



DCN: 5911

REHAB TO WORK
MEDICAL CONSULTANTS

062 32 005

- INJURY MANAGEMENT
- INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND PREVENTION
- JOB EVALUATION AND ERGONOMICS

SUSAN A. EMERSON, MED, OTR, CHT, CEES

June 18, 2005

Anthony Principi, BRAC Commission Chairman
Polk Building, Suites 600 and 625
2521 South Clark Street
Arlington, VA. 22202

Dear Mr. Principi,

I have been most upset at the fact that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has been placed on the BRAC closure list. This facility has been an outstanding, world recognized sub base and has set the standards for cost effective, unprecedented work that is safe and that keeps our submarine fleet safe and active around the world.

As a business owner, it makes no sense to me to close the best facility. This facility should be used as a model for others, and **MORE** work should be sent to it. This base and its employees should be training other facilities as it already sets the standards by performing outstanding work. By closing this facility, you will lose the experience and expertise that is critical to optimize the efficacy of overhauling and refueling the sub fleet. I cannot understand why the Navy would close this base.

In addition, it has been said that the goal of BRAC is to reduce redundancy. While that makes good business sense, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard currently has 5 subs in port and has been full or very busy for the last several years. It does not seem that the excess capacity is here! One can only become so small and then capacity to meet minimal demand is not available. Do not let the Navy or Pentagon make this strategic mistake.

Lastly, as if to add salt to the wound and really have cause to wonder, the attached article was in our local newspaper indicating that the Navy plans to present the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard with hits highest honor. Really, where is the logic here? Why in the world would the business of the United States of America chose to close its best and most outstanding sub overhaul facility?

Please, do not allow this facility to get caught up in a "politically correct" decision for closure that makes no logical or proper business sense. Review the performance data and recommend the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard remain open to continue to support the defense of our country.

Respectfully,

Susan A. Emerson MED OTR CHT CEES

Navy to present yard with highest honor

By DOUGLAS P. GUARINO
Democrat Staff Writer

KITTERY, Maine — Top Navy officials will visit the the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard later this month to formally present the facility with one of the department's highest honors.

RADM Anthony Lengerich, Acting Commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command, and former Portsmouth commander RDML Kevin McCoy, Assistant Deputy Commander for Logistics, Maintenance and Industrial Operations, will visit the yard June 30 to present the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Shipyards workers learned the Navy had granted them the honor one day before the Defense Department announced Portsmouth was on the list of military bases targeted for closure.

"This is kind of a slap in the face," Wayne Countryman, who has worked 32 years at the yard, told Foster's the day the closure list was announced.

Secretary of the Navy Gordon England, now acting deputy defense secretary, selected the yard for the commendation in recognition of its service from Sept. 11, 2001, to Aug. 30, 2004.

The commendation cites Portsmouth's "phenomenal record of cost, schedule, quality, and safety performance" and praises the shipyard for "leading the transformation of our Navy's nuclear ship maintenance base through innovation and the application of 'lean' industrial practices," according to a joint statement issued last month by members of the Maine and New Hampshire congressional delegation. In the citation he wrote on behalf of Gordon, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral V.E. Clark said shipyard workers "established new performance levels for submarine maintenance, modernization, and overhaul work by producing business results that are the benchmark among public and private sector nuclear shipyards."

"The Shipyard completed six major submarine availabilities early, exceeded Net Operating Result financial goals, reduced injuries by more than 50 percent and exceeded the Secretary of Defense's Fiscal Year 2006 Stretch Goal for lost workday compensation rates two years early," Clark wrote.

"Naval Shipyard Portsmouth's extraordinary performance is translating into increased U.S. Submarine Fleet readiness," Clark added.