

2005 BRAC COMMISSION REGIONAL HEARING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2005

BOSTON CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTER

415 SUMMER STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

STATES TESTIFYING:

RHODE ISLAND, CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS, MAINE AND NEW  
HAMPSHIRE

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SAMUEL K. SKINNER, COMMISSIONER

LLOYD NEWTON, COMMISSIONER

JAMES BILBRAY, COMMISSIONER

SUE TURNER, COMMISSIONER

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER:

LLOYD NEWTON

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER NEWTON: This hearing is now in session. Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I am Commissioner Lloyd Newton, and I will be the chairperson for this regional hearing of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

I am pleased to be joined by my fellow Commissioners, Chairman Anthony Principi, Commissioner Skinner, Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Bilbray for today's session. As this commission observed in our first hearing, every moment consumed in redundant, unnecessary obsolete, inappropriately designed and located infrastructure is a dollar not available to provide the training that might save a Marine's life, purchase ammunitions to win a soldier's firefight, or fund advances that could ensure continued dominance in the air or on the seas. Congress entrusted our armed forces with vast but not unlimited resources. We have the responsibility to our nation and to our men and women who bring the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps to life to demand the best possible use of these limited resources.

Congress recognized that fact when it authorize the Department of Defense to prepare a

proposal to realign and close domestic bases. However, that authorization was not a blank check. The members of this commission accepted the challenge and necessity of providing an independent, fair, and equitable assessment of an evaluation and of the Department of Defense's proposals and the data and methodology used to develop that proposal.

We committed to the Congress, to our president, and to the American people that our deliberations and decision would be open and transparent, and that our decisions will be based on the criteria set forth in the statute.

We continue to examine the proposed recommendations set forth by the Secretary of Defense on May the 13th, and measure it against the criteria for military value set forth in law, especially the need for surge manning and for Homeland Security. But be assured we are not conducting this review as an exercise in sterile cost accounting. This commission is committed to conducting a clear-eyed reality check that we know will not only shape our military capabilities for decades to come, but will also have profound effect on our communities and on the people who bring

those communities to life.

We also committed that our deliberations and decision will be devoid of politics and that the people and communities affected by the BRAC proposal would have, through our site visit and public hearing, a chance to provide us with direct input into the substance of the proposal and the methodology and assumptions behind them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the thousands of involved citizens who have already contacted the commission and shared with us their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions about base closures and realignment proposals. Unfortunately, the volume of correspondence we have received make it impossible for us to respond directly to each one of you in the short time with which the commission must complete its mission, but we want everyone to know the public input we receive are appreciated and taken into consideration as part of our review process. And while everyone in this room will not have the opportunity to speak, every piece of correspondence received by the commission will be made part of our permanent public record, as appropriate.

Today we will hear testimony from the

States of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. Each state-elected delegation has been allotted a block of time determined by the overall impact of the Department of Defense Closure and Realignment Recommendations on that state. The delegations have worked closely with their communities to develop agendas that I'm certain will provide information and insight that will make up a very valuable part of our review.

We would greatly appreciate it, though, if they -- if the delegation would adhere to their time limit, as every voice and every succeeding panel that comes behind you will be extremely important.

At this point, I'd like to ask the Rhode Island delegation and presenters to please stand as our federal officer administers the oath as required by the base closure and realignment statute. Mr. Dave Hague will present that.

(Witnesses sworn.)

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER NEWTON: Senator Reed, I think you are leading the delegation for Rhode Island, and sir, I will turn the time over to you and ask you to proceed as you see appropriate.

SENATOR REED: Thank you, very much,

Commissioner Newton, Commissioners Principi, Turner Skinner, Bilbray. We are pleased that the Department of Defense has recognized the high military value of Rhode Island's facilities in its recommendations. Naval Station Newport, anchored by the Naval War College, is the Navy's center of training with a stellar faculty with ample and quality facilities. The Naval Undersea Warfare Center is the intellectual heart of the research and develop of undersea warfare and will benefit greatly from the addition of maritime sensor, warfare and electric warfare.

Rhode Island's also proud to be designated to receive 5 additional C-130Js filling out our 143rd Airlift Wing at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, which was the first to fly the C-130J in combat in Iraq.

I believe the acknowledged military value of the Naval facilities at Newport compels a reevaluation of two defense department recommendations which would move the Navy Warfare Doctrine Command and the Maritime Information Systems RDATE&E from Rhode Island.

The Navy Warfare Development Command was relocated to Newport from Norfolk a mere seven

years ago. After that move, it took the command three to five years to rebuild the necessary intellectual capital. If NWDC leaves Newport, the command may suffer from dislocation and erosion in the intellectual capital, and the NWDC may become preoccupied with day-to-day fleet operations, rather than focusing on the near future, which is its mission.

I would argue, therefore, that the Navy would be best served by keeping the Naval Warfare Development Command in Newport.

The Department of Defense has also recommended moving the Maritime Information Systems RDT&E from NUWC to San Diego. While San Diego has experience in surface antennas, submarine communication systems are different and the repository of knowledge and expertise in submarine antennas in radio rooms resides in Newport. And NUWC has created a virtual submarine at Newport, which allows operational testing of systems that would otherwise have to be done on operating platforms.

Moreover, it is estimated that it will cost approximately \$230 million to replicate this testing capability at San Diego, a course not

considered by the Department of Defense. Finally, much of what we do around complements the work done at Submarine Base New London. I've been invited to speak at the Connecticut panel, and I will reserve my detailed remarks at that time. And now, it's my pleasure to introduce our governor, Donald Carcieri.

GOVERNOR CARCIERI: Thank you, Senator Reed. Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to have the opportunity to testify before the BRAC 2005 commission this morning. Our defense facilities are a crucial part of Rhode Island's economy. Rhode Island's military installations account for approximately 3,800 civilian and 1,500 military jobs.

Our entire defense industry has an economic impact of approximately \$1.5 billion. The Naval Undersea Warfare Center alone has more than 1500 contracts with outside vendors in the region. Two years ago I established the Rhode Island BRAC commission and called upon them to perform a comprehensive study of our military assets. Senators Reed and Chafee and Congressman Kennedy and Langevin all contributed significantly to that and made the US Department of Defense recognize our



state's many strategic military assets by recommending a net increase of 533 positions in Naval Station Newport and 46 positions at Quonset Air Base. These recommendations I know are a vote of confidence in our state and in the work being performed at these important facilities.

Without question, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and Division Newport provide the repository for our nation's knowledge base of undersea technology. Additionally, Brown University and the University of Rhode Island's graduate school of oceanography serve as great resources to assist NUWC in meeting its mission.

The defense department also recognized the professionalism of Rhode Island's Air National Guard. As Senator Reed mentioned, with the proposed addition after five, C-130s, Quonset will open new chapters in its ongoing support of DOD objectives.

We are very appreciative of the Department of Defense's recommendations, and it is my hope that you will support their assessments of our state's military facilities and their importance. Although Rhode Island is scheduled to gain commands, we are also losing two crucial commands

at Naval Station Newport, Navy Warfare Development Command, as well as the Submarine Communication Sensors at NUWC, it is our hope, as the Senator mentioned, that these commands will remain in our state.

Finally, I am concerned about the closure of Sub Base New London. I have spoken to Governor Rell at numerous times about this issue, as this is a site within close proximity to Rhode Island and is an easy commute for our residents, many of whom are employed there. It is my hope that you will reconsider this decision, as I believe the nation's preeminence in undersea capability should not be compromised.

I would like to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify before you. And I would like to thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify before you today and assure you that Rhode Island stands ready to play its part in our national's defense strategy, and I would like to pass it over next to Senator Chafee.

SENATOR CHAFEE: Thank you, Governor, distinguished Commissioners, welcome to New England. The Department of Defense recognized the value of importance of Rhode Island's military

installations when it made its BRAC recommendations. I appreciate this, particularly in and around where many states face difficult closure recommendations. The fact that DOD assigned Rhode Island a net gain does not mean that it did not recommend significant changes. Over time, Newport Naval Station has evolved from the headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet to a premier center of undersea warfare, research and development, as well as home to many of the Navy's prized educational schools.

DOD recommendations continue this trend, recognizing the value of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and the Navy War College by adding Subsurface Maritime Sensors, Electronic Warfare and Electronic Research and Development and Acquisition, the Office of Training Command, the Navy Supply Corps School, and the Center For Service Support to Naval Station Newport.

However, DOD also recommends that Newport lose the Navy Warfare Development Command, Naval Reserve Readiness Command, Submarine Communication Sensors, and the Religious Training and Education Center. I respectfully ask the members of the commission to carefully review these

recommendations, especially in the light of Newport's emergence as a center of educational and research excellence.

Rhode Island has adequate capacity to accommodate the recommended gains while retaining current installations. Additional land has been identified for base expansion, and legislation has been enacted to support capital investments of mission-related capabilities.

Rhode Island has also reduced cost to Naval Station Newport by roughly 1.6 million annually by restructuring electricity and solid waste fees, and local merchants have implemented Rhode Island Salutes, which offers discounts to service members and their families.

I know you have and will hear the word "synergy" many times in the course of your reviews. I think it is helpful to define this word that we use so often. The dictionary defines it as a mutually-advantageous compatibility distinct participant. This is a good thing. In the immediate region we have the great Naval institutions of Newport and New London. We have a strong industrial base from small companies to large corporations, such as Electric Boat and

Raytheon.

We have fully-supported local and state governments and federal delegations, and we have internationally-respected research institutions, including the University of Rhode Island School of Oceanography and the Woods Hole Research Center. These participants truly exemplify synergy, making a mutually-advantageous injunction that results in unparalleled undersea research and capability. I hope you will take these important elements into account as you review the military value of Rhode Island and the region. Thank you. I will now introduce Congressman Kennedy.

CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Good morning. I'm glad to see you. Good morning.

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER NEWTON: Bring the mike up for the congressman, please.

CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Is that better?

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER NEWTON: Maybe somebody from the house there? All the mikes are dead down there. Is there anybody here that can take care of that?

Well, the good news is we've stopped the clock.

CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: We'll start at 00

actually.

CONGRESSMAN LANGEVIN: Can he borrow one of these?

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER NEWTON: Patrick, you're in Massachusetts. I guess they just don't like the Kennedy name.

CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: I'm not sure you'll have any agreement with my father about that.

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER NEWTON: Ready with the clock.

CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Good morning. I'd like to focus my remarks on the Naval Warfare Development Command. With the Navy commands in Rhode Island, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, the Naval War College, the Naval education that goes on in Newport, and we see the Naval Education Training Center, we have an educated work force, we have remarkable integration with talent, strategic thought, and practical experience, and the technological know-how that's essential to the Navy Warfare Command meeting its full potential. Our state government and this congressional delegation are united to find new ways to help our military community and we will continue to do so.

We have restructured the Naval Station

Newport's utility rates to generate millions of dollars in savings. Our business community has shown its appreciation with the Rhode Island Salutes program.

But here are my concerns: The loss of the Naval Warfare Development Command and the realignment of the Undersea Sensor Systems will have their cost. First, we will lose the benefit of the cooperative relationship developed here in Rhode Island. Each facility is critical to the unique strength of the whole. NUWC provides operational, experimental tactical focus and mission-centric capabilities to the Navy's warfare and development command, which they will not find anywhere else.

It will be difficult for the Navy to regenerate that loss of intellectual capital and the technological expertise quickly. Relocating the Naval Warfare Development Command closer to the fleet could jeopardize the strategic framework that should guide the decision-making process. The combined value of the Naval Warfare Development Command and our Naval Undersea Warfare Center is an integral part of our national's core expertise and a repository of knowledge in undersea warfare.

