

UNITED STATES NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE (SUBASE) NEW LONDON

MILITARY VALUE HANDBOOK

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PREPARED FOR

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ABSTRACT

The contents of this report represent an initial attempt to estimate and quantify the Military Value of the United States Naval Submarine Base (SUBASE) New London, Groton, CT utilizing the Selection Criteria established for the 2005 round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Using open source information, it addresses SUBASE Military Value versus four (Military Value) of the eight Selection Criteria. An update to this report will be prepared with data that is anticipated to be released when the Secretary of Defense announces his BRAC List, on or before May 16, 2005.

SUBASE MILITARY VALUE HANDBOOK

1. **CRITERION ONE:** The current and future mission capabilities and the impact on the operational readiness of the total force of the Department of Defense, including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness.

A. Current Mission Capabilities:

(1) Submarine Maintenance and Repair:

(a) Naval Submarine Support Facility (NSSF). NSSF provides intermediate level maintenance and ordnance support to eighteen (18) fast attack nuclear submarines, support vessels, and service craft that are assigned to the group commander (Submarine Group TWO) and three submarine squadrons (Squadrons Two and Four, and Development Squadron Twelve). NSSF also includes a Nuclear Regional Maintenance Department to support the unique requirements of assigned submarines. NSSF employs more than twelve hundred (1200) military and civilian specialists who also provide associated administrative support including budget, supply, informational technology, safety, and facilities. Among the civilian specialist include about five hundred (500) skilled craftsmen from the Electric Boat Company (EBCO).

(b) Naval Submarine Support Center (NSSC). NSSC provides centralized administrative control and technical support to the three submarine squadrons and their assigned units in the areas of administration, medical, legal, chaplaincy, supply, combat systems, engineering and operations. This common pool of experts includes about three hundred (300) military and civilian personnel.

(2) Submarine Operational Support:

(a) Submarine Group Two (SUBGRU TWO). Commander SUBGRU TWO, a Rear Admiral, exercises operational and administrative control of all fast attack nuclear submarines on the east coast. This includes the three squadrons at the SUBASE and two squadrons in Norfolk, VA. In addition, SUBGRU TWO has direct operational control of certain units that are in a new construction or shipyard/overhaul status. This includes:

USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23)

USS Norfolk (SSN 714)

USS Annapolis (SSN 760)

SUBGRU TWO and assigned units employ more than six hundred (600) military and civilian personnel.

(b) Submarine Squadron Two (SUBRON TWO). SUBRON TWO exercises operational, administrative and logistics control of a squadron of SSN 688 Class submarines and a one-of-a-kind nuclear research submarine. This includes:

USS Philadelphia (SSN 690)
USS Dallas (SSN 700)
USS Albuquerque (SSN 706)
USS Pittsburgh (SSN 720)
USS Springfield (SSN 761)

SUBRON TWO and assigned units employ nearly seven hundred (700) military personnel.

(c) Submarine Squadron Four (SUBRON FOUR). SUBRON FOUR exercises operational, administrative and logistics control of a squadron of SSN 21 Class and SSN 688 Class submarines. This includes:

USS Seawolf (SSN 21)
USS Connecticut (SSN 23)
USS Providence (SSN 719)
USS Miami (SSN 755)
USS Hartford (SSN 768)

SUBRON FOUR and assigned units employ about eight hundred (800) military personnel.

(d) Submarine Development Squadron Twelve (SUBDEVRON TWELVE). SUBDEVRON TWELVE exercises operational, administrative and logistics control of a squadron of SSN 688 Class submarines. This includes:

USS Memphis (SSN 691)
USS Augusta (SSN 710)
USS San Juan (SSN 751)
USS Alexandria (SSN 757)
USS Toledo (SSN 769)
USS Virginia (SSN774)

SUBDEVRON TWELVE uniquely also conducts research and tactical development projects that will be discussed in the next section. The squadron and assigned units (not including tactical development staff) employ about nine hundred (900) military personnel.

(3) Submarine Research and Tactical Development:

(a) Submarine Development Squadron Twelve. In addition to the normal responsibilities of running a squadron of fast attack nuclear submarines, SUBDEVRON TWELVE is responsible for the formulation and improvement of submarine tactics and the measurement of the effectiveness of the newest submarines and submarine equipment. To perform this unique mission, SUBDEVRON TWELVE staff is augmented by about fifty (50) military and civilian personnel.

(b) Naval Undersea Medical Institute (NUMI). NUMI provides technical support in matters relating to undersea medicine and radiation health to naval operating forces and activities and provides undersea medicine and radiation health training to submarine medical department personnel, radiation health officers and technicians, and undersea medical officer candidates. NUMI includes a staff of about twenty four (24) military and civilian personnel and more than sixty students (60).

