

Date August 21, 2005

Dear BRAC Commission Members,

I respectfully ask you to reverse the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense regarding closure of the New London Sub Base.

This base is an integral part of our community in southeastern Connecticut. The negative impact of closure on our local and state economy far exceeds the documented benefit to relocate our defense installations.

Thank you for your work and your consideration.

Sincerely,

BRAC Commission

Name Judith M. Spitz

AUG 24 2005

Signature Judith M. Spitz

Received

Address 158 Gallup Lane

City Waterford

State CT Zip 06385

AUG 24 2005

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Dear Sirs and Madam;

Received

After watching hearings, reading articles and listening to commentaries concerning base closures, I feel obliged to add my two cents to the argument.

Yes, I will admit that there is a lot of emotion and sentiment attached to Sub Base New London. However as a Navy wife of 17 years, married to a prior enlisted sailor who now has 27 years of service, I feel I have the right to voice an opinion that seems to be missing from the debates. And that opinion is that the hardest job in the Navy is to be the wife of a Navy submariner. Our spouses leave for up to six months at a time with little or no correspondence with home and we are left to a widow's life; doing it all for our families and, yes our country as well.

I understand that the actual numbers of personnel are small in this warfare community, but those of us left behind when the submarines deploy have banded together to support each other. This does not happen in any civilian community; spouses forming support groups with no other common interest than their husbands work together. These ladies form life long bonds, are there for each other to help out with childcare, car troubles, whatever the need, no matter what hour of the day or night.

My navy family has served at Bangor, Norfolk and Groton. The Family Support Groups are strongest at Bangor and Groton where the base is dedicated to the submarine force. At these bases the family issues pertaining to submarines can be addressed easier and the spouses are all going through the same thing. Unlike surface Navy ships, submarines do not get mail or have phones and e-mail is not always available. Therefore the wife (and mother) left at home is left on her own. This is not like being divorced or widowed because the spouse would make changes; instead the wife left at home tries to be both wife and husband (and father) in her sailor's absence.

In reading the BRAC report, I do not see this issue addressed. By moving the Groton facilities to other larger bases, the wives (the sailor's support at home) and families will become marginalized losing their support and in the long run the Navy will loss their best sailors because their spouses will not support this decision.

I would like to additionally add a word of support to the Navy Shipyard in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Many families have endured the separation brought on by the long maintenance and repair periods-- living in Groton while the sailor commutes to the repair facility for the weeks at a time to avoid uprooting the family from schools, friends and/or jobs. My husband has always spoken highly of the repair facility and its personnel, military and civilian. The two facilities seem to work well together, and this is another area I have not seen discussed in the BRAC report.

I hope you will make the decision to remove Sub Base New London from the BRAC list.

Sincerely,



Deborah G. Green  
US Navy spouse

534 MOUNTAIN ROAD  
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06117  
AUGUST 21, 2005

THE HONORABLE ANTHONY J. PRINCIPA, CHAIRMAN  
BRAC COMMISSION  
2521 CLARK STREET, SUITE 600  
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

BRAC Commission

AUG 24 2005

Received

DEAR CHAIRMAN PRINCIPA,

THE POTENTIAL CLOSING OF THE SUB-BASE IN GROTON, CT IS VERY  
TROUBLING TO ME. UNTIL THIS DATE I HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ADDRESS MY  
CONCERNS, SINCE I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO WRITE, BUT TODAY'S HARTFORD  
COURANT PUBLISHED THIS ADDRESS, HOPEFULLY, IT WILL NOT BE TOO LATE  
TO EXPRESS MY THOUGHTS.

THIS SUB-BASE CURRENTLY HOUSES THE ONLY HOSPITAL CONVENIENTLY  
AVAILABLE TO RETIRED PERSONNEL. I ASSUME THAT THE CLOSURE OF  
THIS BASE WOULD ALSO MEAN THE CLOSURE OF THIS FACILITY.

AS A 21 YEAR RETIRED MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY,  
I AM CONCERNED THAT THE CLOSURE OF THIS BASE, WILL CAUSE A LASTING  
AND SIGNIFICANT HANDSHIP, NOT ONLY ON OUR MILITARY POSTURE, BUT  
ON THE LIVES OF ALL OF US WHO HAVE COMMITTED A SIGNIFICANT  
PORTION OF OUR LIVES SERVING THIS NATION.

Sincerely,  
DAVID E. KRUM  
196, USAR, RETIRED

