

SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
27TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MINORITY, MILITARY
READINESS
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

DISTRICT OFFICES:
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Washington, DC 20515-4327 BRAC Commission

RESOURCES

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BROWNSVILLE, TX 78521
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August 1, 2005

AUG 03 2005

SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
FISHERIES, CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE,
AND OCEANS

Received

Chairman Anthony Principi
Members of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 S. Clark St., Ste. 600
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

Thank you for your steady hand and careful judgment as you deliberate the fate of U.S. bases on the Department of Defense's (DoD) Base Realignment and Closure list, and recent additions to that list.

Following the Regional Hearing in San Antonio, Texas, and the site visits by General James Hill and Chairman Principi, I hope the Commission is hearing a broader explanation of the strategic military importance of the South Texas Area Military Complex (which includes Naval Station Ingleside [NSI], Naval Air Station Corpus Christi [NASCC], Navy Region South [NRS], Corpus Christi Army Depot [CCAD] and Naval Air Station Kingsville [NASK] ... as well as the Strategic Military Seaport designation at the Port of Corpus Christi and outlying airfields associated with the Naval Air Stations).

This is to formally transmit the enclosed official resolutions passed by local governments in the South Texas area specifically for your perusal as you examine the wisdom of the DoD's decision to close Naval Station Ingleside and disestablish the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence. We are extremely grateful to Commissioner Hill and Chairman Principi for their recent site visits to NSI and South Texas; but we are also look forward to hosting the other commissioners who have committed to personally visit NSI before casting a vote on the matter later this month.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of the nation; and thank you for your impartiality in these matters. We feel confident that the Commission will determine that the DoD substantially deviated from the BRAC criteria when recommending the closure of NSI, and the realignment of NASCC, NRS and CCAD. With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Solomon P. Ortiz
Member of Congress

SPO:ct

Enclosures

Resolution

AUG 03 2005

No. 061405

received

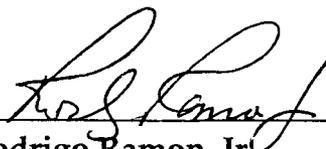
Whereas, the governing body of the City of Robstown supports the Mission of the AMERICANS UNITED FOR GULF SECURITY, which summons unto provide a base for community support for the ongoing effort from now through September to persuade the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) that the military value of Naval Station Ingleside (NSI) and the associated bases and missions is too unique (and too valuable for the defense of the United States) to close and as a result the AMERICANS UNITED FOR GULF SECURITY shall petition the signatures of every resident of the Coastal Bend to negate any closure of NSI; and join in support of the local community efforts and the South Texas Military Facilities Task Force in maintaining the effort to save our bases until the BRAC Commissioners make a final decision in September; and

Whereas, the governing body of Robstown acknowledges the value of the Naval Station Ingleside as one of the newest bases with modern facilities at low operating and maintenance costs and representing an opportunity to disperse naval forces away from fleet concentration areas on the East and West coasts and most importantly, is free from land and air encroachment; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City of Robstown respectfully requests the Base Closure Commissioners hold a hearing in the Coastal Bend to see the facility first hand, and

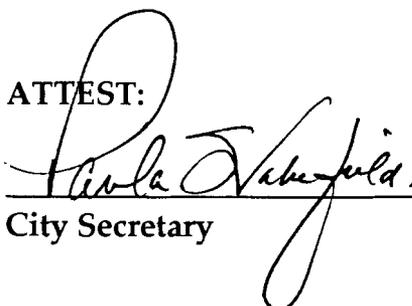
Further Resolve that the City of Robstown strongly supports the efforts of the Base Closure Commissioners to reasonably evaluate the unique assets of Naval Station Ingleside and remove it from the list of bases for closure or realignment.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 13th Day of June, 2005



Rodrigo Ramon, Jr.
Mayor of Robstown
A Texas Yes! City

ATTEST:



City Secretary

**Importance of Naval Station Ingleside
to Ingleside Independent School District
Resolution #126-06-05**

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

Ingleside is the only deep-water Navy port in the Gulf of Mexico, and ideally located to support present and future Navy and Coast Guard anti-terror efforts, and

Naval Station Ingleside is the home of the only Mine Warfare Center of Excellence in the U.S. Navy which cannot be replicated, and

With a demanding presence, the highly visible Navy sends a deterrent signal to foreign terrorists who could be tempted to attack area refineries, and

With all of the turmoil that we face today, the U.S. needs to protect its shores, its water ports, and prevent terrorist attacks in an effort to secure our values, and

