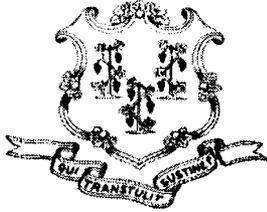


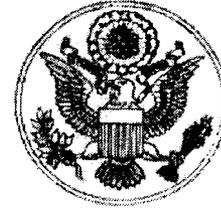
DCN: 7243  
BRAC Commission

AUG 09 2005

STATE OF CONNECTICUT



UNITED STATES CONGRESS



Received  
MR. JODI REIL, GOVERNOR  
CHRISTOPHER DODD, SENATOR  
JOSEPH LUBBERMAN, SENATOR  
NANCY L. JOHNSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
ROSA DE LAURO, MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
JOHN B. LARSON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
ROB SIMMONS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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August 5, 2005

The Honorable Anthony Principi  
BRAC Commission  
Polk Building , Suites 600 and 625  
2521 South Clark Street  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Secretary Principi:

We respectfully disagree with the argument against Naval Submarine Base New London put forth to you by The Camden Partnership, Inc. of Kings Bay, Georgia on July 19, 2005. The Camden Partnership presents few relevant facts and many errors in its arguments against New London. The Partnership's arguments also misrepresent Team Connecticut's Case for SUBASE New London.

The purpose of this letter is not to denigrate Camden County, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, its submarine crews or supporting personnel in any way, but instead to defend an unfair attack against the Case for SUBASE New London.

1. The Camden Partnership says the BRAC Force Structure Plan is irrelevant to the Case for SUBASE New London because the proposed realignment is based on today's attack submarine force level. Team Connecticut has never argued that the Navy could not *possibly* berth 55 fast attack nuclear submarines (SSN) without SUBASE New London. Instead, we have consistently argued that the Navy cannot base its East Coast SSNs without SUBASE New London *unless* the Navy:

- a. Accepts a high level of operational and readiness risk associated with congestion at Naval Station Norfolk and inadequate infrastructure at Kings Bay;
- b. Rebuilds at great cost and risk (to training and operational schedules) modern infrastructure at Kings Bay that already exists in New London;
- c. Abandons significant investment at a modern center of excellence; and

- d. Separates three SSN squadrons and their crews from the Naval Submarine School and the Electric Boat Corporation (regular maintenance provider for the SSNs and the Naval Submarine School trainers).

The Chief of Naval Operations testified to you on May 17 that the proposed basing arrangement was premised on a twenty-year force plan, in accordance with the 2005 BRAC process. The Government Accountability Office in July confirmed that the recommendation to close SUBASE New London is “based on projected decreases in the number of submarines in the future force structure,” but that “there is uncertainty over the number of submarines and surface ships required for the future force.”

The Camden Partnership then suggests that a two-per-year build rate for *Virginia*-class submarines may never be achieved. The Partnership’s suggestion contradicts the Department of Defense’s procurement plan.

2. The Camden Partnership disputes Team Connecticut’s military value analysis with factual errors. The Camden Partnership, for instance, states that “Kings Bay is the only base that can support all submarine ship types.” Kings Bay cannot currently support SSNs.

3. The Camden Partnership calls Southeastern New England’s vast undersea warfare complex a “very narrow, submarine-focused synergy.” Subsurface warfare by nature *is* unique – but it is not narrow. Profiting from a unique mixture of designers, builders, maintainers, educators and operators that coexist nowhere else in the world, SUBASE New London’s synergy is a cost-saving national asset. SUBASE Kings Bay enjoys no significant undersea warfare synergy.

4. The Camden Partnership dismisses the nesting problem that will affect operational readiness and training in both Norfolk and Kings Bay if New London closes. The Partnership says SSN nesting, or double-berthing, will occur only rarely under Department of the Navy Scenario 0033. In truth, the Navy says nesting will be commonplace at the receiving bases under DON-0033.

5. The Camden Partnership attacks Team Connecticut for a “rear looking argument” because we call New London the “Submarine Capital of the World.” We are proud of our “nickname,” but Team Connecticut’s arguments are based on fact and reason – not emotion. SUBASE New London is a modern and historic base – just like Naval Station Norfolk, which was established in 1917. In fact, DOD has spent over \$200 million on military construction at SUBASE since 1990, and Navy data shows that New London has newer piers than Kings Bay.

