

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 4, 2020

The Honorable Ryan McCarthy
Secretary of the Army
1600 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1600

General James C. McConville
Chief of Staff of the Army
1600 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1600

Dear Secretary McCarthy and General McConville:

First, we would like to express our gratitude for your leadership of the brave men and women serving in the U.S. Army, including the many servicemembers stationed in Kentucky. As strong advocates for our nation's military, we have been proud to support full funding for the defense budget in support of the selfless patriots in our all-volunteer force. We also appreciate the importance of modernizing our force structures to counter the evolving threats facing the U.S. and our allies. Last year, precisely to ensure the U.S. armed forces are able to modernize to meet the changing threat, we worked to pass a budget deal that sets a sufficient funding level to meet our defense demands, and secured a year-end government funding agreement that avoided a continuing resolution and provided increased budget stability for the Department of Defense and Services.

We are aware that as part of the modernization effort the Army is currently considering possible locations to station a fourth corps headquarters that will support U.S. forces and operations in Europe. When making this decision, we encourage you to consider the many advantages to locating this headquarters at Fort Knox.

The existing assets and infrastructure at Fort Knox make it a cost effective option for the Army as it looks to activate the new headquarters in October 2020. Fort Knox has the capacity to accommodate the necessary headquarters complex and support facilities without the need for new military construction. This would not only allow the Army to make the most fiscally responsible use of taxpayer dollars, but also facilitate the timely and efficient establishment of the headquarters to help meet our national defense needs.

Locating the new headquarters at Fort Knox would clearly provide a significant return on investment for the Army. Fort Knox's military value is further enhanced by its unparalleled training grounds, proximity to Fort Campbell, and its innovative energy efficiency and resiliency program that allows the post to manage energy expenditures and be energy self-sufficient for up to 90 days. Additionally, Fort Knox is ideally located to support the rapid movement of personnel between the continental United States (CONUS) and Europe, with ample road, rail, and air transportation options available. This includes commercial air travel through the nearby

Louisville International Airport, as well as several other major international airports within driving distance of Fort Knox.

Kentucky is proud to be one of the most military-friendly states in America. Fort Knox would offer numerous benefits for servicemembers and families assigned to the new headquarters, from existing capacity in its well-rated military housing and on-post school system, to robust community support, ample spousal employment opportunities, and high-quality off-base options for housing, education, and medical services in both the neighboring communities and nearby Louisville. In particular, military families would benefit from the community's recent \$1.5 million investment to expand a Family Care Clinic just outside Fort Knox's gates. Furthermore, Kentucky has enacted a number of new policies in recent years to ensure licensing reciprocity and hiring preferences for military spouses in the Commonwealth, answering Secretary Esper's call for state governments to do more to welcome military families.

As you consider potential headquarters locations that best meet the Army's readiness needs, we ask that you keep Fort Knox's many assets foremost in mind, and that you keep us informed throughout the stationing decision process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR



RAND PAUL
UNITED STATES SENATE



BRETT GUTHRIE
MEMBER OF CONGRESS