

Creating Military Value State Gifting in Connecticut



USS Oregon (SSN 793)

Bob Ross, Executive Director
CT Office of Military Affairs

Steven Sadlowski, AICP, CPLO
Submarine Base New London



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- In '07, after the '03 and '05 BRACs, the Connecticut General Assembly authorized \$40 million for investments to SUBASE.
- The State aims to enhance the base's **Military Value**, thereby minimizing the likelihood of another BRAC recommendation for closure or downsizing.
- Legislation also created the CT Office of Military Affairs which shall,



"Promote and coordinate state-wide activities that enhance the quality of life of all branches of military personnel and their families and to expand the military and homeland security presence in this state."



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- Since 2007, SUBASE has received \$23M in funding for 12 projects to increase the base's **Military Value**.
- Why? Competing priorities can delay useful projects - or outright cancel them. This funding bridges that gap – allowing important projects that are perhaps just below the cut-line to move forward.

Could we execute the mission for a few more years without replacing these right now? Yes. Would it be as efficient and effective? No,” said ICO Curtin at a recent signing ceremony.



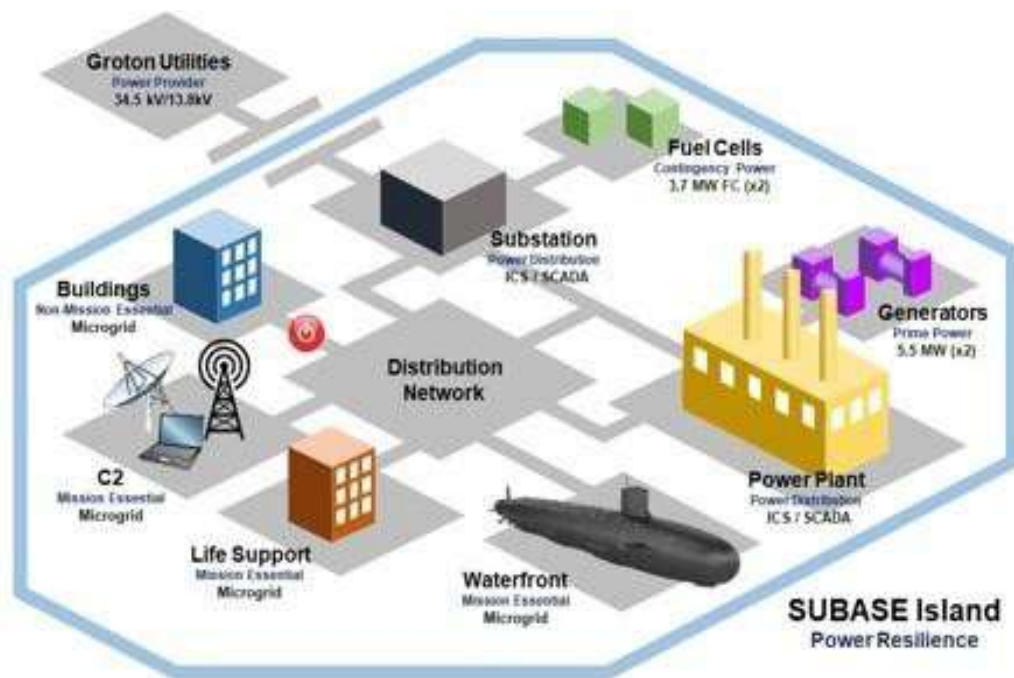
Groton, Ct. (August 28, 2025) Governor Ned Lamont and Capt. Ken Curtin, Commanding Officer of Submarine Base New London, commemorate \$7.761M State of Connecticut funding for pier and boat launch improvements at the base. (photo by Ken Curtin)

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A few notable projects completed with State funding at SUBASE:

- \$1M for initial design work on SUBASE's now commissioned **Micro-Grid**



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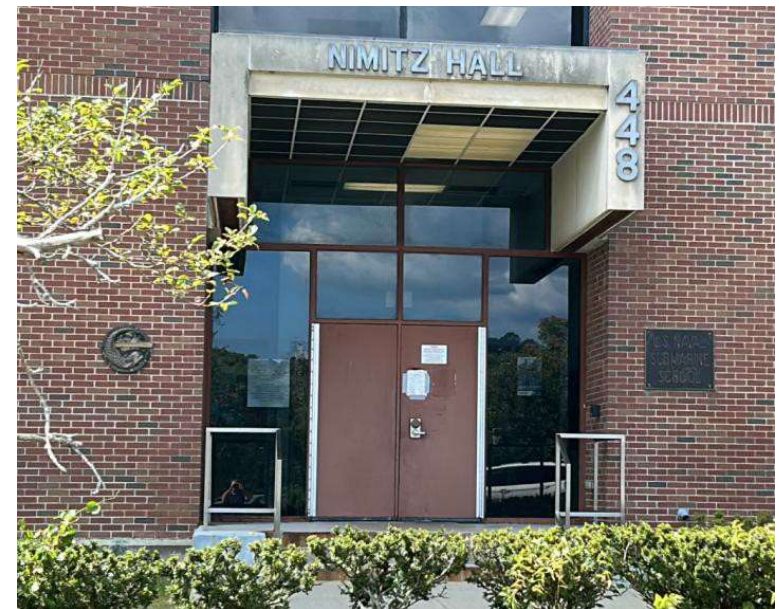
- \$740K to construct a Virginia Class Training Galley



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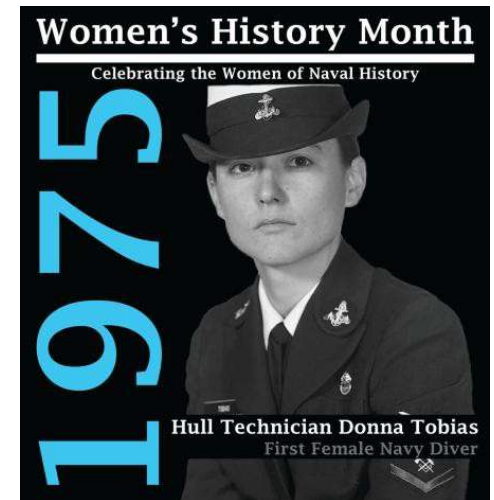
- \$2.48M addition to Nimitz Hall to house a **Submarine Bridge Trainer**



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\$4.65M to construct a new **Dive Locker** – named after the Navy's first female Hard Hat diver, Donna Tobias



SUBASE Commanding Officer Capt. (now RADM) Carl Lahti speaks at the ribbon cutting event for the base's new state-of-the-art Navy Diver Facility, Dec. 3, 2015.



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\$7.76M to construct new **Floating Piers and Boat Ramp.**



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Letter of offer received: Now what?



Ned Lamont
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

June 20, 2024

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20350-1000

Re: Letter of Offer

Dear Secretary Del Toro,

The State of Connecticut ("State") hereby conveys this Offer Letter ("Offer") for the purpose of offering to the Department of the Navy ("Navy") an amount of money sufficient to fund certain infrastructure improvements at the U.S. Naval Submarine Base New London ("SUBASE"), Connecticut, in particular, (1) Port Services Floating Piers Replacement and (2) the Waterfront Boat Ramp Reconstruction.

Background

This Offer is made in accordance with and under the authority of Connecticut General Statutes § 32-235(b)(1)(F) (the "Statute"), which provides that the State Department of Economic and Community Development ("DECD") shall use \$50 million of bond sale proceeds "...for the purpose of grants to the United States Department of the Navy, the United States Department of Defense, or eligible applicants for projects related to the enhancement of infrastructure for long-term, ongoing naval operations at United States Naval Submarine Base New London, located in Groton, which will increase the military value of said base." The State Bond Commission ("Commission") must approve all specific funding requests authorized in the Statute.

Port Services Floating Piers Replacement & Waterfront Boat Ramp Reconstruction

At the request of the State, representatives of the State and Navy have been engaged in ongoing discussions on prospective infrastructure improvement projects at SUBASE suitable for State support. The State has reviewed several projects. After

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Procedure:

Refer to SECNAVINST 3001.2K for rules, procedures, instructions, etc.