6. The Camden Partnership says Team Connecticut argues that DOD underestimated the costs of construction in Kings Bay because of its own experience in New London, “where all costs are much higher.” In fact, Team Connecticut’s judgment benefits from a Federal Emergency and Management Agency report that shows substantially higher construction costs in Kings Bay, a watershed area where unstable soil requires deep piles. Team

Connecticut's argument is also based on recent pier construction experience at Norfolk and the Navy's unrealistic assumption that a new submarine school building that must support trainers and complex computers would cost no more to build than a public high school of the same size.

7. The Camden Partnership minimize environmental problems at Kings Bay with incorrect information. The Partnership claims DON-0033 will not require additional shoaling; but the Navy included in the scenario funds for additional dredging near SSN berthing. The Partnership then states that "adverse weather impacts operations in New London as much, if not more than it does in Kings Bay," but again offers no evidence to support this falsehood. The Camden Partnership says Southeastern Georgia's endangered species *benefit* the Navy because sightings in Kings Bay are "valuable data used to help protect these endangered species." This reversal of logic does not follow the guidelines of the 2005 BRAC criteria.

8. Finally, The Camden Partnership strikes at a "Rural Southeast Georgia" argument never used by Team Connecticut. This team will say with confidence, however, that the Navy is nowhere better supported than in New London, the "Home of the Submarine Force" since the Navy took warfare undersea.

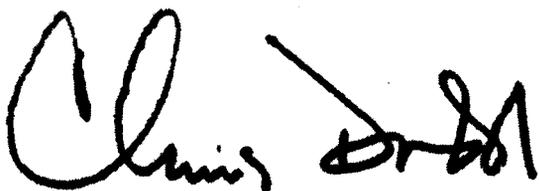
Nowhere in its four-page document does The Camden Partnership address Team Connecticut's argument that the Navy will achieve no savings by closing SUBASE New London.

Bottom Line: What The Camden Partnership *does* get right is that Team Connecticut has made multiple arguments for maintaining SUBASE New London. Though badly misrepresented by The Camden Partnership, we believe you will see the merit in our factually-based arguments for maintaining Naval Submarine Base New London. We stand ready to provide you with any additional information you require to make your decision.

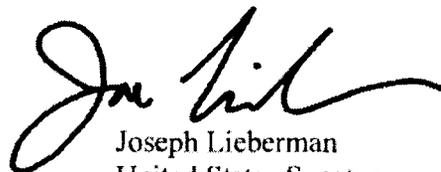
Sincerely,



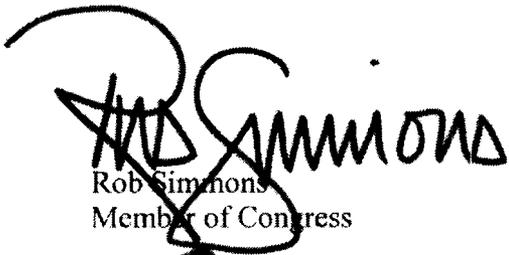
M. Jodi Rell  
Governor

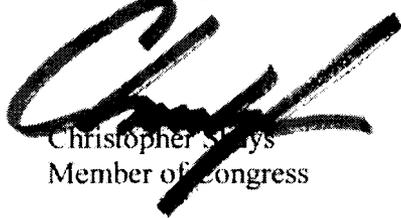


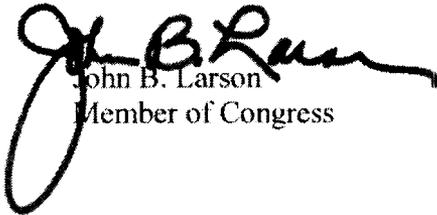
Christopher J. Dodd  
United States Senator

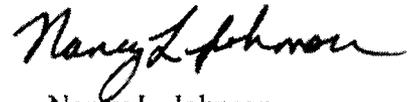


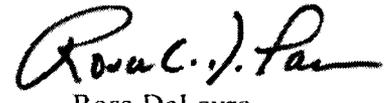
Joseph Lieberman  
United States Senator

  
Rob Simmons  
Member of Congress

  
Christopher Stays  
Member of Congress

  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

  
Nancy L. Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress