



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND
2000 TRIDENT WAY
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92155-5599

March 8, 2016

FOUO - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1)

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress
United States House of Representatives
50th District, California

Dear Mr. Hunter,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your letter of February 17, 2016 and provide information on Naval Special Warfare (NSW). Ensuring the combat effectiveness of NSW forces in a range of operational environments and on the battlefield is my number one priority, and one that I take most seriously.

In context of the overall Department of Defense (DoD) and Special Operations Forces (SOF) Enterprise, NSW has sufficient funding to conduct our assigned missions at a moderate level of risk, and enough internal flexibility and authority to align resources to address command priorities and emerging challenges. Please be assured that NSW is meeting the most critical needs of its personnel.

Your letter identified a concern over the adequacy of Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) Team weapon inventories. Every SEAL Team trains and deploys with a full outfitting of individual and Team-issued weapons that enable our operators to be decisive in missions across a range of potential operational environments.

Most SEAL members want to keep the same weapons for their entire tour of duty. Safety, maintenance, and accountability requirements do not always allow this to happen. Weapons suffer failures or have to be periodically returned to the armory and depot for critical maintenance based upon their use in both training and combat operations. These actions are required to maintain the maximum effectiveness of the weapons and ensure the safety of the operator. Maintenance deferrals reduce accuracy, reliability and could result in catastrophic accidents.

SEAL Teams are manned, equipped, trained, and deployed across a 24-month process called the Inter-deployment Training Cycle (IDTC). The following is a summary of each IDTC block (approximately six months each) and related key weapons life cycle events:

- a. Professional Development (PRODEV):

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- (1) Post-deployment leave/stand-down.
- (2) Approximately one-third turnover in SEAL Platoon personnel.
- (3) Accomplishment of individual qualifications, education, functional and individual skill requirements.
- (4) Weapons assigned to individual operators are available for re-issue approximately 30-45 days after the date of that SEAL Team's post-deployment turn-in. These weapons include the 5.56mm assault rifle, 9mm combat pistol, ancillary sighting devices and designators, and visual augmentation systems. Where possible, returning Team members receive their equipment back from the prior deployment.
- (5) SEALs retain these weapons throughout the remainder of this training and deployment cycle, except when a periodic maintenance, performance or safety failure is identified.
 - b. Unit Level Training (ULT): SEAL Platoons train to become cohesive, fully capable units. This is the most intensive period of collective combat skills training and shooting.
 - c. Squadron Integration Training (SIT): SEAL Teams integrate with the other NSW units and Navy combat support and combat service support enablers that they will deploy with. This block includes a final battle problem in order to achieve a certification of "readiness to deploy". During SIT, a post-ULT weapons inspection is conducted in accordance with Navy requirements. This mid-IDTC inspection is not designed to be invasive. If all systems checks are positive, the weapon remains with the operator. The weapons are only broken down for extensive maintenance if a performance failure or safety issue is identified.
 - d. Deployment. After return from deployment, the SEAL Team turns in its weapons for a mandatory inspection. This accomplishes both a full accounting of serialized equipment and a detailed assessment of the weapons' readiness. Weapons judged to be beyond their service life, out of specification or unsafe for use are removed from the active inventory. Replacement weapons, when required, are requisitioned and any repairable weapons are processed for depot-level overhaul.

The NSW Force receives strong support from both Navy and United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) program offices. Life cycle sustainment policies and processes are developed in partnership with Naval Sea Systems Command (PMS 340), Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, IN, and PEO-SOF Warrior at USSOCOM Headquarters. These policies and processes are continually refined and are backed by years of experience supporting combat operations.

The NSW members' concerns and your query did prompt a process review across the NSW claimancy and reinforces our imperative for continual improvement.

The settling of travel claims is closely managed by our financial managers, both at Naval Special Warfare Command and down through the subordinate NSW Group commands. The NSW Comptroller reviews Government Travel Credit Cards (GTCC) accounts on a weekly basis to ensure members' accounts do not become delinquent. Additionally, our travel system identifies members who have not submitted vouchers for trips that they recently completed. Together, these reports help our travel departments reduce GTCC delinquencies and, ultimately, keep our Sailors from incurring late fees and interest. We remain committed to the timely processing of our member's claims. Currently, NSW has 0.05 percent delinquent accounts (defined as 60 days past due), which is below the one percent threshold established by the DoD. As of March 4th, only four of 8,522 GTCC accounts are delinquent. Our data indicates that, on average, it takes about 12 days for a voucher to get paid once it's submitted. This is the time it takes for reviews, approvals, and final payment by Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) into the traveler's bank account and GTCC account.

Enclosure (1) provides an overview of how Naval Special Warfare Command's Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and FY15 resources were spent. Funding priorities remain the training and readiness of deploying NSW forces and the sustainment of their equipment and mobility platforms. Additionally, resourcing SEAL and SWCC pipeline training, as well as advanced training, are vital to sustaining future NSW capabilities. These resource levels support NSW forces to meet most challenges of current and future operations at a moderate level of risk.

Thank you for your continued strong support of Naval Special Warfare.

Very Respectfully,



B. L. LOSEY

Rear Admiral, United States Navy

Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command

Enclosures: 1. Report on FY14 and FY15 Funding Spent by Naval Special Warfare Command