



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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DCN 3729

27 June 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

This is in response to your recent inquiry (HJT #6) concerning the relocation of the Naval Submarine School from Naval Submarine Base New London, CT to Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA. This response has been coordinated with Commander, Naval Installations and the Commander, Navy Education and Training Command.

The inquiry asked that we "describe how the functions of the Submarine School will be supported during the transition of the school from New London to Kings Bay. There is an apparent gap between the school shutdown, equipment removal, transport and reinstallation at Kings Bay that could have a significant time/quality impact on student throughput."

The relocation of Naval Submarine School instructors, training materials, and trainers, from Naval Submarine Base New London to Submarine Base Kings Bay will follow an integrated strategy that will support the type, priority, and complexity of training functions assigned to the school. Timing of the shift of training functions will be integrated with, and is fully dependent on, the timely completion of required BRAC Construction (BRACON) training support projects, recommended SSN relocations, and historical student throughput cycles. The strategy will be applied to two general areas of training responsibilities assigned to the school: Individual replacement operator training for officers and enlisted and Fleet/team training support for Naval Submarine Base New London homeported SSNs.

1. Individual replacement operator training support. Advanced individual replacement operator training (classified as Journeyman and Master-level training) will be relocated first. The student population for these courses is smaller, requires fewer instructors, and is more senior allowing for the option to employ off-base housing. Initial enlisted skills training will be moved after adequate school capacity and additional barracks are constructed. To help reduce any adverse impact on this training function, seasonal student loading variances (tied to summer recruitments) will be exploited at times of lower student populations as well as adjusting student course loading prior to the relocation periods. Escape training, which is a required part of the initial skills training for enlisted and officers, will need to be conducted at Naval Submarine Base New

London until construction of a new vertical ascent escape dive tower is completed at Submarine Base Kings Bay. Officer training will be also be shifted later in the relocation timeline as officer instructors support Fleet and team training and will, therefore, be required to support the homeported SSNs until their relocation. As part of the general strategy, the existing trainers at the Kings Bay Trident Training Facility will be employed when possible by adding additional training periods to the existing schedules.

2. Fleet/Team training support. Recommended SSN relocations to Submarine Base Kings Bay will be supported by moving selected team trainers, upgrading existing trainers and relocating additional SSN experienced instructors. Recommended SSN relocations to Naval Station Norfolk will be sequenced following the completion of additional infrastructure modifications to the existing Naval Station Norfolk training facility, the movement of team trainers, upgrading existing trainers and reassignment of instructors. Close coordination of SSN employment schedules, as well as the temporary assignment of instructors, will be used to ensure training support during the recommended relocation periods.

The sequence of construction, movement of operational assets and establishment of continuum of training are important to the transition and will be a primary focus of the implementation team (implementation of this recommendation is spread across the implementation period FY 2008 through FY 2011). Although somewhat complex, Navy feels confident in its ability to effect the recommendations without loss of capability/competency of the submarine force.

I trust this information satisfactorily addresses your concerns. If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Anne Rathmell Davis
Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy
For Base Realignment and Closure