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April 25, 2013

Major General John M. Murray  
Director of Force Management  
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7  
460 Army Pentagon 2B346  
Washington, DC 20310-0460

Dear Major General Murray:

I would like to commend the Department of the Army for the methodical and deliberative process it has undertaken in achieving the Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment. The Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) provided a good framework to begin this process and indicated several significant socio-economic impacts associated with the possible removal of a brigade combat team at Fort Benning.

In my previous letter to Assistant Secretary of the Army Katherine Hammack, I highlighted substantial investments that were made by the Federal, State, and local governments in support of the addition of the Armor School and approximately 22,000 Army personnel and their families at Fort Benning as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC). As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs (MilCon-VA) it is important to note the substantial Federal investments made for Fort Benning:

- The Subcommittee has spent \$2.4 billion for a total of 95 military construction projects at Fort Benning, includes:
  - \$98.6 million on Family Housing
  - \$14.1 million on Child Development
  - \$18 million on a Physical Fitness Center
  - \$534 million on new Trainee Barracks
  - \$24 million on Troop Health and Dental Clinics
  - \$33.2 million on Battalion and Brigade Complexes
  - \$89 million for ranges that include the Infantry Platoon Battle Course, Squad Defense range, shoothouse, combat pistol qualification course, stationary tank range, anti-armor range, and fire and movement range
  - \$256 million on training facilities that include a combined arms collective training facility, simulation training facility, vehicle maintenance instruction facility, vehicle drivers course, and vehicle recovery course

- \$132 million on vehicle maintenance facilities, wash facilities, and other maintenance shops
- \$205 million on range roads, tank trails, and training area infrastructure
- \$53 million on the warrior transition complex
- \$124 million for the new Martin Army Community Hospital (total cost \$570 million)
- Projected amounts for this ongoing Federal investment is scheduled to top \$3.5 billion

I am especially proud of the investments in the new hospital, family housing, the health and dental clinics, and the child development centers. As co-chair of the Congressional Military Family Caucus great strides were made to improve the quality of life for military families at Fort Benning and this commitment to the families continues.

I am confident the representatives from the State and local governments will further detail the efforts they have made on behalf of Fort Benning to improve transportation, public utilities, education, health care, social services, and quality of life for the soldiers, family members, and base support personnel since 2005. These investments have made Fort Benning the nation's premier maneuver training base, in addition to the role it has played in the training and deployment of divisions, regiments, and brigades to serve in every major conflict since World War II.

The base and the community take great pride in being the home of major operational units prepared to deploy wherever the nation needs them. The people in the Tri-City also understand what it means to take care of Army families when their loved ones are deployed. Furthermore, Fort Benning prides itself on welcoming our service men and women home as heroes. This call to service is part of the lineage at Fort Benning.

While I can appreciate the Army's initiative to restructure our forces in accordance with our operational requirements and the current fiscal climate, I join the local towns, cities, communities, businesses and Chambers of Commerce in urging you to carefully review the investments that already have been made at Fort Benning. I also urge you to consider the substantial history of the division, regiment, and brigade units training and deploying from this military base. I take the commitment to our soldiers, family members, veterans, and defense civilian personnel at Fort Benning very seriously and hope you will do all that you can to ensure that it continues to be "Army Strong" in the future.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress