

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Ryan McCarthy
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Army
1600 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1600

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

Dear Secretary McCarthy and General McConville:

As a former Army officer and as the U.S. Representative for Kentucky's Second Congressional District, I write in support of Fort Knox's application to locate the new Fourth Army Corps Headquarters at Fort Knox. On January 21, 2020, the Army sent notification regarding plans to activate the new headquarters in the coming months to fulfill the Army's requirements for the National Defense Strategy. I understand that the stationing decision will be made as early as February 2020. I am confident in Fort Knox's ability to support this headquarters.

The hospitality that Kentucky offers our soldiers and their families is second to none, and Kentucky's Second District is ready and able to accommodate these soldiers and their families. I mentioned in my letter dated December 20, 2019 that following the 2005 BRAC, the Commonwealth of Kentucky invested \$250 million in transportation, education and other infrastructure to accommodate immediate and future growth at Fort Knox. This region has the housing, classroom, and health care capacity to support this command. Military housing on-post and housing off the installation are both rated well. There is capacity in the on-post school system as well as the off-post schools for families of the soldiers who would live at Fort Knox. Additionally, the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) created a Career Skills Program for transitioning soldiers and the IT Coding Academy to meet the IT Professional needs of Fort Knox.

Secretary Esper and I have spoken on multiple occasions about the importance of taking care of our service members and their families. Specifically, addressing the spousal employment gap has been a priority for the Secretary. Not only is this the right thing to do, but this issue has important ramifications for the retention and ultimately readiness of our Armed Forces. Soldiers assigned here will find a business community committed to providing job opportunities to their spouses. Further, in 2019 the Kentucky General Assembly passed HB 323 to allow reciprocal occupational licensure for members of the U.S. military, Reserves, and National Guard, as well as for veterans and spouses, which is part of the Community Support Value Analysis (CSVA).

The community surrounding Fort Knox has also demonstrated commitment to the welfare of soldiers and their families through the investment of \$1.5 million in Hardin Memorial Health to expand the Family Care Clinic outside the Wilson Gate of Fort Knox – another critical component to the CSVA.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. I have also enclosed as a matter of record my previous letter on the subject dated December 20, 2019. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Elaina Murphy (elaina.murphy@mail.house.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,



Brett Guthrie
Brett Guthrie
MEMBER OF CONGRESS