



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE
1063 USS TENNESSEE AVENUE
KINGS BAY, GEORGIA 31547-2606

FORMERLY REFER TO:
5720

Ser CM/1270

AUG 27 2012

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay
To: Mayor Bill Deloughy, City of St. Marys, 418 Osborne
Street, St. Marys, GA 31558
Via: Commander, Navy Region Southeast

Subj: RELOCATION OF ST. MARYS AIRPORT

1. With the recent encroachment on August 12th of two skydivers onto Naval Submarine Base (SUBBASE), Kings Bay, it is evident that we must escalate our concern and make absolutely clear our position on aerial intrusion over and onto the base. In addition, the Navy is restating its desire for the relocation of the St. Marys Airport.
2. The safety and security concerns expressed repeatedly by SUBBASE continue to be of paramount importance to the Navy. Previous local aviation accidents occurring close to the base in 2007 and 2008 illustrate the potential impact on the base, its workforce and the local community. The failure to eliminate parachutists encroaching on the base, despite multiple letters of concern from several base commanding officers, repeatedly exposes the base to unnecessary and disruptive planning and can generate dangerous reactions to incursion situations that should already have been resolved with the Navy's initial requests.
3. Having previously expressed the Navy's concerns regarding the airport and the desire to have it relocated, and after examining the recent history of incursions, the Navy must heighten and reemphasize its desire for the ultimate relocation of the airport as a priority. Let me be clear, parachutist intrusions on the base must be eliminated.
4. Any discussions regarding improvements or developments on the current airport site to bring its facilities into compliance as a Level II airport in the Georgia Aviation System Plan would be counter to Navy operations, and inconsistent with goals stated in a resolution of the St. Marys City Council for airport relocation. Any efforts to expand the skydiving activity or to improve the current facilities to support increased aviation traffic would merely serve to increase SUBBASE safety and security concerns and would be incompatible with the mission of the base.

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5. My hope is that the City is closing in on a final resolution to this problem. The Navy understands that both the City and the Federal Aviation Administration appear to support the airport's relocation as good for the City and the Naval Base. With the pending approval of the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), the Navy is confident the resulting findings can provide a successful path forward as the current airport site is decommissioned and the potential for alternative economic development of the property is realized.

6. The City of St. Marys and the entire Camden County region provide tremendous support to SUBASE and its ships, Sailors, civilian employees and families. We are truly grateful for that support. Both the Navy and I are committed to maintaining a strong cooperative relationship. Thank you again for your support.


H. L. GUFFEY, JR.

Copy to:
St. Marys City Council
418 Osborne Street
St. Marys, GA 31558



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST
BOX 102, NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32212-0102

5720
Ser N00/492
27 Aug 12

The Honorable Bill Deloughy
Mayor of St. Marys
418 Osborne Street
St. Marys GA 31558

Dear Mayor Deloughy:

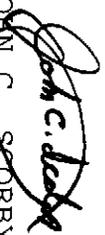
SUBJECT: ST. MARYS AIRPORT SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES

Navy Region Southeast, and my immediate chain of command at Navy Installations Command, stands in complete support of Captain Guffey's position regarding the safety and security of Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay (SUBASE) as stated in his letter of August 27, 2012.

Safety and security threats generated by St. Marys' airport operations extend in history beyond the transformational 11 Sep 2001 terror attack on New York and the Pentagon. Repeated exposure to these security threats in this era of terrorism creates significant disruption for the SUBASE mission, and raises the specter of needlessly dangerous reactive responses. We can no longer accept this state of affairs.

It is clear that current City leadership is resolved to find final resolution for these serious safety and security issues. Your upcoming Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) offers the perfect vehicle for compatibly resolving our shared concerns, while building towards robust and compatible future economic development in St Marys and Camden County.

Both the City of St. Marys, and Camden County, has always faithfully supported SUBASE Kings Bay and its boats, Sailors, employees and families. We are truly grateful for that support. Both the Navy and my staff are actively engaged, and fully committed toward resolving these safety and security issues while building to a strong and cooperative future. Thank you for your support.


JOHN C. SCORBBY, JR.
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander

Copy to: Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay