Deb." Don't sweat it, Deb?

Was this man I had married kidding? Aircraft passing overhead so outrageously low and frighteningly loud had never happened once in the whole nine months we've lived here.

We currently rent a house in Colony Point. A quiet Norfolk neighborhood which, while relatively close to Naval Station Norfolk in the five-mile range, prides itself on being cozily and efficiently tucked away from most of the nuisances of everyday military life.

For instance, aircraft noise.

We hear the occasional Chinook SH-53 and E-2C Hawkeye coursing through the deep blue high above



## MILITARY LIFE

BY DEBI KETNER

for this neighborhood in Hampton Roads.

On the other hand, fighter jets that routinely bombard Virginia Beach neighborhoods adjacent to NAS Oceana with their touch-and-go exercises and thunderous, earth-shattering decibels during take-offs and landings are not out of character for that particular area.

Everybody knows if you buy a house near NAS Oceana, you are naturally going to deal with established flight paths and routine jet noise. You can't convince me anyone who has bought a home in that vicinity within the last 20 years wasn't aware of this fact.

But oh, how these homeowners have since felt compelled to whine. And complain. And drive the rest of us to near distraction from their ranting and raving over — you guessed it — jet noise.

Now NAS Oceana is sitting on the BRAC chopping block and, frankly, I don't feel the least bit sorry about it.

I agree with Joe: The right answer is to eliminate the houses near the base and allow the air station to just plain do its job. If that means houses have to go, so be it. The Navy deserves to have what it needs.

How can I possibly be so cold and callous?

Easy.

I grew up in a small town in northern Minnesota that lost its active-duty Air Force base in 1982. Residents had complained relentlessly over the previous three decades how they hated the constant influx of strangers in uniform, the long lines these outsiders created at supermarkets and retail stores, the turbulent melting pot too many Air Force service members in the community contributed to.

Especially those of ethnic origin.

Not to mention, of course, the constant flight ops overhead that disrupted the quiet of what had once been a tranquil little resort haven along the shores of Lake Superior.

Nobody mentioned how Duluth had thrived and rev-

enue soared because of incoming Air Force personnel over the course of those three decades. Nobody thanked the Air Force for its contribution to our city's quality of life.

The base had an important air-defense mission in those days and provided a good living to thousands of military and civilian employees at its busiest point. The base even had a major off-base housing complex and a school that opened specifically to serve the children of those stationed there.

Then the harsh reality of national base cut-backs dawned in the latter part of the '70s.

By 1982, the active-duty Air Force in my hometown completely pulled up stakes and left behind a puny Air National Guard unit in its place.

My hometown teetered precariously on the cliff of sheer financial disaster when the air base closed. Real estate plummeted. The banks nearly crumbled. Businesses that had once voraciously thrived inevitably went under. Everybody wanted to call the active-duty Air Force back — but it was too late.

Today, what was once a thriving Air Force base in my hometown, is now home to a minimum security federal prison. The city never quite recovered from the prosperity it once knew when the active-duty Air Force called Duluth its home.

If you ask me, the proposed closing of NAS Oceana is a serious reality check for us all.

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If you ask me, the proposed closing of NAS Oceana is a serious reality check for us all.

We are all so spoiled living here. We believe the prosperity we have enjoyed year after year in this community will last forever. We are convinced that, no matter what, we have nothing but the best to reap from living in this militarily-thriving (and significantly military dependent) community.

So what if new housing has advanced over the years on the base at Oceana? The Navy would surely make an adjustment in favor of residents. The Navy makes adjustments for just about everything, doesn't it?

So what if residents complain about jet noise? That doesn't mean the government would actually close the base and yet, had the city council earnestly wanted to protect the base from land development encroachment, it would have done so years ago.

Should NAS Oceana actually meet its demise now that it's on the BRAC list, who loses?

Let's face it, we all do.

The Navy has put considerable effort into trying to bend over backward to please the people in this community. Isn't it time the community gave back a little of the same consideration to the Navy in return?

E-mail Debi at [DebiKettner@aol.com](mailto:DebiKettner@aol.com) or snail mail her at Soundings, 258 Granby St., Norfolk, VA 23510.

