

JOE WILSON
2ND DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

DCN: 6554

COUNTIES:

AIKEN*
ALLEDALE
BARNWELL
BEAUFORT
CALHOUN*
HAMPTON
JASPER
LEXINGTON
ORANGEBURG*
RICHLAND*
(*PARTS OF)

ERIC DELL
CHIEF OF STAFF

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
HOUSE POLICY

August 1, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202

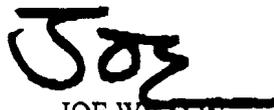
Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your considerable efforts to sustain the defense of our nation while finding the means to optimize taxpayers support. This letter addresses one of the more difficult decision you have addressed, that of NAS Oceana. We, MCAS Beaufort in Beaufort, SC offer that relief of NAS Oceana may be available by relocating some of Oceana's assets to our installation. MCAS Beaufort is capable of accepting up to five tactical jet squadrons with minimum military construction expenditures. The Beaufort Community has extremely strong support for the missions of the Air Station, and, as you are aware, the lack of encroachment and the availability of state of the art training opportunities reinforce the strengths of MCAS Beaufort.

MCAS Beaufort is located in a strategically valuable geographic location on the East Coast with unparalleled local training capabilities and no current or foreseeable encroachment. The off shore TACTS range and Townsend air to ground training range are owned by Beaufort and are highly utilized, but have plenty of capacity to accommodate more aircraft. Additionally, the Beaufort community is very proud and supportive of the air station. All three local municipalities have participated in and passed the JLUS (Joint Land Use Study). Also, due to the proactive efforts of Beaufort County's partnering with DoD to buy land to prevent encroachment, Beaufort was selected by DoN for an OSD pilot program as a model for other communities.

I thank you again for your contemplation of this option to provide a reprieve for the situation facing NAS Oceana. The Beaufort community truly believes that the first and foremost concern should be gaining monetary efficiency while maintaining or strengthening training viability – it is because of this that we offer this solution. This approach to Naval tactical aviation will mitigate concerns at Oceana and continue to utilize the existing assets on the East Coast.

Very truly yours,



JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

JW/ lg

MIDLANDS OFFICE:
1700 SUNSET BLVD. (US 378), SUITE 1
WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 7381
COLUMBIA, SC 29202
(803) 939-0041
FAX: (803) 939-0078

212 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4002
(202) 225-2452
FAX: (202) 225-2455
E-MAIL: joe.wilson@mail.house.gov
WEBSITE: www.house.gov/joewilson

LOWCOUNTRY OFFICE:
908 PONT REPUBLIC STREET
P.O. Box 1638
BEAUFORT, SC 29901
(843) 521-2530
FAX: (843) 521-2535