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MULVEY, OLIVER, GOULD & CROTTA Received
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

KENNETH J. MULVEY, JR.

ROBERT G. OLIVER

DAVID J. CROTTA, JR.

JAMES M. HYLAND

FRANCIS J. DRUMM, III

JAMES D. HINE, II

83 TRUMBULL STREET

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06511-3774

TELEPHONE (203) 624-5111

FACSIMILE (203) 789-8371

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CAROLYN P. GOULD
OF COUNSEL

Hon. Anthony Principi
Chairman
2005 Base Closure and
Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Although you and your commission are surely being inundated with state and community input, may I, as a retired Naval Reservist, submit one man's point of view on certain of the DOD recommendations?

As to the Groton Submarine Base, first and foremost, I commend to your commission the thoughtful presentation by VADM Konetzni. The nuclear submarine force has an essential role to play in national security now and in the decades ahead. Maintaining this Base will help sustain this role. This Base has valuable and costly infrastructure built up over many years, including the SubSchool, piers and shore facilities, housing and support facilities, most which would have to be duplicated anew at great expense in Kings Bay or even Norfolk. In addition, it has the unique close geographic and logistical connection with EB. Closing the Base will destroy this connection and inevitably lead to the impairment of the industrial base.

Another strength of this Base is its service to and support by the retired military community. I understand well in excess of 10,000 retirees (and their families) from all branches use and are served by the PSD, medical, dental, commissary, exchange, MWR and other activities aboard the Base. This is a strength I have not seen mentioned in the press but an impact which I understand to be part of the congressional criteria.

The Base is also a valuable military defense presence in

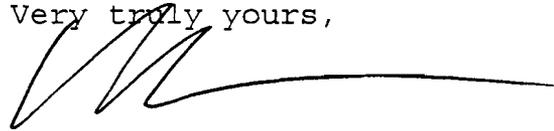
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Southern New England, a beacon for our national defense. Recommended, it may be the only operating line command left in New England of any substance (as opposed to training and education) if the other DOD BRAC submissions were to be accepted. Concentrating our naval assets in only one or two locations on the East Coast seems contrary to good planning in an age of terrorist activity.

Finally, a comment on the extent of the proposed closures of reserve centers, especially in the mid and far west: Although I have been retired now for 10 years, I am not so far removed as to forget the travel constraints vast distances placed upon our reserve programs away from the coasts, particularly for enlisted members. It would be a shame to close too many centers for short term savings and then lose the long term benefits of enlistments and reenlistments and skilled and real time training resulting from the convenient presence of naval/military facilities in mid-America.

Thank you for your consideration and my best wishes with this very difficult and critical task.

Very truly yours,



ROBERT G. OLIVER
CAPT, JAGC, USNR (RET)

RGO/dz