# Moody may not be able to handle Oceana

VALDOSTA, Ga. (AP) — Moody Air Force Base won't be closed, but instead may be considered for an expansion, a federal commission decided July 19.

The 64-year-old base, which was spared from the Pentagon's list of proposed base closures released in May, was one of about a dozen facilities discussed during a key meeting July 19 in Washington as possible additions to the list. However, commissioners voted 7-1, with one recusal, to keep Moody open.

Defense analysts testified new condominiums and other residential encroachment around Naval Air Station Oceana is threatening the Navy's training work. Bill Fetzer, an analyst for the Base Closure and

Realignment Commission, said the land around Moody was more open: "They have more buildable acres down there."

Oceana, Virginia Beach's largest employer, is the Navy's principal East Coast base for fighter aircraft. It currently is home to about 140 F/A-18 Hornets and Super Hornets and about 50 F-14 Tomcats.

An analyst for the commission, Tanya Cruz, told commissioners she had doubts whether Valdosta was ready if the work force at Moody nearly doubled, which is what would happen if Oceana's mission was transferred to Moody.

"The community's ability to absorb such a population is questionable," Cruz said.

Moody now has a military personnel of about 3,700 and a civilian work force of 339, for a total annual payroll of \$186 million. It is currently home to F-16s, HC-130Ps, HH60G helicopters and A-10 aircraft. It also provides undergraduate training for Air Force pilots and has the only rescue wing in the Air Force.

Four other Georgia bases were on the first list for possible closure. They are: Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem near Atlanta, a Naval Air Station in Marietta and the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens.

A final decision by the commission on which bases to recommend be closed is expected by the first of September.

**Oceana, Virginia Beach's largest employer, is the Navy's principal East Coast base for fighter aircraft. It currently is home to about 140 F/A-18 Hornets and Super Hornets and about 50 F-14 Tomcats.**

# Letters to the Editor

## THANK THE MAYOR

To the editor:

We can all thank Virginia Beach Mayor Meyera Oberndorf and the city council for causing what will surely become known eventually as the "Oceana Crater." Over the years the mayor and the city council has let businesses and residences get closer and closer to the master jet base. They could have been smart and put tougher restrictions in place. Had they done that, the encroachment that so scares the Base Realignment and Closure commission would not be an issue. There would be no homeowners whining about noise planes or about the danger of a Super Hornet crashing into their house.

Sure, the base would be more isolated, and there wouldn't be as many places to live in Virginia Beach. Perhaps the mayor and the city council should have been a little more relaxed with the city's green line. If Oceana leaves, there will be plenty of space for farmland (just like there was before Virginia Beach exploded) in the middle of the city.

This whole mess shows our leaders were not able to plan ahead. They saw short-term gains and not long-term sanity. They saw the tax dollars they could have in the city coffers right now and not the gaping hole that will dominate the city's economy once the planes and personnel pack up and head to North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia or wherever else they may go.

I'm already thinking about putting my house up for sale, while I can still get a good value for it. At least in the short term, housing prices are going to fall. Tens of thousands of people in Virginia Beach and the rest of

Hampton Roads will be heading elsewhere. Guess what? Nobody is taking their place.

I'm sick that I ever voted for any of the politicians that are now in office, as well as those who I have voted for in the past. They let the land developers and other business owners create a beautiful flower in Virginia Beach that will now become overrun with weeds.

*Geoff Davis  
Virginia Beach*

Barbara S. Young  
114 - 66th Street  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

8/2/05

Base Realignment & Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark St.  
Suite 600  
Arlington, Va. 22202.

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

Dear Sirs:

Received

Leaving Oceana would be a  
detracting blow both to the  
military and non-military  
families in Virginia Beach -

Adopting the Joint Land Use study  
by the Navy, Chesapeake, Norfolk  
and Virginia Beach could  
resolve present and future  
problems and create greater  
efficiency.

Creating other bases for Oceana's  
planes would cost taxpayers  
millions of dollars and would  
still not lead to greater efficiency.

Virginia Beach wants Oceana -  
Keep it here - where it belongs -

Sincerely,  
Barbara S. Young

Aug 1, 2005  
Base Realignment + Closure  
Commission

2521 So. Clark St  
Arlington, Va. 22202

AUG 04 2005  
received

to the Brae com:

We are residents of Va. Beach

for 29 years -- direct in the

Path of Returning Air Craft

From Air Craft Carriers (Atlantic Ocean)  
returning to the Naval Base,

Norfolk, Va. the Air Craft

fly at intervals over our

Building to go to Oceana.

It has never been a problem

to our family -- we welcome

the sound of Freedom's "Keep Oceana Here"

REGINA S. KATZ

4004 ATLANTIC AV. #D903

Va. Beach, Va. 23451

AUG 04 2003

To whom it may concern <sup>Received</sup>

Please think again of not closing Oceana as it is vital to our defense of Our Country.

The government has the power to seize property for their benefits to build, etc. So let them take over the stores & homes those who built out near the base as they figured all was cheaper and a good majority of them do not work at Oceana and if they like the noise let them move if they don't like the noise.

It is vital to have the planes for our protection & jobs and income is also very vital to Virginia Beach & the economy (which is in bad shape) lots of closing off businesses, etc. be

The sounds of the planes overhead is like sweetness to me who have seen many years and praying that our country is always save.

Please save Oceana for us + our protection

h. . . . .

8/1/05

AUG 04 2005  
Dear Sirs or MadamI am writing to ~~Re: Oceana~~ Oceana.

I am a 67 year old white female who moved from Illinois to Virginia 3 years ago. I have no direct connection with Oceana but feel, especially now, with the "war" in the Middle East and the enormous cost of that war, that this is not the time to be spending/wasting millions of dollars to move or establish bases here at home.

Thank you  
Nancy J. Gunderson  
100 Anna Goode way  
Lake Prince woods Apt 244  
Suffolk VA 23434  
757-923-5944

84705  
AUG 1 1967  
Please save  
Oceana!! There  
are lots of people  
depending on it,  
not only the military.  
It is so convenient to  
the aircraft carriers.

The community would  
really miss the support  
they get from the military.

Once again, please  
save Oceana!!!

Sincerely,  
Louis & William  
Knapp  
4844 Wadsworth  
Suffolk  
Virginia 23434



1 August,2005

BRAC Commission

AUG 04 2005

Received

Dear Sirs,

As a long time resident of Virginia Beach, and former Chief Petty Officer U.S. Navy I urge you gentlemen to take Oceana off the possible BRAC closure list. This is a long established facility and well equipped for the mission of training our naval aviators and the upkeep of their aircraft. It would be a huge waste of taxpayers money to set this type of facility up in another location, and there is no assurance that the encroachment problem that some are complaining about will not occur in time at the new location.

I feel that the most reasonable action to take at this time is for the Navy, and the city government of Virginia Beach work together to solve whatever problems exist, and not throw the baby out with the bath water.

I am placing my faith in your judgment and knowledge in this matter. I think when all facets of this proposal are studied, Oceana will continue it's outstanding service to the Navy and the people of Virginia Beach far into the future.

Thank you for your attention in this very important matter.

Sincerely, *Frank M. Miller*  
4704 Westgrove Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455-5416

Received

BRAC Commission

WILLIAM & NINA GARRY  
3204 HUNTWICK LA.  
VIRGINA BEACH, VA 23451  
TEL.: 757.417.6933  
e-mail: [drbillgarry@msn.com](mailto:drbillgarry@msn.com)

AUG 04 2005

Received

Base Realignment & Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark St., Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

August 2, 2005

Dear Sirs:

We are supposed write to you to support Oceana. Unfortunately, we can't. Many of us are suffering. Some silently, others more vociferously. We feel betrayed by the Navy. The 1998 Impact Study understated many facts. It also appears now that the emphasis is only on VA Beach encroaching on Oceana. Never is there any mention of the Navy encroaching on us. With every new generation of jets the crash and noise zones are expanded. We did not live in a crash zone before, now we do. And the increase in noise is unbearable, especially when 48 jets overfly us between 2100 and 2400 hrs. Let's admit it: The Navy has outgrown VA Beach. The majority of F 18/Superhornets should not have come here. The split-basing could have been done differently. What happens with the next generation of jets already in the news?

