

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 16, 2011

The Honorable Thomas R. Lamont
Assistant Secretary of the Army
Manpower and Reserve Affairs
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Assistant Secretary Lamont:

It has come to our attention that in reviewing options for normalizing the development of doctrine, training and leader development for Civil Affairs forces, the Army is considering moving the Civil Affairs training mission from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. We write today to express our full and enthusiastic support for transferring the training of Civil Affairs forces to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. We ask that you ensure that the possibility of moving the training mission for Civil Affairs to Fort Leonard Wood is given full and fair consideration as the selection process proceeds.

Fort Leonard Wood's unique mix of current training missions makes it an ideal candidate for receiving the Civil Affairs training mission. Home to the U.S. Army's Military Police and Engineer Schools, Fort Leonard Wood already supplies commanders in the field with the best-trained MPs and military engineers in the world. Like Civil Affairs forces, MPs and engineers are critical to the successful implementation of Civil-Military Operations (CMOs). Co-locating the training of Civil Affairs forces with other CMO-critical training schools at Fort Leonard Wood will create inherent efficiencies and valuable learning opportunities across specialties. In addition, Civil Affairs is composed overwhelmingly of Reserve personnel, and as headquarters to the U.S. Army Reserve 102nd Training Division, Fort Leonard Wood is well-suited to handle a new training mission comprised primarily of reserve personnel.

At Fort Leonard Wood, military personnel and their families benefit from tremendous community support and an outstanding quality of life. The citizens and leaders of Waynesville, St. Robert, and other towns in Pulaski County value the presence of the U.S. Armed Forces in their community. And Fort Leonard Wood's location in the beautiful Ozarks provides servicemembers and their families with easy access to outdoor recreation, like hunting, camping and hiking in the Mark Twain National Forest; or fishing and boating at the Lake of the Ozarks. Fort Leonard Wood is also located within easy driving distance of shopping, restaurants, sporting activities, and other entertainment offered in Springfield and St. Louis.

Civil Affairs forces, MPs, and military engineers work together on the front lines as our Armed Forces' interact with civilian populations. As the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) makes clear, our Armed Forces must maintain the skills necessary to engage in asymmetric operations, which will require the effective conduct of CMOs. Given this requirement, it simply makes sense that the military personnel who engage in CMOs train together to the greatest extent possible.

Fort Leonard Wood is a natural choice for housing the training of Civil Affairs forces. We stand ready to provide whatever assistance is necessary as you prepare a final recommendation for Secretary McHugh regarding the future training location for those forces. Should you need anything, please feel free to contact Jason Rauch with Senator McCaskill's office at Jason_Rauch@McCaskill.senate.gov, 202-224-6154; or Mark Cummings with Senator Blunt's office at Mark_Cummings@Blunt.senate.gov, 202-224-5721.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator