

BASE VISIT REPORT**Naval Submarine Base New London****31 May 2005****LEAD COMMISSIONER:** Chairman Anthony Principi**COMMISSIONERS:** The Honorable James Bilbray, The Honorable Philip Coyle and General Lloyd Newton**COMMISSION STAFF:** Jim Hanna, Navy/Marine Corps Team Leader, Hal Tickle, Senior Navy/Marine Corps Lead Analyst and Michael Kessler, Associate Navy/Marine Corps Analyst.**LIST OF ATTENDEES:**

RDML Kenny – Commander, Navy Region Northeast, Commander Subgroup TWO and TEN
 RDML Watters – Deputy Commander, Navy Region Northeast
 Captain Sullivan – Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Base New London
 Captain Hanson – Chief of Staff, Submarine Group TWO
 Captain Lotring – Commanding Officer, Submarine Learning Center
 Captain Ransom – Commanding Officer, Regional Support Group

CNRNE MISSION:

- To enable and enhance Navy combat power by providing the most effective and efficient and cost-wise shore services and support.
- Commands under CNRNE: Submarine Base New London, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Kittery, NAS Brunswick, Naval Station Newport, NCTS Cutler, Prospect Harbor, NWS Earle, NAES Lakehurst and NSU Saratoga.

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON MISSION:

- Support fleet readiness by providing quality service and facilities to our Submarine community and their families.
- Major tenants are: SUBASE, COMSUBGRU TWO, Repair Group, Naval Submarine School, NACC, NUMI, NSMRL, NSGA Groton and Navy Region Northeast

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:

- Close Naval Submarine Base New London, CT. Relocate its assigned submarines, Auxiliary Repair Dock 4 (ARDM-4), and Nuclear Research Submarine 1 NR-1) along with their dedicated personnel, equipment and support to Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA, and Naval Station Norfolk, VA. Relocate the intermediate submarine repair function to Shore Intermediate Repair Activity Norfolk, at Naval Shipyard Norfolk,

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VA, and Trident Refit Facility Kings Bay, GA. Relocate the Naval Submarine School and Center for Submarine Learning to Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA. Consolidate the Naval Security Group Activity Groton, CT with Naval Security Group Activity Norfolk, VA at Naval Station Norfolk, VA. Consolidate Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory Groton, CT, with Naval Medical Research Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center Forest Glenn Annex, MD. Relocate Naval Undersea Medical Institute Groton, CT to Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL, and Fort Sam Houston, TX. Consolidate Navy Region Northeast, New London, CT, with Navy Region, Mid-Atlantic, Norfolk, VA.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:

- The existing berthing capacity at surface/subsurface installations exceeds the capacity required to support the Force Structure Plan. The closure of Submarine Base New London materially contributes to the maximum reduction of excess capacity while increasing the average military value of the remaining bases in this functional area. Sufficient capacity and fleet dispersal is maintained with the East Coast submarine fleet homeports of Naval Station Norfolk and Submarine Base Kings Bay, without affecting operational capability. The intermediate submarine repair function is relocated to Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity Norfolk at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and the Trident Refit Facility Kings Bay, GA, in support of the relocating submarines. Consolidating the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory with assets at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Forest Glenn Annex will create a DoD Center of Hyperbaric and Undersea Medicine that will increase synergy by consolidating previously separate animal and human research capabilities at a single location. The consolidation of Navy Region, Northeast with Navy Region, Mid-Atlantic is one element of the Department of the Navy efforts to reduce the number of Installation Management Regions from twelve to eight. Consolidation of the Regions rationalizes regional management structure and allows for opportunities to collocate regional entities to align management concepts and efficiencies.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:

- Navy Region Northeast
- Naval Submarine Base New London
- Naval Submarine School
- Regional Support Group

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- Capabilities associated with collocation of submarines/crews with the submarine school and Electric Boat
- Capacity of Naval Stations Norfolk and Kings Bay and their communities to accommodate equipment/personnel/support

- Commissioner Bilbray: concern about strategic vulnerability of Norfolk/Kings Bay if all eggs in one basket and about the cost of new facilities at Norfolk/Kings Bay plus cost to relocate from New London.
- Commissioner Newton: concern about the total loss of military in the Northeast region of the Nation.

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED

- Degradation of training, mission effectiveness and Sailor quality of life during transition to Kings Bay

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:

- Military value of Submarine Base New London underestimated
- Closure costs underestimated
- Environmental status
- Economic impact underestimated
- Transportation infrastructure shortages at receiving sites
- Workforce competitiveness
- Homeland Security concerns
- Loss of synergy between base and Electric Boat

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:

- A staff visit was conducted prior to Commissioners' visit with appropriate contact information exchanged. There were no requests from the base for additional visits, however Congressman Simmons has invited BRAC presence during a HASC field hearing 13 June.