Respectfully,

*Nina W. Garry*

Nina Garry,  
3204 Huntwick La. VB, 23451.  
Tel.: (757)417-6933.

AUG 04 2005

Received

Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Armour  
Telephone: 757-426-1131  
E-Mail: bobpetraarmour@cox.net  
1157 Cordova Court  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-4239  
August 2, 2005

Base Alignment & Closure Commission  
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Public Comment regarding NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, VA

Dear Commission Members,

During your visit yesterday, the members who toured NAS Oceana and Virginia Beach probably saw quite a few bumper stickers saying: "We love jet noise". And, many more of us took our stickers off when Oceana was not listed in the original base-closing list. Did you see any bumper stickers protesting NAS Oceana? I have never seen any.

The vast majority of folks in Virginia Beach and Hampton Roads support having NAS Oceana in our midst.

Besides being patriotic and aware of the benefits to the local economy, there are, **most important**, the reasons that the Navy must have mentioned to you for keeping NAS Oceana open:

1. The convenience of having so much of the Navy's operational and training infrastructure so near by that face-to-face meetings and full use of training, joint facilities, and planning meetings is easy to achieve. The Dam Neck Training Facility (which also includes SEAL, underwater surveillance, and other operational commands), which is a subsidiary of NAS Oceana, is an excellent example of the synergies of having so many commands in close proximity.
2. Navy "Change of Station" expenses are vastly reduced because many Navy men can spend their whole 20-year career in Hampton Roads and still have access to the full range of schools, ships, aircraft, staff, and etc. experiences without having to sell their house and move to another state as a result of orders to a new duty station.
3. Every residential subdivision in Virginia Beach has a large sprinkling of Military families. The military members of the family meet, informally, continuously with other military personnel of all ranks and of all the military services in all sorts of operational, staff, and training assignments. They meet as neighbors, as coaches, at the PTA and at church. This continuous informal exchange of ideas provides a means of encouraging more effective joint operations and improvements to the processes and equipment our military services use.

4. Morale is improved by access to the local Community Colleges and Universities and by the numerous employment opportunities for the spouses. Dependent children have access to excellent schools and after school sports and recreation programs, particularly in Virginia Beach. The whole area is a pleasant one to live in with readily available activities that range from water sports to the opera.

We do understand that the next generation of manned and unmanned aircraft could change shore establishment requirements of the Navy and that, down the road, any Navy facility can become obsolete or redundant. We will understand the DOD's position when that time comes. That time has not come yet.

One aside: We live off Sandbridge Road and the F18 aircraft fly over our house every day. We can recognize a Super Hornet from the ground (because the fairing that runs along the front of the aircraft below the cockpit is wider on the Super Hornet than the regular Hornet). We have not observed any increase in noise as a result of the Super Hornets. We suspect that the Super Hornets (which are designed to carry much more fuel and 50% more bombs) are often flying at well below maximum weight and don't need to use full power / afterburners as much.

In conclusion, we ask you to allow NAS Oceana to continue to operate as long as it continues to be appropriate to the Naval Air Force's requirements.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly "M. Arner".

**Some 50 years ago Princess Anne County, became the city of Virginia Beach. That should have been a wake up call for Va Bch and Oceana, but no the city and Oceana kept going in the same but different directions. Va Bch growing to almost 500,000 people, Oceana now the only MASTER JET BASE on the East coast with hundreds of jet aircraft.**

BRAC Commission  
AUG 04 2005

**The city prospered while Oceana became the most encroached upon BASE in the US, encountered over 3000 NOISE law suits with more to come, putting training and normal operations at risk.**

**What is the result of this, the CITY is still growing, and that's what cities do, if possible. Currently Va Bch is building a HOSPITAL in the flight path off Princess Anne Rd, new CONVENTION center in a NOISE ZONE, New BASEBALL FIELDS in flight paths. Politics and business as usual, now Oceana is on the BRAC list.**

