

06102005

63 Hunting Ridge Drive
Mystic, Connecticut, 06355
4 June 2005

The Honorable James V. Hansen
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Hansen:

First, I respect and have been impressed by the sincere, intensive effort that your statements regarding your task as a member of the BRAC Commission have reflected.

As a 5-year resident of Mystic, Connecticut, I have learned that our submarine base in Groton is part of the heart of and essential to the economy of each member of the surrounding communities. On my first trip to look for a home in Connecticut, I saw the sign on I-95 "The Submarine Capital of the World," and my husband and I took part of that short weekend to visit the SSN Nautilus.

I am a patriot, and an ardent supporter of all branches of our military. Since I've lived in Mystic, I've made it my business to educate myself particularly about the US Navy: its history, heroes, its history, heroes, traditions, missions, and its developing weaponry. Because I am temporarily disabled, I cannot work. I have volunteered for a year now at the Subbase, as a member of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society. Daily, I see Sailors, many of them submariners, and their families. Some have become personal friends. I proudly hold my hand over my heart as Sailors turn toward the nearest flag and salute it as our national anthem is played each morning at 8:00 AM. The respect, helpfulness, professionalism, and pleasantness with which sailors have consistently treated me has surpassed anything that I expected before I worked at the base. These men and women have earned the admiration I formerly felt for all active duty, veterans, and retired military members.

I realize that I've inadvertently give you my first reason for requesting that you recommend that our Subbase be kept open: that is, we are Navy towns. Each citizen quickly absorbs this awareness and pride; it is reflected in the names of our streets and businesses, even one so small as the Nautilus Barbershop. Our Sailors contribute their services to the community; for example, recently, Sub School Sailors volunteered a day of their off-duty time to assist in the refurbishment of New London's Women's Center facade. Our Sailors provide a sense of security and pride that I've never before experienced. In way too numerous to list, they enrich us by their presence. I realize that would be true wherever our military are based. In no way does the Groton area have a *right* to these privileges. We do, though, cherish and appreciate our Sailors and, in turn, wholeheartedly offer respect, financial discounts, and our own funds and labor. I believe that our one hundred years of mutual assistance counts for something.

My next three reasons are for requesting that you recommend that the US Naval Submarine Base NLON remain here are:

1. Submarines are effective for Special Operations troop transport, surveillance, intelligence gathering, defense, and combat that is needed for the kinds of enemies we are now and will be protecting our country from and fighting. Subs such as the SSN Jimmy Carter have been retrofitted and classes such as the Virginia developed by the Navy and Electric Boat [of General Dynamics], the country's premier, experienced submarine contractor. Billions of development dollars have been spent to produce these ships, and millions more to train Sailors to command and man them. It is vital for the defense of our country that our fleet of submarines and our force of submariners be maintained and enhanced. Groton has one hundred years of experience in

doing that. Of course, continual assessing of fleet size in relation to our country's need is necessary. I believe that can be done without the financial upheaval and expenditure that a move from Groton will entail.

2. Positioned on the North Atlantic coast, Groton's submarines can travel both the Atlantic, and, by sailing under the polar icecap, the Pacific oceans to expeditiously reach any destination throughout the world.
3. The effect that moving the Subbase from Groton would have on the local economy will be devastating. Accurate figures, [which I realize that you, more than I, have gathered] suggest that in the absence of the approximately 7500 military and 1500 civilians directly employed at the base, local businesses would suffer to the equivalent of approximately 30,000 jobs lost. My own husband, who works for Honeywell, won't lose his job. However, our property value will decrease and taxes increase, as will the array of business and cultural resources available to us. My request to you, though, is not based on our personal income and standard of living. I'm writing from my concern, my *heartache*, for those other thousands of persons who *will* lose their jobs, their homes, their ability to work in their own trades and professions at the income level they have earned through their years of sweat. I'm writing for the long-time Connecticut residents who will be forced to move to other cities and states, leaving behind the area that they love, their families, their friends, and their Sailors. I'm writing for the people who will enter the public assistance rolls, who will suffer economic and mental anguish. I'm writing for parents who will no longer be able to provide their children with the necessities of life or with the educational and cultural opportunities that will make for a better future for those children.

Sir, you served in the Navy. I hope that you have realized what you have meant to the persons in the communities of your bases and your ports of call on your deployments. You are excellently qualified to assess how best to organize and develop tomorrow's military. You may wisely choose to recommend that our Subbase be closed. I truly believe that you will make your recommendations based on what will serve the good of our country. I ask only that you hear my request. By providing information and inviting us to contact you, you have ensured that you will.

Sincerely,



C. Joanne Atkinson

00102005
63 Hanging Ridge Drive
Mystic, Connecticut, 06355
4 June 2005

General Lloyd W. Newton
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear General Newton:

First, I respect and have been impressed by the sincere, intensive effort that your statements regarding your task as a member of the BRAC Commission have reflected.

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Sir, you served, as a United States Air Force officer. You piloted our country's most technologically developed aircraft. I hope that you have realized what you have meant to those of us praying for you at home and to the civilians in the communities of your bases. You held key positions of high command—you are excellently qualified to assess how best to organize and develop tomorrow's military. General, you have the facts and figures. You may wisely choose to recommend that our Subbase be closed. I truly believe that you will make your recommendations based on what will serve the good of our country. I ask only that you hear my request. By providing information and inviting us to contact you, you have ensured that you will.