- **Who can give – can have no business before or with the Navy**
- **Who can accept**
 - **Under Secretary of Navy – Real property valued \$2M+ / other property valued at \$200K+ (though SECNAV personally accepted our last one)**
 - **Assistant Secretary of the Navy EIE – Real Property \$2M or less**
 - **Various others for smaller gifts**
- **Gifts (conditions) must be legal, must be in best interest of DON, cannot create improper appearances or require large expenditures, must be complete**
- **DON PERSONNEL SHALL NOT INITIATE A REQUEST FOR A GIFT, with few exc.**

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Procedure: **Review instruction**, highlights below

2. Develop a Request for acceptance (or refusal) of gifts and route to UNSECNAV

- **Letter from ICO describing gift, its location or availability, any expenses that will be incurred, conditions, any business relations of donor, significance to the DON, and the recommendation (accept/reject), with a proposed letter of acceptance/rejection to the donor**
- **Shall coordinate with the CNIC Regional Engineer or for Marines, MCICOM**
- **Include a BCA approved by the Regional Engineer or RIC for USMC**
- **Environmental to review any Environmental impacts (NEPA/ECP)**
- **Has to be a complete facility, but responsibilities can be shared**

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- Has to be endorsed at the CNIC Region and HQ levels, or IC and MCICOM
- UNSECNAV (or SECNAV) sends the approval (or denial) to the ICO and a letter of thanks (as proposed by ICO) to the source of the donation (3-6 months)
- Funds flow to the SECNAV and are deposited in a CNIC gift account or asset is entered into Navy inventory as usual using a DD-1354

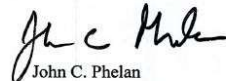


THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

May 27, 2025

From: Secretary of the Navy
To: Commanding Officer, Naval Submarine Base New London
Subj: ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT TO THE NAVY VALUED AT \$7,761,000
Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 4001.2K
(b) SUBASE NEW LONDON CT ltr Ser N00/051 of 25 Nov 24

1. On behalf of the Department of the Navy (DON) and per reference (a), I accepted the gift offer of \$7,761,000 from the State of Connecticut per reference (b), to replace the Port Services Floating Piers and reconstruct the Waterfront Boat Ramp at Naval Submarine Base New London.
2. Under separate correspondence, I have conveyed the DON's sincere appreciation to the State of Connecticut for their support.



John C. Phelan

Copy to:
ASN (EI&E)
DNS
CNIC
COMNAVREG MIDLANT



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Ned Lamont
Governor of Connecticut
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

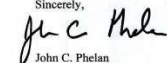
On behalf of the Department of the Navy, I am pleased to accept the State of Connecticut's generous offer to provide \$7,761,000 to replace the Port Services Floating Piers and reconstruct the Waterfront Boat Ramp at Naval Submarine Base New London. These projects will ensure the small boats that we rely on to secure our base, perform various maintenance tasks, and respond to emergencies have the proper facilities needed for their safe and efficient operations.

Our Virginia and Los Angeles-Class Submarines serve a crucial role in our Nation's defense. Protecting these high-value assets from attack is the responsibility of our local security forces, along with our Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron, who escorts our boats as they transit the Thames River and Long Island Sound. These professionals, along with our naval facilities technicians will now have a safe and efficient access to their vessels to better assure our mission success.

The Thames River contains many environmentally sensitive areas including Mamacoke, Smith, Horton, Poquetanuck, Mill, and Long Coves, amongst others. Submarine Base New London's response plan to large oil spills defines our role in protecting these areas by assuring crews are ready and able to lay protective spill booms in response to any spills. The facilities funded through this generous gift will greatly increase our readiness to execute this important safety measure if ever needed.

Please convey my personal appreciation and gratitude to all individuals involved with this offer. Your continued support of the Submarine Base and the Department of the Navy is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


John C. Phelan

Thank you Governor!

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Questions



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