(c) Naval Submarine Medical Research Lab (NSMRL). NSMRL is the Department of Defense Center for Undersea Biomedical Research. The staff provides scientifically based recommendations for submarine rescue procedures, submarine atmosphere limits, advanced sonar system capabilities, diver/sonar safe distances, and symbology for visual displays. NSMRL employs nearly one hundred (100) military and civilian personnel.

(4) Submarine Training and Education:

(a) Naval Submarine School (NAVSUBSCOL). NAVSUBSCOL is the premier submarine training center. It trains all officers and enlisted personnel in basic submarine skills and knowledge, provides functional, refresher, advanced and team training, and furnishes operationally oriented support to ensure submarine sensor systems are operated at maximum effectiveness. Annual student throughput (all 177 courses) is nearly sixty thousand (60,000) with an average daily census of between fourteen hundred (1,400) and eighteen hundred (1,800). This is accomplished with a staff of more than five hundred and fifty (550) military and civilian personnel.

(b) Submarine Learning Center (SLC). The SLC is a two-year old organization created to streamline the submarine training process, coordinate training among six submarine training sites and oversee the submarine rating-exam process. It is staffed more than a dozen military personnel.

(5) Command and Control:

(a) Submarine Group Two/Naval Region Northeast. In addition to submarine operating authority responsibilities, SUBGRU TWO has additional duties as Commander Navy Region Northeast (NAVREG NE). This includes exercising military command and providing primary support to all Navy shore activities in New England, New York, and New Jersey, as well as to serve as the regional Area Coordinator. Locally this also includes seaport operations, public safety and quality of life functions. NAVREG NE employs about three hundred (300) military and civilian personnel.

(6) Logistics and General Support:

(a) Naval Submarine Base (NAVSUBASE). Commanding Officer, NAVSUBASE is the host, landlord and facility support provider to nearly seventy (70) tenant commands. Primary responsibilities include waterfront and base security, port operations, maintenance of facility infrastructure, housing, public works, construction, fire prevention, environmental safety, occupational safety, and family support programs. Many of these functions are performed collectively under the title of NAVREG NE Storefronts. NAVSUBASE employs more than one hundred (100) military and civilian personnel (exclusive of NAVREG NE Storefronts).

(b) Naval Ambulatory Care Center (NACC). NACC is a comprehensive ambulatory health care facility that provides primary care (family practice, internal medicine), consultative care (general surgery, orthopedics, optometry, audiology, physical therapy, substance abuse treatment), and dental care (general dentistry, periodontics, oral surgery). More than five hundred (500) military and civilian personnel are employed at the NACC.

(c) Historic Ship Nautilus (HSN) and Submarine Force Library Museum. Unique to the SUBASE is the Historic Ship Nautilus and the associated Submarine Force Library Museum. This is a one-of-a-kind facility that employs about thirty (30) military and civilian personnel.

B. Future Mission Capabilities: (This section provides preliminary concepts for potential future mission capabilities for enhancing the Military Value of the SUBASE).

(1) Littoral Control Ship Squadron Homeport. Should there be a reduced number of fast attack nuclear submarines assigned to the SUBASE, sufficient pier capacity could be available for assignment of a squadron of new Littoral control Ships (LCS) that are currently under development.

(2) Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA). Similar to the LCS rational above, complementary capacity to accommodate surface ship maintenance and repair activity could be made available near the pier area.

(3) SSGN Homeport. The SSBN 726 Class Trident submarines were designed and constructed in Groton. Four of these units are being converted to replace their nuclear ballistic missile magazines with conventional cruise missiles and special warfare capability. With the SSBN 726 Class design and construction shipyard in close proximity to the SUBASE, nuclear ordnance permanently removed from these four submarines, and sufficient pier capacity for at least two SSGNs, the SUBASE becomes a future homeport candidate.

(4) Special Warfare Support Site. Fast attack nuclear submarines equipped to carry dry deck shelters already are homeported and routinely operate from the SUBASE. A modest expansion of this shore side capacity accommodates this additional feature of the SSGN conversion submarines.

(5) SSN Prototype Training. Presently, Navy Nuclear Power Classroom and Prototype Training is conducted in Charleston, SC. (Note: BRAC 1995 reversed a BRAC 1993 decision, and transferred Navy Nuclear Power School from SUBASE to Charleston, SC). Eventually, the decommissioned submarines (formerly ballistic missile submarines – SSBNs) currently serving as prototype trainers will have to be either refueled or replaced. Using SSN 688 Class submarines or even computer simulators are potential options, either one of which could be easily accommodated at the SUBASE.

(6) Tactical Doctrine Command. The Naval Warfare Development Command (NWDC) is currently located at the Naval War College in Newport, RI. The essential functions of NWDC are an expansion of the tactical development activities that SUBDEVRON TWELVE has performed for the Submarine Force for more than forty years. Shore side capacity exists at the SUBASE to collocate NWDC with the SUBDEVRON TWELVE tactical analysis group.

