

BASE VISIT REPORT**Naval Air Station Corpus Christi/ Naval Station Ingleside****7-8 July 2005****LEAD COMMISSIONER:** General Hill**COMMISSION STAFF:** William Fetzer, Senior Navy/Marine Corps Analyst**LIST OF ATTENDEES:**

RADM Mayer - Commander Naval Air Training/Commander Naval Region South
 RADML Loewer - Commander, Mine Warfare Command
 Mr. Fred Crecelius - Deputy NRS
 CAPT Ireland - Chief of Staff, CNATRA/NRS
 CAPT Croy - Chief of Staff, COMINWARCOM
 CAPT Coolidge - Commanding Officer, NAS Corpus Christi
 CAPT Watkins - Commanding Officer, NAVSTA Ingleside
 CAPT Slaughter - Commander, Regional Maintenance Center
 COL Sassenrath - Commander, Corpus Christi Army Depot
 CDR Steigers - Commander, Mine Warfare Training Center
 CDR Pish - Commander, Afloat Training Group
 CDR Parisi - Commanding Officer, HM-15
 CDR Stubbs - Executive Officer, NAS Corpus Christi
 CDR Morehead - Executive Officer, NAVSTA Ingleside
 Mr. Martinez - Navy Region South Representative
 Congressman Solomon Ortiz - 27th District, Texas
 Mr. Daniel Mezza - SEN Cornyn Staff
 Mr. Mac King - Cong Ortiz Staff
 Mr. Gordon Turner - Cong Ortiz Staff
 Ms. Sheila McCready - Cong Ortiz Staff
 RADM (ret) Paul Ryan - Cong Ortiz Representative
 Mr. Shawn Strange - Texas Sec State Representative
 Mr. Bob Rasmussen - Texas Sec State Representative

BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:**Naval air Station Corpus Christi**

- The mission of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi is to operate and maintain facilities and, provide services and materials which support the operations of customers and tenant commands.
- Tenant Commands include:

- CNATRA

Chief of Naval Air Training responsible for all Naval Aviation Training Squadrons

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Title of Item: Base Visit Report

Installation or Community: Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, TX

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- COMINEWARCOM : Commander, Mine Warfare Command responsible for all airborne and surface mine countermeasures units and the Mine Counter Measures Center of Excellence
- NAVHOSP : Naval Hospital, Corpus Christi
- TRAWING FOUR : Training Air Wing Four, VT-27, VT-28, VT-31
- CCAD : Corpus Christi Army Depot
- COMOMAG : COMMANDER, MOBILE MINE ASSEMBLY GROUP
- U.S. Customs
- Coast Guard Air Group
- CNRS : Commander, Naval Region South – responsible for base operating support for 6 facilities in Texas and New Orleans

Naval Station Ingleside

- The primary mission of NAVSTA Ingleside is to serve as the Navy's Mine Warfare Center of Excellence, by providing training, operations and maintenance support to the area's Mine Warfare Forces.
- Tenant Commands include:
 - Mine Countermeasures Squadrons 1, 2 & 3
 - 10 Avenger Class Mine Countermeasures Ships
 - 10 Osprey Class Coastal Mine Hunters
 - High Speed Vessel (HSV) 2 Swift, which is currently serving operationally as an interim Mine Warfare Command and Support Ship, and supports transformational modular mission payload initiatives
 - Mine Warfare Training Center
 - Electromagnetic Roll Facility
 - Ships Intermediate Repair Facility
 - Fleet Industrial Supply Center
 - Regional Support Group

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:

- Close Naval Station Ingleside, TX.
- Relocate its ships along with dedicated personnel, equipment and support to Naval Station San Diego, CA.

- Relocate the ship intermediate repair function to Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity San Diego, CA.
- Consolidate Mine Warfare Training Center with Fleet Anti-submarine Warfare Training Center San Diego, CA.
- Realign Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, TX.
- Relocate Commander Mine Warfare Command and Commander Mobile Mine Assembly Group to Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Center, Point Loma, CA.
- Relocate Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15) and dedicated personnel, equipment and support to Naval Station Norfolk, VA.
- Disestablish helicopter AIMD (maintenance) and transfer function to FRC Mid-Atlantic Site Norfolk, VA.
- Consolidate Navy Region South with Navy Region Midwest at Naval Station Great Lakes, IL and Navy Region Southeast at Naval Station Jacksonville, FL.

