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## **ISSUE: Special Operations at Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, GA**

The arrival of SSGNs at Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay creates additional opportunities, and highlights the potential of this unique installation. The joint service and interagency relationships that could be developed due to a) SUBASE Kings Bay's strategic location in the southeast and proximity to other installations, b) existing facilities and infrastructure that could sustain new missions, c) low cost of living and operational costs that make Kings Bay financially attractive, d) strong community relations, and e) excellent quality of life all support bringing new missions to Kings Bay.

Assignment of SSGNs will create an operational relationship between Kings Bay and the Special Operations Forces (SOF) community. The SSGN is designed to accommodate 66 SOF personnel and their equipment – including Advanced SEAL Delivery System – as well as unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV), unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), and up to 154 Tomahawk land-attack missiles.

The Navy's commitment to fully develop the operational concepts for this transformational weapons platform suggests the SOF community will need frequent and recurring access to and use of the SSGN platform.

One approach to achieve this access is to create a joint support center dedicated to the covert maritime insertion mission. Utilizing an Operating Location (OL) concept, a small number of assigned joint SOF support personnel would sustain joint forces rotating through Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay to train with SSGNs.

Natural assets, such as the wooded, marshy, coastal areas and Crab Island provide new training venues to practice, develop or refine Navy or joint-operations concepts.

Expanding this vision of a joint SOF center-of-excellence for covert maritime insertion, the Navy could co-locate other assets that support this mission. Waterfront facilities exist to support the two SSGNs as well as SSNs that are configured for dry-deck operations. SUBASE Kings Bay also has the capability to homeport the Advanced SEAL Delivery System and the east coast UUV program.

**Recommendation:** Co-locating a joint SOF training detachment with the SSGNs will leverage the strengths of Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay and add military value.

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