



DCN 8260  
**LEDYARD SENIOR CENTER**

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BRAC Commission

AUG 24 2005

Received

2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC)  
2521 South Clark Street  
Suite 600  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Committee Members,

The decision to close the Groton Sub Base is a daily topic of concern for many of the senior members of the Ledyard Senior Center. I suggested that they take a moment to write down what it would mean to them if the base closed and that I would forward their thoughts to you.

Enclosed are three letters that pretty much summarize the feelings of many Ledyard residents. These three letters are from an elderly senior citizen and her daughter and son-in-law with whom she lives with. Each writer's concerns are personal to them and their own situation.

The writers may be from different generations but are united in their beliefs that closing the Sub Base will significantly alter their way of life. They are all concerned for the community they live in, their neighbors, local businesses and the financial impact the closing could bring to this area. Most importantly they reflect the fear expressed by many seniors, that the closing would weaken the naval power and leave the northeast coast vulnerable.

Thank you for Consideration and may your decision give you peace of mind.

Sincerely,

Margaret Lathrop  
Municipal Agent/Senior Director

BRAO Commission  
AUG 24 2005  
Received

Ann Johnson  
108 Kennedy Hill Rd.  
Baker, Oregon 97005  
Aug. 13, 2005

Dear Sir or Madam,  
The way I am connected to the Suit-  
Base is through my daughter Billie Taylor  
and her husband Robert Taylor who I live  
with.

What ever happens if the base is closed  
will really hurt them and in turn it  
will hurt me also because I live with  
them.

By the Suit-Base is closed it will really  
affect a lot of families who will  
probably have to relocate somewhere  
else and that's all over.

The community will also suffer if  
the base closes as I am hoping that  
the ones in charge of the base closure  
committee will see that the Suit-Base  
Base is taken off the closure list.

Sincerely,  
Ann Johnson

BRAC Commission

AUG 24 2005

Received

Billie M. Gabriel  
108 Christy Hill RD  
Gales Ferry, CT. 06335  
July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to voice my opinion about the possible BRAC decision to close the Naval Submarine Base at Groton CT. This would be a bad choice on so many levels I don't know where to begin. First the economic impact of so many people losing their jobs and moving their families out of the area would be devastating. Being a homeowner I see my property values sinking to nothing, as no one would be around to buy houses, all the empty properties available would make it impossible to sell.

I would miss the presence so many uniforms around town, making it feel safe here. We are a small close knit community even though so many of us are Navy and have moved in from other areas. My husband Robert has almost forty years in service, ten active duty and the rest government service to the Navy, looking to retire soon. Even being military he has been at this address for over 20 years and has formed many lasting friendships. The area would not be the same without the base.

As for myself I would miss something as simple as hearing our National Anthem being played over the loud speakers at 8:00 each morning! We have so few chances anymore to witness anything patriotic in our country and this is just a small thing, but would be sorely missed.

And then of course is what to do with the base when its closed? Just another empty plot of land and coastline to clean up and HOPE someone would come in and bring another industry to us?? The empty Norwich state hospital shows us that isn't going to happen and it will be just a wasted plot of land with nothing on it, no people running it, and producing no income. Our subase has been here a long time, people depend on it for our safety, please leave it alone!!

Very truly yours...

*Billie M. Gabriel*

BILLIE M. GABRIEL

**AUG 24 2005**

Received

Robert B. Gabriel Jr.  
108 Christy Hill Rd.  
Gales Ferry, CT. 06335-1501

Dear Sir or Madame,

I have been a resident of Gales Ferry CT for the last 30+ years. I was a Sailor stationed here for several years of my career and have worked for the Navy both as a Contractor and a Government employee. During this time it has been a rewarding relationship. When I left the Navy I took a job that supported it and have followed that career path for the last 29 years. My satisfaction in my job is knowing that I am helping sailors who are like I was when I was in, good at my job but wanting an edge so I could do it better. I believe I bring that to the fleet. I admit I travel all over the world to help the fleet by taking my area of expertise to them. By having the Sub Base here however I find it much easier to interface with the ships stationed here and with the local squadrons especially COMSUBDEVRON 12 who is the development Squadron for the submarine force. I am often found interfacing with them on hardware requirements or capabilities and effective ways to exploit some of the capabilities available to them. A recent occurrence was a last minute requirement requested by the type commander that I was able to get done for him where if it was elsewhere it would not of happened. To move the Sub Base would damage the relationship as it would be to hard to just "Stop by" and discuss something and go down to a boat and see if there was a way to implement the idea.

On another note I have some serious reservations on the accuracy of what the costs would be to move the base and to consolidate the functions with Kings Bay GA and Norfolk VA. Being the "Victim" of a BRAC event when they consolidated the Sound Lab with Newport, I do not see how any money was saved and the process only served to chase the people with corporate history out and make us take a step back because we had to regroup to get back to where we were prior to the move. I mention this because some of the things we were working back then that got shelved because of events have resurfaced and we are now trying to tackle the same problems we had then without the corporate knowledge we had, there isn't any one telling us we tried that and this is what you have to do to get it to work. As a taxpayer I do not wish to spend my tax dollars again repeating efforts that have already occurred because we consolidated.

Thank you for your time.

V/R

Robert Gabriel