**Neither the CITY nor the NAVY has been fair or honest with each other. Va Bch the wiser kept growing. Oceana appeared to be staying the course. Oceana started as an OLF in Princess Anne County and grew. Now Oceana needs another OLF with 30,000 ACRES!!!!**

**It has been said not if but when Oceana will move. The hand writing is on the wall so to speak. Va Bch and Oceana needs to plan for the future not the past.**

Mr. & Mrs. William J. Lee  
3521 Indian River Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

757 427 6404

ESTABLISHED 1865

# The Virginian-Pilot

"Our duty is clear: It is to serve the public with skill and character,  
and to exercise First Amendment freedoms  
with vigor and responsibility."

— Frank Batten, Publisher 1954-1976

D.R. Carpenter III  
President and Publisher

Dennis A. Hartig  
Editorial Page Editor

OUR OPINIONS

AUG 04 2005

## Setting straight the record on Oceana

**T**he threat to close Oceana Naval Air Station isn't new. Neither is the finger-pointing that has dominated local reaction since the facility was voted onto the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission's list last month.

The volume of vituperation has been so high that nobody can hear the reasons to keep Oceana open, let alone the truth about who's at fault in the current crisis. That last bit is important mostly because should Oceana survive — and we hope it does — the community needs to figure out how to keep the base safe in the future.

There's plenty of blame to go around.

**Virginia Beach city government:** With the nastiness directed their way, you'd think that all of Oceana's problems were caused by the current occupants of City Hall. But most of the building that threatens Oceana was constructed before the current City Council's members won their first vote. Most of the encroaching neighborhoods were in place long before Navy maps identified crash zones or high-noise areas. Lynnhaven Mall, for example, is now in a crash zone that didn't exist when it was planned.

Could today's leaders be more forceful in protecting Oceana's mission? Absolutely. Could they avoid approving condos at the end of a runway? It'd be a nice start. But this City Council can't be held responsible for decisions made 30 and 40 years ago, no matter what certain chronologically challenged critics charge. This council deserves some blame, no doubt, but the current criticism reflects a convenient bent toward demonization in the face of inconvenient facts.

**The Navy:** In the 60 years since Oceana arrived, there have been scores of skippers at the base, and many more pieces of brass making decisions. After siting runways in an uninhabited corner of Princess Anne County, the Navy could be excused for relaxing its guard a bit. But if some captains treated development around the base with a shrug, others vehemently opposed every proposed jot and tittle on the map. The result was a hodgepodge, and encroachment that crept closer and closer to the airfield. Thousands of those homes were built in the 1980s, necessary because of the Reagan-era shipbuilding spree. In other words, the Navy's growth in the region contributed to the threat against its presence. And as other jet bases have closed — thanks to previous BRACs — operations have

concentrated at Oceana, which means that a little air base in the middle of nowhere has grown up to be a master jet base in the middle of Virginia's most populous city.

**The citizens:** When a couple of hundred folks show up at City Hall to protest a proposal to consider condemning houses to protect Oceana, it sends a message. To city leaders, it was a reminder that property rights are paramount in Virginia Beach, and that condemnation is political suicide. To the Navy, it said that neither

the Beach's leaders nor its citizens have any interest whatsoever in making the difficult decisions required to undo decades of encroachment. The hysteria whipped up by television was enough to prevent the condemnation conversation from even beginning, and had the effect of turning some of Oceana's most ardent supporters into unwitting opponents. Don't think the Navy didn't get that message.

**Time:** Things have changed. Oceana's little planes have become giant jets that stream pollution and scream across the sky. Today, those planes do it far more often, at a far greater speed, and at a far higher volume, than ever before. Development around Oceana began decades ago, and has continued and expanded. But the jets that fly from the base now bring its inconvenience further from the fence line. That's nobody's fault. The Navy has a mission, and so does the city. Both have changed over the years, arguably becoming less and less compatible. But American culture has changed, too. Mere inconvenience is too much a sacrifice to expect of citizens, even in wartime. No one complained about jet noise during the Cold War.