NSI can accommodate growth which promotes our defense against terrorist efforts in the Gulf of Mexico and southern hemisphere, and

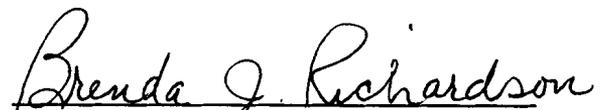
Sailors and Marines deeply appreciate the South Texas "Navy Country" attitude, and

NSI and the surrounding community have added substantively and substantially to create better and cheaper living quarters, making NSI a preferred Station for U.S. Navy Sailors, and

Be It Resolved: that the Ingleside Independent School District will greatly appreciate the support of the BRAC commissioners in holding a full BRAC commission hearing in the Corpus Christi area to see the military value of Naval Station Ingleside, and

Be It Further Resolved: that the Ingleside Independent School District encourages the BRAC Commissioners to reconsider the recommended closure of Naval Station Ingleside in an effort to protect the Gulf Coast of Texas from possible terrorist activities.


President, Board of Trustees


Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: June 28, 2005

RECEIVED

JUL 11 2005

Solomon P. Ortiz, M.C.
Texas - 27



BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

BRAC Commission

AUG 03 2005

Received

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING NAVAL STATION INGLESIDE AS AN ACTIVE-DUTY DOD INSTALLATION

Whereas, The Port of Corpus Christi supports the international trade and commerce of the United States of America as the nations 5th largest tonnage seaport; and

Whereas, the Gulf of Mexico serves as the major body of water meeting the nation's vital energy needs, serves as the supermarket and food supplier to much of the world, and on it's productive shores are eight of the nation's top ten seaports in total tonnage handled; and

Whereas, the Authority has long supported the United States Navy, played a key role in the establishment of Naval Station Ingleside, and has provided continuous and steadfast support to the Navy's critical mission there since it's inception; and

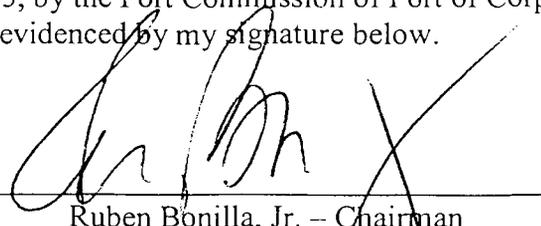
Whereas, The Port of Corpus Christi has become a major military strategic deployment seaport for the Department of Defense playing a critical role in the sealift of military equipment of all the nation's services being used in the ongoing war on terrorism; and

Whereas, Naval Station Ingleside and the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence are not only vital to our nation's military strategy but also, because of their presence on Corpus Christi Bay, contribute to Homeland Security along the entire U.S. Gulf Coast and to the protection of commercial shipping as well as all U.S. military forces deploying through the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, the Port of Corpus Christi Authority and the greater community is eternally grateful to all the members of the United States Navy who serve this great country at Naval Station, Ingleside Texas and have embraced them and their families as valued members of our community;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved, that the Commission and all the employees of the Port of Corpus Christi Authority in Nueces and San Patricio Counties, Texas, hereby adopt this resolution and commit our steadfast and unwavering support for the continued operation of Naval Station Ingleside and the Mine Warfare Center of Excellence as critical in support of our national defense and vital to the well being of the entire Coastal Bend community.

Unanimously adopted this 14th day of June 2005, by the Port Commission of Port of Corpus Christi Authority of Nueces County, Texas, as evidenced by my signature below.



Ruben Bonilla, Jr. – Chairman

AUG 03 2005

Received



RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING OUR TEXAS MILITARY BASES

WHEREAS, the Texas Ports Association represents 16 deepwater and shallow-draft ports between the Sabine River and the Rio Grande Valley which support the international trade and commerce of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense and Maritime Administration have designated the Texas seaports of Corpus Christi and Beaumont as the Strategic Military Deployment Seaports for the Gulf Coast. Texas' strategic seaports play a major role in responding to national defense priorities; and

WHEREAS, Corpus Christi and Beaumont handled over 150 ships in support of our military troops and approximately 50% of all military equipment moved through U.S. seaports has passed through Texas.

WHEREAS, the Texas Ports Association and its communities seek to partner with the State of Texas and federal officials to protect our Texas military bases from BRAC closure; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Ports Association is prepared to assist Governor Rick Perry's BRAC Response Strike Force by providing accurate information to BRAC leaders to ensure a fair decision is made; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Texas Ports Association that it endorses and supports the continued operation of our Texas military bases as essential assets for our U.S. military and the future of our nation.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of June, 2005.

By 
David C. Fisher, President
Texas Ports Association

AUG 03 2005

Received

COMMISSIONERS' COURT

THE STATE OF TEXAS

SAN PATRICIO COUNTY

PENTAGON DECISION IN BRAC FLAWED

Whereas, the decision by the Pentagon to disregard security concerns and fulfillment of a special Navy function (mine warfare) in favor of budgetary concerns only, making all of us less safe in our current war, and

Whereas, closing Naval Station Ingleside would represent a substantial deviation from the required BRAC criteria and process, and

Whereas, recent statements by Adm. Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operation, regarding the basis for Navy recommendations include references to financial concerns over security concerns, ("In other words, I'm not remotely interested in changes that don't produce money..." - Jan. 2005), and

Whereas, the budget focus on BRAC did not evaluate joint use missions in support of Homeland Defense and the Global War on Terrorism missions, and

Whereas, the Pentagon did not consider Coastal Insertion Training Detachment of SEALs to address limitations with regard to East and West coast training, and

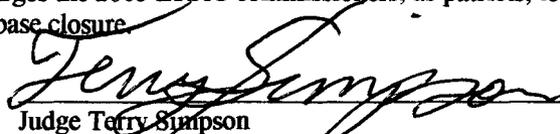
Whereas, the Pentagon analysis in justifying closing Naval Station Ingleside appears to focus narrowly on the Navy's calculation of excess pier capacity, but that is the wrong criteria, and

Whereas, an important military value to be considered in this process is: "The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, surge and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training,"

Be It Resolved that San Patricio County urges the Base Closure Commission to hold a hearing in the Corpus Christi area so they can each personally evaluate the value of NSI to the nation, and

Be It Resolved San Patricio County believes the Pentagon, in placing Naval Station Ingleside on the base closure list, did not come to that conclusion based on the criteria they were bound to follow and paid more attention to overall budgetary concern than urge national security concerns in adding NSI to the BRAC list for 1005, and

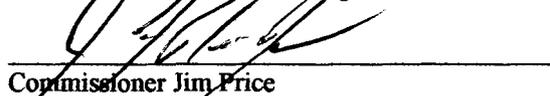
Therefore Be it Resolved that San Patricio County strongly urges the 2005 BRAC commissioners, as patriots, to remove NSI from the list of Pentagon recommendations for base closure.


Judge Terry Simpson


Commissioner Nina Trevino


Commissioner Fred Nardin


Commissioner Pedro G. Rodriguez


Commissioner Jim Price

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AUG 03 2005

NAVAL STATION INGLESIDE RESOLUTION

Whereas, the United States of America is currently involved in a war on terrorism, the closing of Naval Station Ingleside could only be a disadvantage to this war on terrorism where all military resources should be used to provide training and supplies for our troops, and

Whereas, citizens of the Gulf Coast area deserve to be protected from, and feel safe from attacks on this highly strategic area, and

Whereas, the Gulf Coast area would become highly vulnerable to terrorist attacks because of the major ports and major petroleum refineries located in these gulf ports and those oil production platforms in the Northern Gulf of Mexico, and

Whereas, Deputy-Secretary James Loy of the Department of Homeland Security warns that Texas must be cautious about the international border with Mexico because of the possibility that Al Queda and other terrorist groups could come into the United States from Mexico, and

Whereas, Naval Station Ingleside sustains an exclusive and unique mission that is highly valuable to the war on terrorism, and

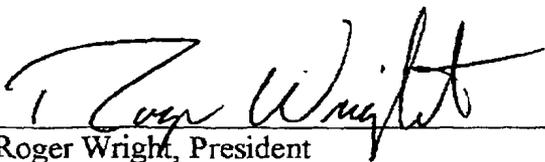
Whereas, Naval Station Ingleside houses an underwater mine warfare range, a unique facility that closely resembles the climate and conditions of the Persian Gulf, which would be impossible to recreate elsewhere, making this indispensable to the United States war effort,

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Ingleside Chamber of Commerce respectfully advises the Base Closure Commission to recognize the ill-timing of the proposed closure of Naval Station Ingleside, and

Further Resolved, that the Ingleside Chamber of Commerce strongly requests that the Base Closure Commission hold a hearing on base closure proposals in Ingleside to see the unique infrastructure and extraordinary military value of Naval Station Ingleside, and

Further Resolved, that the Ingleside Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests the Base Closure Commission remove Naval Station Ingleside from the Department of Defense list of recommended base closures.