DoD JUSTIFICATION

- Moves mine warfare surface and aviation assets to major fleet concentration areas and reduces excess capacity.
- The Mine Hunter Coastal ships at Naval Station Ingleside are scheduled for decommissioning between FY 2006 and FY 2008 and will not relocate.
- Gulf Coast presence can be achieved as needed with available Navy ports at Naval Air Station, Key West, FL, and Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL. Additionally, U.S. Coast Guard presence is expected to remain in the Gulf Coast region.
- Relocation of Commander Mine Warfare Command and the Mine Warfare Training Center to San Diego, CA, creates a center of excellence for Undersea Warfare, combining both mine warfare and anti-submarine warfare disciplines.
- Relocates the Mine Warfare community from a location remote from the fleet thereby better supporting the shift to organic mine warfare.
- Supports mission elimination at Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity Naval Reserve Maintenance Facility Ingleside, TX, and reduces excess repair capacity.
- Supports mission elimination at Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Detachment Truax Field at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and reduces excess repair capacity.
- Relocation of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15 (HM-15) to Naval Station Norfolk single sites all Mine Warfare Aircraft in a fleet concentration area. This location

better supports the HM-15 mission by locating them closer to the C-5 transport Air Port of Embarkation for overseas employment and mine countermeasures ship and helicopter coordinated exercises.

- Reduces the number of Installation Management regions from twelve to eight, streamlining the regional management structure.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:

- Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and Naval Station Ingleside, including maintenance facilities, Naval Station Ingleside piers, an MCM-1 class mine sweeping vessel, training facilities and the Electro-Magnetic Roll Facility used to reduce the ships magnetic signatures. Additionally Corpus Christi Army Depot was toured and briefed in response to BRAC Scenario S&S-051R that recommended a reduction of 92 civilian positions from CCAD. An aerial tour of the South Texas military facilities, ranges and outlying airfields, including NAS Kingsville (minimally affected by BRAC) was also conducted.

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- Navy Regional consolidation appears to need reconsideration since the majority of the facilities are located along the Gulf Coast area. The DoD recommendation is to consolidate Navy Region South (presently managing 6 facilities) with Navy Region Midwest (presently managing 2 facilities) and relocating the Navy Region South personnel to Great Lakes.
- Quality of life issues for junior officer and enlisted personnel transferring from South Texas to high fleet concentration areas of San Diego and Norfolk where affordable housing would be difficult to locate.

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED

- The Commander Mine Warfare Command strongly supports the proposed BRAC movement of the MCM ships to San Diego. That will enable COMINEWARCOM to better interface with the operating Naval Forces in local and regional west coast exercises and training as well as facilitate COMINEWARCOM's participation in Strike and Expeditionary Warfare operational planning.
- The Commander Mine Warfare Command was concerned with the present difficulty in rotating high quality officers and senior enlisted personnel into the key mine warfare leadership billets due to the remote location of Ingleside from major Fleet concentrations.
- The Electro-Magnetic Roll Facility needs to be replicated in San Diego to maintain the low EM signatures of the MCM ships.
- Key pieces of mine warfare training equipment needs to be relocated or replicated in San Diego, and an additional 25,000 square feet of high bay (with a 10 ton overhead winch) needs to be provided in the Point Loma area.
- Navy Region South (NRS) reorganization is an ongoing, dynamic process. The COBRA database reflects a snapshot when the authorized manning was 59 billets. NRS presently has

121 billets at the NRS headquarters in Corpus Christi, significantly changing the costs of BRAC implementation in moving personnel to Great Lakes.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:

- The Homeland Defense posture for the Gulf Coast appears to be jeopardized by the DoD recommended closures of Pascagoula and Ingleside.
- Military Value weighting was biased against special purpose bases.
- Military Value calculations for NAVSTA Ingleside were understated by eliminating the unique MCM training capabilities.
- NAVSTA Ingleside was not given credit for newly constructed double decker piers.
- Economic impact of losing good paying, local civilian jobs (3.3% of the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Statistical Area).
- Loss of the synergy of the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence and training interoperability caused by moving the helicopter air borne mine countermeasures capability to Norfolk and the MCM ship borne mine countermeasure vessels to San Diego.
- Loss of dedicated offshore mine warfare training areas for operational training.
- Community representatives challenged the COBRA data in that the Navy did not reduce the BOS personnel related to the retiring MHCs as a non-BRAC action. Consequently, the BRAC savings are inflated. The Navy BRAC IAT acknowledges the error and has conducted an updated COBRA run.
- Navy Region South consolidation does not make economic or management sense.

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:

- A staff visit was conducted by Bill Fetzer prior to Commissioner's visit with appropriate contact information exchanged.
- The resident Navy Flag Officers and the Base Commanding Officers made no requests for additional visits.
- Congressman Ortiz invited all the BRAC Commissioners to visit the South Texas facilities affected by the DoD Recommendation. Chairman Principi is scheduled to tour Ingleside on 10 July 2005.