



## 2005 BRAC Commission Schedule Base Closure and Realignment Commission

### PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Robert McCreary  
Deputy Director of Communications  
703 – 699 – 2964  
[Robert.mccreary@wso.whs.mil](mailto:Robert.mccreary@wso.whs.mil)

#### **BRAC Commission Announces August 20th Hearings**

Arlington, Virginia, 12 August, 2005—Today, the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) announced that it will hold two hearings on 20 August. A morning hearing will allow the Secretary of Defense or his representatives to provide their final comments before the Commission marks up the recommendations and presents them to the President. The afternoon session will focus again on the Commission's July 19 consideration of closing the Oceana Naval Air Station. Testimony will be received from Virginia representatives as well as those from Florida which is proposing to return Cecil Field to the Navy. Cecil Field, no longer a military installation, was ordered closed by the 1993 BRAC.

Chairman Anthony J. Principi stated, "These hearings give us a last opportunity to review the Defense Department's priorities and concerns regarding the BRAC proposals as well as to learn whether NAS Oceana is the optimal future location for the Navy's East Coast Master Jet Base. It is extremely important we conduct this additional hearing in order to make the right decision based on the force structure plan and criteria established in law."

"In keeping with the Commission's standards of transparency and thoroughness, we are asking the State of Florida to testify on the record in a public hearing on its informally stated offer to return Cecil Field to the Navy and for the State of Virginia to have equal time on the matter," continued Chairman Principi.

The City of Jacksonville Airport Authority and the State of Florida have agreed to return 17,686 acres, constituting Cecil Field, to the Navy to establish a new East Coast Master Jet Base.

NAS Oceana was added on 19 July to the BRAC list of installations for realignment or closure consideration. The final mark-up, during which the Commissioners will be voting on each individual installation suggested for closure or realignment, is scheduled for 24-27 August, and the Commission's final recommendations will be submitted to the President by 8 September.

#### **SCHEDULE:**

**August 20, 2005, Senate Hart Building, Room 216**

**8:15 AM - Department of Defense Witnesses**

**1:30 PM - State of Florida Witnesses**

**2:30 PM - State of Virginia Witnesses**

Please refer to the website, [www.brac.gov](http://www.brac.gov), for names of witnesses as they become available.

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