

NAVY AFAST PUBLIC HEARING
MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 11, 2008

1 National Headquarters, North Carolina State Area, Navy
2 League USA, and Coastal Carolina Council, Navy League USA
3 provides the following Navy League policy statement:

4 **(As read:)** "We support our service
5 members being able to train in the environment in which they
6 will fight if they are to survive and prevail. The Navy has
7 proved that they conduct the necessary training without
8 harming or destroying the habitat and provides more funding
9 to study the effects of maritime operations for marine
10 mammals than all concerned non-government organizations
11 combined. The Navy must continue and must be allowed to
12 operate sonar in such a way that is protective of marine
13 life and supportive of our national defense mission."

14 Now, on a more personal note, I am not
15 aware of any scientific studies proving beyond a reasonable
16 doubt that the U.S. Navy sonar damages marine life. I
17 commend them for the excellent program proposal to increase
18 our national security. I also deeply appreciate their
19 environmental concern. Therefore, I urge acceptance of the
20 Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training Program proposal.

21 **LT. COL. GREER:** Thank you, Mr. Strong.

22 Mr. Culler?

23 **MR. CULLER:** My name is William
24 Culler, spelled W-i-l-l-i-a-m. Culler, C-u-l-l-e-r.

25 Some of my remarks will echo Mr. Strong's. I

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1 am the current president of the -- the area president of the
2 Navy League of the United States for North Carolina, and the
3 past council president for the council that's in this area.

4 The Navy League is a civilian
5 organization, with no affiliation at all to the military.
6 Its purpose is to support the sea services -- the Navy, the
7 Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and U.S. Flag Merchant ships.

8 The Navy League has about 60,000 members
9 nationwide, about 685 here in North Carolina, and about 150
10 members within a four-county area here.

11 The Navy League's position is that [✓][sonar
12 is the only effective means that we have to detect and
13 quickly target hostile submarines and keep our sea lanes
14 open for commercial ships, oil tankers, as well as our own
15 Naval forces. Our sonar operators must receive real life
16 training and experience at sea in order to protect our
17 nation's ships, shores, and allies.]

18 [✓][The Navy spends millions of dollars each
19 year on marine mammal research, more so than any other non-
20 governmental organizations combined, to better understand
21 the potential effects of man-made sound on marine mammals
22 and to help ensure that Navy policy and compliance are based
23 on real science.]

24 **LT. COL. GREER:** Thank you, Mr. Culler.

25 Ms. Gerdson?