The Navy blames the city for Oceana's current woes, and the city blames the Navy. There are some who would say the differences are irreconcilable. Perhaps. What is certain is that there is enough blame for everybody. Virginia Beach has sent such inconsistent messages — we love Oceana; condemnation is Satan's work; where'd all these jets come from? — that it's understandable if BRAC is a little confused.

But there was a reason that Oceana located in Virginia Beach during World War II, and a reason that the city embraced the Navy and its people for most of the past six decades. Perhaps in this current BRAC season, those sharing the blame for the current crisis can find some way to remember and even recall those days, when Oceana's presence was universally welcome, and before the fingers started pointing.

The volume of vituperation has been so high that nobody can hear the truth about who's at fault in the current crisis.

PLEASE CLOSE THE OCEANA  
BASE. PRIVATE INDUSTRY COULD  
MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS AND AT  
A HIGHER PAY. IT WOULD ONLY  
HELP THE AREA.

BRAC Commission

AUG 0 1990

Received

THANK YOU  
L. L. Pickett

BRAC Commission  
AUGUST 2, 2005

AUG 04 2005

Received

Base Realignment & Closure Commission  
2521 S. Clark St.  
Arlington, VA 22202

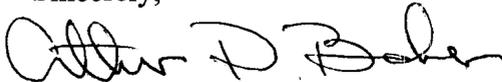
Dear Sirs:

Please CLOSE DOWN Oceana! Oceana has seen a glorious 60 years of existence, but now is the time to close it. Our GREEDY politicians past and present and the builders that back them up have done enough harm to the community. Everything to them is based on the God Almighty Dollar. Besides, the newer generation of jet planes are so much noisier, plus polluting and safety??

I know there is no location now available for the Oceana jets, but they need realigning as soon as time allows.

IT would be great if Oceana could be turned into a multi-purpose base with different services. If not, then it should be turned into old folks homes, golf courses and light industry, such as Stihl and Forbes Candies.

Sincerely,



Arthur D. Baker  
616 Secotan Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451



SAVE  
OCEANNA

[www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov)

# Is it anchors aweigh for Oceana?

## No help for speculators

I am a big supporter of Oceana, and I'd be willing to have my taxes raised, see houses or businesses already in existence bought for a fair price to reduce the encroachment, and risk, and live with the noise of the Super Hornets.

I do draw one line: I'd be unwilling to see compensation go to those who have purchased property around the base, which is zoned for low-density uses such as farming, in hopes that it would later be bought by developers at a greatly increased price. These people are speculators; they speculate that cheap land will one day be worth much more. In this case, they were wrong.

They are due no more than notice that their zoning change is denied, and a possible tax break if they lose money on an investment.

**Susan Hunter**  
Virginia Beach

## Find land in Virginia

The Navy wants to stay. Virginia Beach is a great place to live and our lifestyle is a wonderful tool for recruitment and retention. Who wants to reside in "Mayberry" in Georgia or Carolina? Also, most people in Virginia Beach are proud of the Navy and having this major part of our national defense here.

Oceana jets have the entire Atlantic within seconds of the runways for training and testing. Everything, that is, but touch and go's. It's hard to practice simulated carrier landings without somewhere to land. There's the problem: They take off and land day and night, flying in circles over most of the half-million people in our area. What's the solution?

I thought the DOD was seriously working on an outlying practice field. Apparently not. Forget North Carolina. They have no vested inter-

est in helping us keep the base here. They want it themselves. After all, we had to fight them for 15 years to get drinking water.

Keep everything in Virginia. You can't tell me there isn't sufficient land somewhere on the Atlantic side of the Eastern Shore.

**Ed Stallings**  
Virginia Beach

## Get a bird's-eye view

I hope the BRAC Commission will fly over the air station and take a good look at the encroachment around it. And think about all of our ships being in one port.

**Reginald F. Dolliver**  
Virginia Beach

## Double standards

BRAC has stressed encroachment and development around Oceana as a reason for its possible closure, fearing a civilian-related accident or disaster.

However, the federal government allows major airports such as Reagan National to operate where there is a much greater danger to the surrounding public due to proximity and more frequent flights.

