



AUG 18 2005

Received

JIMMY CARTER

August 15, 2005

To Chairman Anthony J. Principi

I have just returned from King's Bay, where my wife and I enjoyed an overnight cruise on the USS JIMMY CARTER. As a former submariner, I obviously was thrilled, honored, and pleased to examine the superb support facilities in my home state. Although the decision to establish this extensive submarine base in Georgia was made while I was Commander-in-Chief, there was no political influence exerted from the White House. The decision was made on the merits of the base location, and those qualities are still evident.

As a Georgian and, at heart, a lifetime submariner, I would like to express my opinion about one of the key judgments that you and other BRAC members will have to make about the current Pentagon proposals.

My understanding is that the purpose of assessing possible changes is primarily to enhance the effectiveness of our military forces, and secondarily for possible cost savings. I don't profess to speak for other active and retired submariners, but I believe that, overwhelmingly, the consensus would be that transferring the submarine forces from New London would be militarily deleterious. Abandonment and rebuilding facilities would be disruptive, there would be a great loss of the services of civilian personnel who have devoted their lives to the submarine force, and the move might overly concentrate our forces. The long, narrow, and exposed access routes from shore bases to the open seas are always vulnerable to potential closing - by nature or saboteurs.

Without access to confidential data concerning projected cost savings, I understand that there will be immediate major expenditures, and that long-term savings are largely predicated on workforce reductions. This assumes that the number of military personnel would be reduced and that civilian employees in other locations would provide their services more efficiently. Both of these premises are doubtful.

King's Bay could certainly be expanded to accommodate a larger contingent of ships and personnel, and this region would welcome the additional jobs that may be transferred from Connecticut. However, I am concerned about the adverse economic impact on the New London area, the abandonment of a huge installation of facilities, and, less quantitatively, a loss of some of the proud submariners' heritage of our historic association with service and training in New London.

I appreciate your considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Carter".

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

cc: Base Realignment and Closure Commission members