

August 7, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Chairman
BRAC Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Re: Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Dear Chairman Principi,

I am pleased that your commission has had the opportunity to hear RADM Klem the former deputy commander for logistics, maintenance and industrial operations for Naval Sea Systems Command testify on the 19th of last month. RADM Klem was involved in developing the thought process that was refined by senior DoD personnel into the final BRAC recommendations. The contrast is interesting and instructive.

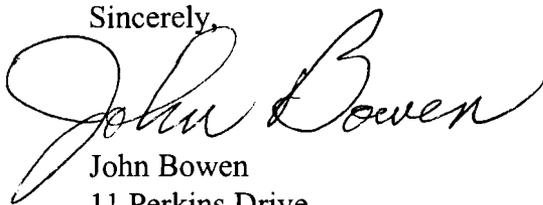
My long range concern on the recommendation to close Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is just outside of the BRAC regulation compliance issue and deals with the adequate number of SSNs in the future DoD inventory. The 30-year Shipbuilding Plan presented by the Navy to Congress on 23 March of this year has 37 to 45 SSNs in 2024 (depending on the end fleet size of 260 or 325 ships respectively) and continuing to decrease to 37 to 41 SSNs by 2035.

Over the past 10+ years most force level studies have indicated a need for 50-60 SSNs. As VADM Konetzni said in the BRAC Boston Regional Hearing the SSN has been the platform that has gathered several bits of information over recent years on China. Recently (6/13) the senior Submariner in the Navy VADM Munns testified to congress that today he has 50% more requests for services than the current stable of 54 SSNs can provide. The presumptions upon which the closure decision is based are bad for the country.

You have also seen indications in presentations at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and at the BRAC Regional Hearing in Boston of the poor compliance with the more direct BRAC requirements. I urge the Commission to vote to remove Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from the closure list. To do so early in the Commission's deliberations and with a unanimous vote would be appropriate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Bowen
11 Perkins Drive
York, ME 03909

BRAC Commission

AUG 11 2005

Received