**F. Bert Brown**  
Chesapeake

## Noise yes, risks no

I am a retired officer and my wife and I use the Oceana pharmacy, Navy Exchange and commissary. I am willing to give up these conveniences because I can tolerate the flights over my house and the noise, but not the potential danger to Virginia Beach citizens. A crash into an inhabited area is bound to occur sooner or later.

I would be reassured if Virginia Beach emergency services would stage a mock drill in which a jet

"crashes" into Lynnhaven Mall, causing "mass casualties."

If it is shown that our emergency services can easily handle such an event, I could be persuaded to oppose closing the base.

**William W. Garry**  
Virginia Beach

## Do like O'Hare

Chicago has a plan to relieve congestion at O'Hare airport, approved by the FAA last month.

The plan includes a 440-acre expansion requiring the city to buy and raze more than 500 homes, displacing 2,600 residents, and the relocation of 200 businesses as well as a cemetery with 1,300 tombs.

OK, how about buying the homes encroaching on Oceana and relieving those "can't stand the noise" folks? The new eminent domain decision by the Supremes would help settle the problem swiftly. And our costs would be more affordable than Chicago's project.

**Robert Wick**  
Virginia Beach

## Pleading our case

The song "Anchors Aweigh" honored WWII Navy pilots. I never imagined it might foretell Oceana's fate.

My husband, who died in 1998, retired from the Navy in 1963, having served our country as a pilot. He was stationed in Hawaii when word came that Barber's Point NAS would be closed down.

I believe one of the squadron's commanders flew to Washington to plead the base remain open. It did. His persuasiveness, I'm sure, made his trip worthwhile. Why can't we do the same?

**Lols Stohl**  
Virginia Beach

BRAC Commission  
AUG 04 2005

# Beach's commitment to the Navy is now being tested

Continued from Page B1ed  
Received

Well, it looks like the BRAC commission is thinking things over. The members who toured the base on Monday remained non-committal about Oceana's future.

In the meantime, the city is sending bonbons.

On Friday, the mayor issued a proclamation. She used her vast powers to declare Monday "Support Oceana Day."

**It wasn't until "Black Tuesday" – two weeks ago – when it spied the flight bags by the door, that the Beach realized the Navy might really leave this time.**

The newspaper featured an eye-catching ad on Monday that urged folks to lobby BRAC on behalf of the city of Virginia Beach. The graphics showed "Save Oceana" in skywriting that was oddly reminiscent of the "Surrender Dorothy" sky script in "The

Wizard of Oz."

And that's not all.

The City Council is scheduled to vote tonight on a bold resolution. It's a three-page declaration of love peppered with lots of "Whereases" declaring the bond between the city and the master jet base

strong and enduring. Expect it to pass unanimously.

But the true test of the city's commitment to the Navy will be not in how the council votes on resolutions but how it votes when the city's developers want to plop more construction in high-noise zones.

That is, if BRAC gives the Beach one more chance.

■ Reach Kerry at (757) 446-2306 or [kerry.dougherty@cox.net](mailto:kerry.dougherty@cox.net).

# Setting straight the record on Oceana

**T**he threat to close Oceana Naval Air Station isn't new. Neither is the finger-pointing that has dominated local reaction since the facility was voted onto the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission's list last month.

The volume of vituperation has been so high that nobody can hear the reasons to keep Oceana open, let alone the truth about who's at fault in the current crisis. That last bit is important mostly because Oceana should survive — and we hope it does — the community needs to figure out how to keep the base safe in the future.

There's plenty of blame to go around:

**Virginia Beach city government:** With the nastiness directed their way, you'd think that all of Oceana's problems were caused by the current occupants of City Hall. But most of the building that threatens Oceana was constructed before the current City Council's members won their first vote. Most of the encroaching neighborhoods were in place long before Navy maps identified crash zones or high-noise areas. Lynnhaven Mall, for example, is now in a crash zone that didn't exist when it was planned.

