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BRAC Commission
2521 S. Clark Street
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Gentlemen and Ladies:

As a civilian contractor and a small business owner currently working under a contract with SPAWAR Systems Center, San Diego, (SSC-SD), we provide engineering support services in support of the Ocean Survey Program (OSP). This program has been identified for realignment to Newport RI, as part of BRAC 2005. Based on the information and criteria used to identify the Ocean Survey Program (OSP) for realignment, it has been determined that this program was incorrectly identified and an official (dated 19 May 2005) reclama was issued from SSC-SD to remove the program from the BRAC list.

The end product of the OSP System is bathymetric navigation data that is provided by the UK to the US and UK TRIDENT submarine fleets. Therefore, the present miscategorization of the OSP Program as a subsurface maritime sensor or as a sensor system for electronic warfare is clearly inaccurate and incorrect.

In addition, the OSP is a foreign military sales (FMS) program, totally funded by the United Kingdom under the US/UK Polaris Sales Agreement and is administered by the Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) Office. Because the OSP is so vital to the UK TRIDENT submarine fleet, the UK Ministry of Defence has gone on record stating that it is their intent to fund SSC -SD to provide continued support of this program for another 15 to 20 years. As an FMS program the UK totally funds all labor, procurements, travel, facilities fees and all FMS surcharges. In addition, the UK provides the US, at no charge, critical bathymetric navigation data used by the US FBM fleet. Therefore, no cost savings can be achieved through implementation of this proposed realignment of the OSP. In fact, there will be a significant cost to the US to implement this action as it would require the relocation and reconstitution of a 3000 square foot special technical laboratory, at an estimated cost to the US of 25 million dollars and relocation costs for all personnel that would be willing to transfer to Newport.

If this realignment were to go forward, it is our belief that it would present a great strain and difficulty to the long standing (since 1963) agreement between the US and the UK regarding sharing of bathymetric data, and risk that valuable data would be denied to the US TRIDENT submarines.

Also, in these modern times when the United States has few allies, it seems unfair treatment for our best ally, the United Kingdom.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Dino E. Mancini
President

DEM/cam