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MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

August 9, 2005

CONGRESSMAN ROB SIMMONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received

Dear Chairman Principi:

I wish to draw your attention to more evidence of substantial deviation in the BRAC recommendation to close Naval Submarine Base New London. Attached please find correspondence to me from the Dept. of the Navy (DON) confirming it erroneously gave SUBASE New London credit for two graving docks - instead of the three it actually has.

For your information, in July 2004, SUBASE New London certified its three graving docks. In Nov. 2004, the DON BRAC Information Transfer System changed the answer to two because "only two were certified at the time the data call was issued."

In reality, a structural failure had occurred in the third graving dock in May 2004. According to the Electric Boat Corp., the third graving dock is scheduled to be repaired and fully operational by Feb. 2006 - long before any BRAC recommendations would take effect. Naval Sea Systems Command is scheduled to recertify the third dock in March 2006.

Overlooking the third graving dock represents a substantial deviation from the BRAC process in part because it contributed to an artificially low military value score for SUBASE New London. But more important, the error unfairly influenced a Department of Defense recommendation to forego an alternate scenario that could have produced substantial savings.

For instance, the Navy discounted DON Scenario 0004 - attack submarines from Naval Station Norfolk to SUBASE New London - because it wrongly assumed the move would require the Navy to buy a \$93 million floating dry dock. Scenario 0004 yields \$237 million in savings over 20 years.

Even more disturbing is the fact that in no other recorded instances did the Navy discount or ignore graving docks, piers or other naval facilities currently under repair or renovation. It seems that SUBASE New London is the only facility to have been negatively affected by this data call change.

I ask that you give this issue your utmost consideration.

All the best,


Rob Simmons
Member of Congress
Second District, Connecticut



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

27 July 2005

The Honorable Robert R. Simmons
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Dear Congressman Simmons:

Received

This is in response to the July 24, 2005 inquiry made by Mr. Justin Bernier of your staff to CDR Mark Hochberg, U.S. Navy, of Navy Office of Legislative Affairs concerning changes to certified BRAC data related to the number of graving docks at Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut.

Question: On Page 3, Line 6 of attached PDF: Theresa Delgado, IAT certified 2 vice 3 graving docks in New London in late November 22, 2004. SUBASE certified 3 drydocks on July 9, 2004. Who is Ms. Delgado, and how can she be contacted?

The above-referenced PDF file contains the DONBITS change record document for SUBASE NEW LONDON CT's certified response to Data Call 2: Department of Navy MILVAL named "Changes_SUBASE_NEW_LONDON_CT_2005_06_29-DC2-DON.pdf".

SUBASE NEW LONDON's original certified response to question DoD 1006, "How many NAVSEA certified graving drydocks are in your natural harbor complex?", was three. SUBASE NEW LONDON's responses were subsequently reviewed by the Naval Audit Service. The Naval Audit Service reported a discrepancy in the response to DoD 1006 as follows:

DoD Question No. 1006, the supporting documentation does not accurately support the data call response of three certified graving drydocks. Our review of the support documentation shows that the activity only has two certified graving drydocks. SUBASELON personnel reported three because they have a total of three graving drydocks, however, only two were certified at the time the data call was issued. The remaining graving drydock needs repairs before it can be certified. Based on our review, the correct data call response should be two certified graving drydocks.

Upon receipt of the Naval Audit Service report, the Infrastructure Analysis Team (IAT) issued Discrepancy Data Call #1029 to SUBASE NEW LONDON CT. Data Call question DoD 1006 was included in this Discrepancy Data Call and, on November 15, 2004, SUBASE NEW LONDON CT provided a revised certified response that indicated two graving docks. The revised data was entered into the DONBITS system by Ms. Theresa Delgado, in her capacity as a SUBASE NEW LONDON CT DONBITS

Administrator. She is not a member of the IAT staff. Commander Stephen Skaw of SUBASE NEW LONDON CT certified the revised data on behalf of the activity. The data changes were subsequently certified by the entire chain of command.

I trust this information is responsive to your requirements. If we can be of further assistance, or if you would like to meet with me staff to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (703) 602-6500.

Sincerely,



for

Anne Rathmell Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy
for Base Realignment and Closure