Could today's leaders be more forceful in protecting Oceana's mission? Absolutely. Could they avoid approving condos at the end of a runway? It'd be a nice start. But this City Council can't be held responsible for decisions made 30 and 40 years ago, no matter what certain chronologically challenged critics charge. This council deserves some blame, no doubt, but the current criticism reflects a convenient bent toward demonization in the face of inconvenient facts.

**The Navy:** In the 60 years since Oceana arrived, there have been scores of skippers at the base, and many more pieces of brass making decisions. After siting runways in an uninhabited corner of Princess Anne County, the Navy could be excused for relaxing its guard a bit. But if some captains treated development around the base with a shrug, others vehemently opposed every proposed jot and tittle on the map. The result was a hodgepodge, and encroachment that crept closer and closer to the airfield. Thousands of those homes were built in the 1980s, necessary because of the Reagan-era shipbuilding spree. In other words, the Navy's growth in the region contributed to the threat against its presence. And as other jet bases have been closed — thanks to previous Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission decisions —

concentrated at Oceana, which means that a little air base in the middle of nowhere has grown up to be a master jet base in the middle of Virginia's most populous city.

**The citizens:** When a couple of hundred folks show up at City Hall to protest a proposal to consider condemning houses to protect Oceana, it sends a message. To city leaders, it was a reminder that property rights are paramount in Virginia Beach, and that condemnation is political suicide. To the Navy, it said that neither

the Beach's leaders nor its citizens have any interest whatsoever in making the difficult decisions required to undo decades of encroachment. The hysteria whipped up by television was enough to prevent the condemnation conversation from even beginning, and had the effect of turning some of Oceana's most ardent supporters into unwitting opponents. Don't think the Navy didn't get that message.

**Time:** Things have changed. Oceana's little planes have become giant jets that stream pollution and scream across the sky. Today, those planes do it far more often, at a far greater speed, and at a far higher volume, than ever before. Development around Oceana began decades ago, and has continued and expanded. But the jets that fly from the base now bring its inconvenience further from the fence line. That's nobody's fault. The Navy has a mission, and so does the city. Both have changed over the years, arguably becoming less and less compatible. But American culture has changed, too. Mere inconvenience is too much a sacrifice to expect of citizens, even in wartime. No one complained about jet noise during the Cold War.

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# City has been known to turn its back on the Navy

BRAC Commission

APR 10 2009

Received

It's crazy, I know, but in its relationship with the Navy the city of Virginia Beach reminds me of a cheating husband.

You know the type. A cad who professes eternal love for his wife, while running around every chance he gets. Each time the randy rat is caught, he promises to change.



**KERRY DOUGHERTY**

He never does, of course. It isn't until the bum staggers home late one night and finds his beloved's bags by the door that he sees the error of his ways. "I love you, babe," he cries. "Stay and I'll never cheat again."

He begs. He weeps. He showers her with flowers.

Her friends, meanwhile, urge her to jump in the minivan, drive as fast as she can and never look back.

The poor faithful wife doesn't know what to do.

You see, the Beach may be married to the Navy, but it's always had a thing for developers.

Whenever the Navy became preoccupied with a war or some other pressing national security matter, city officials slipped on their dancing shoes and went out on the town. The next thing you knew, the council was approving everything from a shopping mall to flimsy housing developments in high noise and potential crash zones.

**You see, the Beach may be married to the Navy, but it's always had a thing for developers.**

A stark time line in The Pilot last month showed that as Oceana expanded, the city regularly ignored the pleas of the Navy to restrict base encroachment and warn potential homeowners about jet noise.

In 1993, "A year after Oceana escapes a base ... closure scare, the City Council adopts a noise-disclosure law and requires insulation in new homes built in noise zones - more than 16 years after the Navy began requesting it."

Sixteen years. Is that any way to treat someone you love?

You'd think the Beach would have learned its lesson after a brush with BRAC in the 1990s.

It wasn't until "Black Tuesday" - two weeks ago - when it spied the flight bags by the door, that the Beach realized the Navy might really leave this time.

"Don't go!" the politicians chorused.

"We love you, baby," they cooed.

"If you stay we'll issue proclamations and pass resolutions," they promised.

Continued on Back page



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