(7) Naval Reserve Region Headquarters. Naval Reserve Regional Command Northeast (NAVRESREG NE) is currently located in converted barracks at the Naval Station in Newport, RI. The activities of NAVRESREG NE overlap the geographic footprint of its active duty counterpart, NAVREG NE. Efficiencies of scale could be realized if both commands were collocated at the SUBASE.

(8) Regional Homeland Security Headquarters. There is currently some discussion about establishing Regional Homeland Security Headquarters. The SUBASE has a candidate site available, in place base security forces, and close proximity of several high value installations (Electric Boat, Millstone Nuclear Power Plant, the Coast Guard Research and Development Center and Coast Guard Academy).

C. Impact on Total Force Operational Readiness:

(1) Eighteen Fast Attack Nuclear Submarines. SUBASE supports, maintains and repairs thirty-three percent (33%) of the fast attack nuclear submarines in the United States Submarine Force and about seventy-five percent (75%) of the fast attack nuclear submarines in the Atlantic. This contribution to total force readiness includes joint task force operations in the all major theaters, including the Pacific via the Arctic Ocean.

(2) Submarine School. The largest SUBASE tenant is the Submarine School which provides entry level, mid-level, and senior level education and training for all submariners. Graduates from more than one hundred and fifty (150) courses go directly to operational submarines that are assigned to joint task forces. In addition, Submarine School routinely provides pre-deployment team training to submarine crews.

(3) Tactical Development and Research Headquarters. The technology and tactics that won the undersea Cold War were developed and tested by SUBDEVRON TWELVE. The legacy of tactical and research expertise continues to produce successful operations in new and emerging nuclear submarine operations. Contributions by these submariners have been and continue to be benchmarks against which total force operational readiness is compared.

(4) Research Submarine and Support Ship. The deep diving, nuclear powered research submarine, NR-1, and its support ship provide a unique contribution to total force operational readiness. NR-1 has participated in numerous extremely classified operations that have been appropriately recognized by the highest type of unit citations.

(5) Naval Regional Headquarters. Total force operational readiness is a reflection of the quality of infrastructure that supports it. The SUBASE is the regional headquarters for the Navy in the entire northeast. This requires multi-service interaction with, for example, Air Force and Army personnel at installations in Massachusetts as well as non-submarine Navy installations in Rhode Island and Maine.

(6) Naval Reserve Center. Total force operational readiness includes Reservists. The recently activated SUBASE Naval Reserve Center supports the readiness training of about six hundred and fifty (650) drilling Naval Reservists. Most significantly, this Naval Reserve Center is now collocated with most of the commands to which the drilling Reservists mobilize, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of their readiness and contributory support.

D. Impact on Joint Warfighting, Training, and Readiness:

(1) CT National Guard Memorandum of Understanding. Significant pre-deployment mobilization support (administrative, medical screening, etc.) has been routinely provided by the SUBASE to Connecticut National Guard (CTNG) and Army Reserve personnel. Meetings to formalize this arrangement have produced a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the SUBASE and the CTNG to formalize this joint support arrangement.

(2) Special Warfare Capability: The capability to support special warfare operations has been a submarine mission dating back to World War Two operations in the Pacific. Most recently this has re-emerged as a fast attack nuclear submarine capability with the installation at the SUBASE of special dry deck shelters designed to support joint special warfare operations. This capability is being further expanded as part of the SSGN conversion program.

2. CRITERION TWO: The availability and condition of land, facilities, and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval, or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the Armed Forces in homeland defense missions) at both the existing and potential receiving locations.

A. Availability and Condition of:

(1) Land:

(a) Submarine Base: 687 acres

(b) Navy Housing: Navy housing consists of approximately two thousand and one hundred units (2,100) encompassing approximately five hundred and thirty (530) acres. In November 2004, a fifty-year Public-Private Venture (PPV) contract was signed between the SUBASE and GMH Military Housing, LLC. In the first phase, GMH will invest approximately two hundred million dollars (\$200Million) to renovate six hundred (600) units and, after demolition, build twelve hundred (1,200) new units. NAVREG NE and the SUBASE are the first major Navy base on the east coast to initiate a Navy Housing PPV. Terms of this arrangement require additional major investments in facility updates in twenty (20) and forty (40) years.

