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U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

August 16, 2005

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ROBERT L. SIMMONS, STAFF DIRECTOR

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

Dear Tony:

We are closely following the debate over the recommendation to close Naval Submarine Base (SUBASE) New London. In addition to reiterating our concern that closure of SUBASE New London would lock the Navy into a dangerously low submarine force level and cede valuable surge capacity, we write to express additional concerns about the accuracy of Navy cost estimates for closure of the base.

As you know, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the State of Connecticut recently released separate reports that call into question the Navy's cost and savings estimates for closure of SUBASE New London. GAO's review indicates that closure of the base will result in significantly less savings than estimated by the Navy, while the state's review predicts no savings in the next 100 years. These new reviews raise significant uncertainties about the Navy's cost analysis supporting the closure recommendation.

We continue to believe that the recommendation to close SUBASE New London does not meet selection criteria requirements to accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge, and future total force needs. In addition, the GAO and state reviews of SUBASE New London closure costs raise questions about whether the closure meets selection criteria requirements to consider the cost of operations, extent and timing of potential costs and savings, and the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration. We are also concerned that GAO found no evidence that the Navy considered in its analysis the possibility of additional costs to the service from disrupting the unique partnership between SUBASE New London and the Electric Boat Corporation. As such, we believe the Secretary's recommendation to close SUBASE New London substantially deviates from the selection criteria.

The 2005 BRAC round must result in fiscally responsible closure and realignment decisions that support the current and future requirements of our military forces. Not only would closure of SUBASE New London limit the contingency, mobilization, and surge capacity of our Navy, but it is now uncertain that closure of the base will result in any savings at all. Based upon these substantial deviations from the selection criteria, we urge you to reject the recommendation to close SUBASE New London.

With best wishes,



Duncan Hunter
Chairman



Roscoe Bartlett
Chairman, Projection Forces Subcommittee