Sincerely,



C. Joanne Atkinson

08102005
63 Hunting Ridge Drive
Mystic, Connecticut, 06355
4 June 2005

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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Dear Mr. Skinner:

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Sir, you served in the Illinois National Guard and the United States Army Reserve at a time that our country was in great turmoil. I hope that you have realized what you have meant to those of us praying for you and to the persons in the communities of your postings. You held positions of extraordinarily high responsibility for an administration that won us a war. You are excellently qualified to assess how best to organize and develop tomorrow's military. You may wisely choose to recommend that our Subase be closed. Mr. Skinner, you have the facts and figures. I truly believe that you will make your recommendations based on what will serve the good of our country. I ask only that you hear my request. By providing information and inviting us to contact you, you have ensured that you will.

Sincerely,



C. Joanne Atkinson

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63 Hunting Ridge Drive
Mystic, Connecticut, 06355
4 June 2005

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Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr.
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Admiral Gehman:

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Sir, you served in the United States Navy for thirty-five years. I hope that you have realized what you have meant to the civilians in the communities of your bases and your ports of call on your deployments. As an Admiral, you held key positions of extremely high levels of command—you are in a unique position to assess how best to organize and develop tomorrow's military. You may wisely choose to recommend that our Subbase be closed. I truly believe that you will make your recommendations based on what will serve the good of our country. I ask only that you hear my request. By providing information and inviting us to contact you, you have ensured that you will.

Sincerely,



C. Joanne Atkinson

06102005

63 Hunting Ridge Drive
Mystic, Connecticut, 06355
4 June 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Chairman:

First, I respect and have been impressed by the sincere, intensive effort that your statements regarding your task as the chairman of the BRAC Commission have reflected.

06102005

As a 5-year resident of Mystic, Connecticut, I have learned that our submarine base in Groton is part of the heart of and essential to the economy of each member of the surrounding communities. On my first trip to look for a home in Connecticut, I saw the sign on I-95 "The Submarine Capital of the World," and my husband and I took part of that short weekend to visit the SSN Nautilus.

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Sir, you attended the U.S. Naval Academy in my home State of Maryland. You were a Navy officer who fought for us. I hope that you have realized what you have meant to those of us praying for you at home and to the persons in the communities of your bases and your ports of call on your deployments. Mr. Chairman, you have the facts and figures. You are excellently qualified to assess how best to organize and develop tomorrow's military. You may wisely choose to recommend that our Subase be closed. I truly believe that you will make your recommendations based on what will serve the good of our country. I ask only that you hear my request. By providing information and inviting us to contact you, you have ensured that you will.

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C. Joanne Atkinson

63 Hunting Ridge Drive
Mystic, Connecticut, 06355
4 June 2005



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General Sue E. Turner
2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

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2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear General Hill:

First, I respect and have been impressed by the sincere, intensive effort that your statements regarding your task as a member of the BRAC Commission have reflected.

As a 5-year resident of Mystic, Connecticut, I have learned that our submarine base in Groton is part of the heart of and essential to the economy of each member of the surrounding communities. On my first trip to look for a home in Connecticut, I saw the sign on I-95 "The Submarine Capital of the World," and my husband and I took part of that short weekend to visit the SSN Nautilus.

I am a patriot, and an ardent supporter of all branches of our military. Since I've lived in Mystic, I've made it my business to educate myself particularly about the US Navy: its history, heroes, its history, heroes, traditions, missions, and its developing weaponry. Because I am temporarily disabled, I cannot work. I have volunteered for a year now at the Subbase, as a member of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society. Daily, I see Sailors, many of them submariners, and their families. Some have become personal friends. I proudly hold my hand over my heart as Sailors turn toward the nearest flag and salute it as our national anthem is played each morning at 8:00 AM. The respect, helpfulness, professionalism, and pleasantness with which sailors have consistently treated me has surpassed anything that I expected before I worked at the base. These men and women have earned the admiration I formerly felt for all active duty, veterans, and retired military members.

I realize that I've inadvertently give you my first reason for requesting that you recommend that our Subbase be kept open: that is, we are Navy towns. Each citizen quickly absorbs this awareness and pride; it is reflected in the names of our streets and businesses, even one so small as the Nautilus Barbershop. Our Sailors contribute their services to the community; for example, recently, Sub School Sailors volunteered a day of their off-duty time to assist in the refurbishment of New London's Women's Center facade. Our Sailors provide a sense of security and pride that I've never before experienced. In way too numerous to list, they enrich us by their presence. I realize that would be true wherever our military are based. In no way does the Groton area have a *right* to these privileges. We do, though, cherish and appreciate our Sailors and, in turn, wholeheartedly offer respect, financial discounts, and our own funds and labor. I believe that our one hundred years of mutual assistance counts for something.

My next three reasons are for requesting that you recommend that the US Naval Submarine Base NLON remain here are:

1. Submarines are effective for Special Operations troop transport, surveillance, intelligence gathering, defense, and combat that is needed for the kinds of enemies we are now and will be protecting our country from and fighting. Subs such as the SSN Jimmy Carter have been retrofitted and classes such as the Virginia developed by the Navy and Electric Boat [of General Dynamics], the country's premier, experienced submarine contractor. Billions of development dollars have been spent to produce these ships, and millions more to train Sailors to command and man them. It is vital for the defense of our country that our fleet of submarines and our force of submariners be maintained and enhanced. Groton has one hundred years of experience in

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