(c) Recreation: 36 acres at Fife Park

(2) Facilities:

(a) Major Buildings: 230

1. FY04 MILCON Projects: \$100 Million

2. FY05 MILCON Projects: \$20 Million

a. Gates 1 and 7 Security Improvements. A new Gate 7 was constructed and opened in November, 2004. This gate doubles (to four) the lanes of entering traffic and provides for commercial vehicle inspection. Gate 1 (former Main Gate) renovations are in progress and should be completed by the fall 2005. Total cost of this two-phase project is six and a half million dollars (\$6.5Million).

b. Naval Reserve Center New London. SUBASE Building 86 is undergoing extensive conversion and modernization that is expected to be completed in the second quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2005. This will become the Naval Reserve Center New London for thirteen (13) active duty personnel (Total Annual Payroll: \$723,000) and a Drilling Reserve Population of over seven hundred (700).

c. Dental Clinic (New)

d. Inshore Boat Unit Facility (New)

e. Naval Ambulatory Care Center (Renovation)

f. MK 10 Submarine Escape Trainer. This thirteen million (\$13 Million) project will commence in August 2005. It is a one-of-a-kind facility that will include nearly twenty-three thousand (23,000) square feet of classrooms and all necessary mechanical, electrical and associated support space for the escape training water columns and hatches.

(b) Barracks: 12 (with 1652 units plus Suisse Chalet (150 units))

(c) Piers: 14

1. Virginia Class/Waterfront Recapitalization MILCON Projects: FY04/05: \$32 Million. This involves the upgrade of all SUBASE piers to accommodate the SSN 774 (Virginia) Class submarines to include new fendering, steel supports, electrical upgrades, new jib cranes and bollards, and new mechanical systems. Also included is maintenance dredging near and around four piers (Piers 10, 12, 13 and 31).

(3) Associated Airspace: N/A

(4) Training Areas Suitable for Maneuver by Ground, Naval, and Air Forces:

- (a) Narragansett Bay Operating Areas
- (b) Long Island Sound Operating Areas
- (c) Boston Operating Areas
- (d) Gulf of Maine

(5) Training Areas Through a Diversity of Climate and Terrain Areas:

- (a) Shallow Water: Long Island Sound and Gulf of Maine
- (b) Deep Water: Narragansett and Boston Operating Areas

(6) Staging Areas for Use of Armed Forces in Homeland Defense Missions: TBD

3. CRITERION THREE: The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge, and future total force requirements at both the existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training.

A. Ability to Accommodate and Support Operations and Training for:

(1) Contingency Requirements:

(a) Surface Ship Repair & Logistic Support. The Naval Submarine Support Facility possesses the manpower and equipment to perform routine and emergency repairs to some surface ship hull, mechanical, electrical and electronic systems. In some cases, larger surface ships would have to moor at state and/or EBCO owned commercial piers that are located in New London Harbor, south of the SUBASE.

(b) SSBN Repair & Logistic Support. The SSBN 726 (Trident) Class submarines were designed at constructed at EBCO, in Groton, CT. Turning basin limitations currently prevent these submarines from mooring at the SUBASE; however, capacity does still exist at state and EBCO piers south of the SUBASE to provide associated repair and logistics support.

(2) Mobilization Requirements:

(a) Naval Reserve Mobilization Site. The SUBASE has served as a Navy Mobilization Processing Site several times since 2001. The Naval Ambulatory Care Center and Fleet and Family Support Center providing sustaining support to deploying commands, service members, and families. Peak one-day processing was provided to three hundred (300) Reservists, and the site is configured for a sustained throughput of sixty (60) Reservists per day.

(b) CT National Guard Mobilization Support Site. Mobilization support noted above to Naval Reservist has also been routinely provided to activated members of the Connecticut National Guard (CTNG) and Army Reserve. Formalization of this support with a Memorandum of Understanding between to CTNG and SUBASE is in development.

(3) Surge Requirements:

(a) Fast Attack Nuclear Submarines. Sufficient pier capacity exists to surge and moor up to twenty-four (24) fast attack nuclear submarines at the SUBASE.

(b) SSBN 726 (Trident) Class Nuclear Submarines. Turning basin limitations at the SUBASE currently preclude this class of submarines to moor at the SUBASE piers. However, the combination of state-owned and EBCO piers south of the SUBASE have the surge capacity to accommodate four (4) of this type of submarine.

(4) Future Total Force Requirements: TBD

4. CRITERION FOUR: The cost of operations and manpower implications.

A. Cost of Operations:

- (1) Replacement Value: \$914 Million
- (2) Military/Civilian Payroll: \$452 Million
- (3) Utilities Bill: \$17.87 Million
- (4) Fiscal Impact: Direct - \$817 Million
Induced: - \$178 Million
TOTAL: - \$995 Million

B. Manpower Implications:

- (1) Military Personnel: 7,500
- (2) Reservists: 650
- (3) Civilian Employees: 1,400
- (4) Contractor Employees: 1,000
- (5) Family Members: 12,000
- (6) Retirees: 12,000
- (7) Other Service Users: 15,000