



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT  
110 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0110

**AUG 04 2008**

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeLauro:

I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary of the Army Pete Geren concerning your July 13, 2008 and July 28, 2008 letters and August 1, 2008 phone call about the Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center project. I have reviewed the concerns raised in your letters and appreciate the opportunity to respond.

As background, this Connecticut BRAC 2005 project, if implementable, closes Army Reserve and Army National Guard facilities in Middletown, New Haven, Milford, Putnam, Manchester, New Britain and Newington and consolidates and relocates approximately 1000 Guard and Reserve Soldiers into a new modern facility in Middletown.

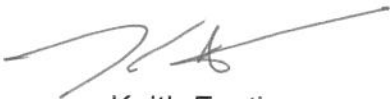
By letter dated August 2, 2008, The Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard advised the Army that Governor Rell has determined that the 250<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company will not relocate under the BRAC 2005 law. That decision removes 180 Soldiers and their equipment from the project and will allow it to be constructed on a smaller site. Accordingly, the Army will again search Middletown for sites which are suitable for the project.

Site suitability, per BRAC law, is determined by the Army. Several criteria are evaluated, including: (1) price; (2) sufficient buildable area, (3) site access, (4) environmental issues, (5) zoning, and (6) site related construction costs. Thus far, the Army identified and evaluated nine candidate project sites in Middletown. As you know, the Army abandoned its first preferred site, on Freeman Road, due to public and political concerns raised over its location in the Maromas area. With the exception of the Boardman Lane property, the other sites were unsuitable because of size, location, prohibitive cost, unknown conditions, engineering challenges, and/or inability to meet BRAC 2005 legal deadlines. In the event that a suitable site can not be found quickly and engineering and environmental studies completed, the Army is not confident it can execute this project in time to meet the BRAC law deadline. In that unfortunate event, this significant construction project will be cancelled and the Reserve and Guard Soldiers will remain at existing locations in their aged and inefficient facilities.

During the renewed site investigation process the Army will continue to collaborate with the city and the state to locate additional candidate sites. Your assistance in obtaining the city and state's cooperation will shorten the search process and help the Army to remain on an implementable construction schedule. After site

identification, the next critical project milestone will be to perform appropriate environmental studies under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and an Engineering Feasibility Study (EFS). These processes include opportunities for public comment. The other concerns you raised about the Boardman Lane site are typically addressed during the NEPA process and engineering studies and will be fully vetted in those due diligence processes if, after the renewed site search efforts, it remains the only suitable project site.

Sincerely,



Keith Eastin