

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

1 And Ms. Nolan. (Ms. Nolan approaches
2 the speaker area.)

3 If any of you have come in late and
4 would like to speak, you can see one of the Navy staff to
5 get a speaker card.

6 Ms. Hall, if you would please step to
7 the microphone. And as we'll do with each speaker, if you'd
8 please go ahead and state your name and spell your name for
9 the record, and your state of residence.

10 MS. HALL: My name is Katie Hall,
11 K-a-t-i-e, H-a-l-l, from North Carolina. I'm here
12 representing Senator Marc Basnight. The address is The
13 North Carolina Legislative Building, 16 West Jones Street,
14 Raleigh, North Carolina, 27601. I'm just going to read a
15 brief statement from Senator Basnight.

16 (As read:) "I would like to express my
17 deep concern about the potential environmental impact of
18 active sonar training off the North Carolina coast. [This 530
19 could have long-lasting negative impacts on our state's
20 wildlife with no economic or environmental benefit to the
21 citizens of North Carolina. There is no question in my mind
22 that this training would have significant lasting harm on
23 our coastal ecology.] In January of 2005, over 30 whales
24 became stranded near Oregon Inlet. While scientists are
25 still working to definitively link whale and other marine

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1 mammal strandings with Navy sonar activity, at least one
2 peer-reviewed study has done so. I look forward to future
3 research on the harm to marine mammals as a result of active
4 sonar activity. [The Environmental Impact Statement prepared
5 has failed to alleviate my concerns for the North Carolina
6 coast."]

7 Thank you.

8 **LT. COL. GREER:** Thank you, Ms. Hall.

9 Mr. Strong, would you please step to the
10 microphone? Again, if you would state your name, spell your
11 name, and then just give me your state of residence.

12 **MR. STRONG:** My name is Corwin,
13 C-o-r-w-i-n -- nickname, Bud, B-u-d. And the last name,
14 Strong, S-t-r-o-n-g. And I reside here in New Bern, North
15 Carolina.

16 I am the past president, Coastal Carolina
17 Council, Navy League USA; immediate past president, North
18 Carolina State Area, Navy League USA. I have lived in New
19 Bern, North Carolina for 18 years, following 26 1/2 years,
20 military service in the United States Public Health Service.
21 Retired as a captain, O-6 grade.

22 We Navy Leaguers express confidence that
23 the U.S. Navy has examined the technical and environmental
24 issues and has proposed a responsible Atlantic Fleet Active
25 Sonar Training Program. Therefore, U.S. Navy League