The realignment of Undersea Sensor Systems is problematic, because subsurface communications is different from surface communications. And lastly, many of us are concerned about the possible closing of the New London facility. The Navy needs a robust submarine force and reinforced by a strong investment in technology and research. Our country faces expanding and emerging threats in undersea warfare, and the proximity of the New London Submarine Base to our facilities in Rhode Island is an asset.

I'd ask the commission to consider these recommendations and those of my colleagues, and thank them for coming here to New England to hear from us. Thank you. And now I'd like to turn over to my colleague, Jim Langevin, who's on our Armed Services Committee in the United States Congress. Jim Langevin.

CONGRESSMAN LANGEVIN: Thank you, Patrick. Good morning. I'd like to thank the commission for hosting this important hearing, and I'm proud to testify on behalf of Rhode Island's contributions to our nation's military. Thanks for the support of its citizens and officials, Rhode Island has become a leader in advancing our national defense.



The Pentagon recognized the state's positive economy and recommended the addition of new commands and assets. We look forward to expanding the contributions of our Air Guard base at Quonset Point, which serves as the final domestic stop for all C-130 units deploying to southwest Asia.

Proposed additions to Naval Station Newport fit well with its educational and research and development issues. Also, because of its intellectual capital and contributions to shape the future of the Navy, the Naval Station remains the appropriate site for the Naval Warfare Development Command, and I urge the commission to reevaluate this recommendation.

Our state and local leaders have fought to keep Rhode Island an attractive location for the military assets through a series of investments and cost reduction, and Rhode Island has worked hard to ensure that the military is getting the most for every dollar spent. However, one of the most important benefits of Rhode Island is the amazing synergy that has developed through long-standing relationships. Our businesses have produced cutting edge technologies, while our universities provide research and work force development. We're

instrumental in building the Virginia class submarine, in developing the DD(X) destroyer. We have also partnered extensively with our neighbors in Connecticut, making southeast New England the center of excellence for undersea warfare.

To maintain that vital relationship and to enhance our national defense, I strongly urge the commission not to close the submarine base in Groton. This is -- this request is especially in light of the fact that the current submarine force cannot meet the mission requests of our commanders, and second, the Pentagon has yet to even set what the future number of submarines our submarine force level will be, and all indications are that those force levels will be higher, not lower, given the mission commands.

We realize that you have a difficult task ahead, and we thank you for your service. As you deliberate, I simply ask that you keep in mind Rhode Island's unwavering support and contributions to our national defense. We are leading the way of America's military transformation efforts, and welcome the opportunity to enhance that role. Thank you very much. And it's my pleasure to now introduce Keith Stokes.

MR. STOKES: Thank you, Congressman. Good morning, Commissioners, and thank you for the opportunity to articulate the military value of the Naval command at Naval Station Newport and the Rhode Island National Guard. My name is Keith W. Stokes, and I am presently the Executive Director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce in Newport, Rhode Island. I have a brief Power Point presentation that will clearly outline the simple point that Rhode Island's military value and defense capabilities equal more breadth, more depth, and more value.

I will also point out the proposed transfer of the Naval Warfare Development Command from Newport will create a dramatic reduction in the Navy's strategic tactical capabilities.

I would first like to discuss Rhode Island's military value. The US Department of Defense recognized the military value of its assets located in Rhode Island, and we thank them. These assets have included Naval Station Newport and a Strategic Educational Research and Development Command. And, in fact, those commands in Rhode Island were ranked 36th in military value out of 334 Navy facilities, and that comes from the Volume

7 BRAC report of 2005.

We also value our Rhode Island National Guard in Quonset, Davisville. In summary the military value of Rhode Island installations has been acknowledged, and again, we thank you.

We believe Rhode Island is home to America's intellectual capital resource for undersea warfare systems which include research and development acquisitions and testing and evaluation of submarines, which are the particular critical platform for autonomous vehicles, undersea and sea-based sensor systems, submarine warfare systems, and undersea acoustics. Rhode Island is also home to the development of the nation's strategic and tactical Naval maritime policies at the Naval Warfare Development Command.

We also have the joint professional military education facilities centered particularly in the war college. Our additional military intellectual capital resources reside particularly at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, the Navy War College, the Surface Warfare Officers' School Command. We have access to the finest higher education and research facilities located critically in New England. And we are all direct

products of 30 years of strategic Navy investment to create a unique Naval center of excellence in undersea systems, technology, and senior officer training.

Rhode Island's military value in homeland defense also includes and certainly recognizes our Rhode Island National Guard. Our guard is strategically located with the Quonset Air Guard facility at Quonset, Davisville. As Senator Reed had said, we are quite pleased with the addition of five C-130 aircraft.

Electric Boat is a part of General Dynamics, it also resides at the Quonset Point facility. This entire facility includes over 3,000 acres with deep water piers. It is fully intermobile. It is closer to Europe than any port south of Quonset in Davisville.

As you know, the recommendations were that the Army Reserve centers in Providence and Bristol would consolidate to our Naval Station Newport, and I would also like to point out that since the BRAC of 1995, Rhode Island has made very dedicated capital investments to enhance the Quonset facilities. In 1996 a \$72 million general obligation bond for infrastructure was approved.

In 2004, \$48 million general obligation bond under Governor Carcieri was approved for infrastructure. These enhancements over the last nine to ten years have included enhancements of the Quonset Airfield, bulkhead, roadways, rails, environmental cleanup -- unfortunately, a tremendous amount of environmental cleanup -- and upgrading utility system.

The proposed transfer of US Navy subsurface maritime capability is of great concern to us in Rhode Island. Our submarine communications are an integral part of the development and integration of the overall submarine warfare system. We have based in Newport a virtual land-based submarine which exists in Newport.

We also have, within this system, a system that is, we believe, irreplaceable, and we project it would cost \$230 million to replicate elsewhere. So, any decision that would reduce the effectiveness of the Navy, particularly of the submarine communication systems, we believe would reduce the effectiveness, particularly in the face of present and emerging threats.

The potential transfer of the US Navy's doctoral development capability is of what we are

greatly concerned. The Navy Warfare Development Command, which has been reiterated by our governor and our congressional leaders, that potential transfer we believe would have devastating impact on the capabilities of the doctrine and strategic and tactical planning -- not only in Newport, for the nation.

We believe that the Navy Warfare Development Command, as it exists in Newport, provides an advantage which consists of intellectual foundations, revolutionary concepts, concept development and experimentation, research and analysis. And in fact, over the last several years, we have completed -- we have built a state-of-the-art world class war game facility that opened, I believe, in 2003 at the McCarty Little Hall. And we also provide and support -- and this is quite important -- strategic vision and planning.

I want to reiterate that the transfer of any US Naval's doctrine development capacity from Newport, and particularly within the Naval Warfare Development Command, would also impact the fact that the command has been a leader in the concept of operations experimenting document enterprise.

And this is particularly important,

because this process designs, develops, and executes all concepts of operations within experimentation, and we have a critical jointness between the Naval Warfare Development Command and our Naval Undersea Warfare Center, which also provides operational, experimental tactical focus and mission-centric capabilities.

This is a -- again, an irreplaceable synergy between our Naval Undersea Warfare Command and the Naval Warfare Development Command, and we believe it's irreplaceable. And one example of these types of synergies between the Naval Warfare Development and the Naval Warfare Center includes the Trident subs, which has been a refocus from its primary mission to more of a versatile platform, to a multi-mission capability.

We also want to point out that any potential transfer of this doctrinal development capability would impact, as an example, the Antisubmarine Warfare Concepts of Operation war game for the 7th Fleet which occurred in Newport. And in this case, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, with the Warfare Development Command, participated in the design, the planning, and execution of this war game.



























































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































