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AUG 7 2005

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Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2005 6:45 PM
To: Davis, Anne R. SES DASN(ISA)
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Subject: BRAC Follow-up Clarification for Chairman Principi--New London visit, 31 May 05

Received

Ms. Davis,

We had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Principi and three commissioners in New London yesterday for BRAC discussions and tours. I am the Submarine Group Commander and the Navy Region Northeast Commander and from our perspective, the visit went well. Based upon a press release from the New London Day this morning, I do need to pass the following e-mail to Mr. Principi to clarify a discussion point from our visit to the VIRGINIA simulator at Naval Submarine School.

I would appreciate that you would pass this to Chairman Principi, thank you.

Very Respectfully, Mark

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss the New London Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations with you and your commissioners on Tuesday, 31 May 2005. We were honored by your visit and interest.

I wanted to clarify a point that I made to you and your commissioners during our tour of the Virginia Ship Control Operator Trainer (VSCOT) at the Submarine School. While I was discussing the submarine force plan for the early deployment of the USS VIRGINIA (SSN 774), our newest submarine, I failed to provide you with the specifics on why we can consider deploying the ship early.

General Dynamics Electric Boat Company is building the Virginia Class submarine in partnership with Northrop Grumman Newport News shipyard. The lead ship, USS VIRGINIA, was built at Groton. By utilizing the state of the art trainers and simulators at Submarine School in Groton, the Command and Control System Module Off Hull Assembly and Test Site (COATS) facility that is only at Electric Boat, and the COMSUBGRU TWO Readiness and Training Team in Groton, the USS VIRGINIA crew was able to achieve a high state of readiness by the time the ship was commissioned.

Due to the VIRGINIA crew's advanced readiness for operations at sea, the submarine force is pursuing an earlier deployment before VIRGINIA's Post Shipyard Availability (PSA). The PSA is a twelve-month follow-on maintenance period that historically precedes any ship's initial deployment. This early deployment would allow the Combatant Commander the service of a submarine; in this case the most capable and technologically advanced boat in the world, about eighteen months early.

The synergy in New London that was discussed during your visit certainly was a key factor in this process. I failed to clarify that similar case could be made at Northrop Grumman Newport News shipyard for the next Virginia class submarine that is under construction there. If the Submarine School trainers, the Electric Boat COATS facility and the readiness staffs were relocated in Norfolk, we would pursue similar efficiencies.

I apologize that I did not provide you a clearer perspective. Our goal is to provide operational availability to the war fighter sooner and we could conceivably expand this early deployment "proof of concept" to a Northrop Grumman Newport News submarine construction scenario if the appropriate testing and training assets were relocated to Norfolk.

Again thank you for your visit. I understand the tremendous responsibility you and your team have in making these difficult but crucial decisions. If you need any more information on this issue or have any other questions concerning your visit, we are standing by to support you.
Very Respectfully,

MARK W. KENNY

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