



NAVAL BASE KITSAP-BANGOR

SWIMMER INTERDICTION SECURITY SYSTEM

FACT SHEET

Proposed Action and Alternatives for the Swimmer Interdiction Security System

The U.S. Navy is proposing a Swimmer Interdiction Security System (SISS) to meet special U.S. government security requirements for military installations in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The SISS would protect waterside Navy assets and sailors. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a federal law that directs federal agencies to fully consider potential environmental consequences from a proposed action and reasonable alternatives. The SISS would remain in operation as long as valuable naval assets are at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

The Navy is looking at four alternatives for implementing the SISS:

1. Marine mammals (preferred alternative)
2. Combat swimmers
3. Remotely operated vehicles (ROVs)
4. No action (no changes at Bangor)

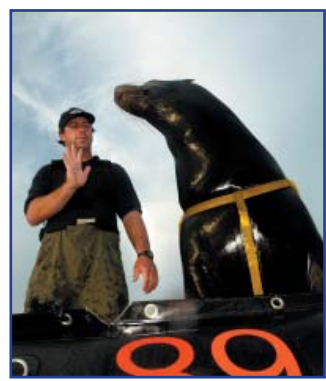
1 Marine Mammal Alternative (Preferred)

Specially trained marine mammals (sea lions and/or bottlenose dolphins) and their human teammates. These teams would respond rapidly to security alerts by detecting, classifying, and marking the location of underwater objects or interdicting intruders.

- Humans would work aboard small power boats.
- ▷ SISS mammals would be housed within in-water enclosures on an existing pier or wharf.
 - Open-mesh enclosures for sea lions
 - Environmentally controlled enclosures for dolphins

No decision has been made as to which alternative the Navy would select to support the SISS. The human/marine mammal team option is currently the preferred alternative.

In the preferred alternative, human/marine mammal teams would work together to quickly respond to security alerts.



Here, trainers work with their animal teammates during training missions.



Open mesh sea lion enclosure



Environmentally controlled dolphin pen

Photos courtesy of Navy Newstand



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1 Marine Mammal Alternative (continued)

- ▶ On-shore pools for mammals for veterinary purposes would be installed.
- ▶ Trailers for staff, laboratory, food preparation, and storage would be installed.
- ▶ Mammals would undergo extensive health screening before and after transport to Bangor.
- ▶ Facilities would comply with standards for animal care established by the Navy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care.
- ▶ A new floating dock attached to an existing pier would be constructed.

2 Combat Swimmer Alternative

Combat Swimmers (i.e., specially trained personnel aboard Harbor Security Boats [HSBs]). These teams would deploy into the water to detect, classify, and interdict underwater intruders.

- ▶ 7,500 square feet of building space at an upland location would be required.
- ▶ A new floating dock attached to an existing pier would be constructed.
- ▶ Requires further development and testing.



HSB patrolling a harbor



Navy diver surfacing after routine check

3 ROV Alternative

Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) would deploy from HSBs to detect, classify, and mark underwater intruders.

- ▶ 7,500 square feet of building space at an upland location would be required.
- ▶ A new floating dock attached to an existing pier would be constructed.
- ▶ Requires further development and testing.



Typical remotely operated vehicles (ROVs)



4 No Action Alternative

- ▶ No SISS would be implemented at Bangor. This would not meet the security requirements for this military installation.