Dated this 14th day of June, 2005 at Ingleside, Texas.



Roger Wright, President

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF PORT ARANSAS **AUG 03 2005**
SUPPORTS THAT NAVAL STATION INGLESIDE
INFRASTRUCTURE IS NATIONAL SECURITY ASSET *Received*

WHEREAS, Naval Station Ingleside (NSI) is located strategically on the Gulf Coast, about 150 miles south of San Antonio, and approximately 200 miles south of Houston; and

WHEREAS, the Naval Station is ideally situated astride the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, which links Corpus Christi with the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, NSI has a very modern and very capable, state of the art waterfront which cannot be replicated else; and

WHEREAS, NSI was originally constructed to accommodate a Battle Group composed of a battleship, a large aircraft carrier, and several smaller vessels, so it can berth almost any Naval ship or sub; and

WHEREAS, NSI provides security to the movement of military supplies out of Texas and to the battlefield (through the Port of Corpus Christi); and

WHEREAS, Infrastructure at NSI includes a 1,100 foot pier with a deck height of 23.5 feet above mean tide level with additional berthing space provided along two quay walls, both 13.5 feet above mean water; and

WHEREAS, Project depths are 45 feet for the east basin and 35 feet for the west basin; and

WHEREAS, Naval Station Ingleside, Texas is located near 27°49'N 97°12'W on the north side of Corpus Christi Bay adjacent to Corpus Christi Ship Channel on the north side of Corpus Christi Bay, about 8.5 nmi west of the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, A heavy weather mooring system was designed and installed for mooring the United States Navy's fleet based on a modified Mediterranean mooring configuration that allows clusters of vessels to be moored together.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT ARANSAS, NUECES COUNTY TEXAS, THAT:

The City of Port Aransas asks BRAC Commissioners to hold a hearing in the Coastal Bend area to personally see the unique military assets at Naval Station Ingleside and the City of Port Aransas asks BRAC Commissioners to remove Naval Station Ingleside from the Pentagon list of recommended closures given its state of the art infrastructure is too unique and important a national and homeland security asset to close at this time.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 6th day of June, 2005.


 Georgia Neblett, Mayor

ATTEST:


 Esther Arzola, City Secretary

BRAC Commission

● AUG 03 2005

Received

RESOLUTION No. _____

**PROSPECT OF TERRORISM IN
NORTH AMERICA/GULF OF MEXICO/SOUTH TEXAS**

WHEREAS, Homeland Security Undersecretary Admiral Loy told U.S. Congressional Intelligence Committees that the Department of Homeland Security considers al Qaida crossing the Mexican border to be a clear and present danger to the United States, and

WHEREAS, The United States does not have room to hold the large number of illegal immigrants caught by border law enforcement, and

WHEREAS, We are releasing - on their own recognizance, into the population of the United States - very large numbers of illegal immigrants known as OTMs (other than Mexicans), and

WHEREAS, Very few released OTMs return for a mandatory deportation, meaning there is a large number of illegal OTMs at large in the U.S., non-Mexican immigrants who have passed through the hands of law enforcement, and

WHEREAS, Border law enforcement officers routinely discover coins, paper money, clothes, and other items from North Africa and the Middle East, leading them to deduce the potential terrorists are crossing the U.S. Mexico border and are either released by the agents that captured them for lack of space to hold them, or they are never captured, and

WHEREAS, the number of "absconders" - those who never appear for deportation - is over 90% of those released, a number now estimated to be approaching 75,000, and

WHEREAS, border security and law enforcement officers have suspected for years since 9-11 that terrorists are entering the country as OTMs and waiting for an order to attack,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Gregory as follows:

RESOLVED: that City of Gregory asks BRAC Commissioners to hold a hearing in the Corpus Christi area for a better understanding of the geographical and national security implications of what we can lose in this area, and

RESOLVED: that City of Gregory asks BRAC commissioners to carefully consider the national security implications – as related to al Qaida sponsored terrorism – as they ponder the fate of Naval Station Ingleside; and

RESOLVED: that City of Gregory asks BRAC Commissioners to remove Naval Station Ingleside from the list of Pentagon recommendations for closure, given south Texas is so near the U.S. Border with Mexico and our intelligence agencies are deeply concerned with the prospect of terrorists breaching our southern border and planning major terrorist events.

PASSED, RESOLVED AND ADOPTED, this day of June, 2005.

CITY OF GREGORY, TEXAS

BY: 
Fernando P. Gomez, Mayor

ATTEST:


Norma S. Garcia