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10TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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September 24, 2015

Mr. Don Tison, Designated Federal Officer
National Commission on the Future of the Army
700 Army Pentagon, Room 3E406
Washington, D.C. 20310-0700

Dear Mr. Tison,

As the Member of the United States House of Representatives privileged to represent the constituents of the 10th Congressional District in Washington State and Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in its entirety, I submit the following comments relating to the National Commission on the Future of the Army's installation data request. I appreciate the Commission's time and effort in reviewing this document.

JBLM is the largest power projection platform west of the Mississippi and its mission sets play an integral part in delivering and executing our national security strategy. As stated in the Quadrennial Defense Review, the National Military Strategy for 2015, and the National Defense Strategy from which we derive our Planning, Programming, Budget and Execution (PPBE) process, it is clear our country's future security policies include a re-balance to Asia. JBLM is in fact our country's best answer to mitigate national security threats emanating from the Pacific and beyond. This installation offers a joint, multi-dimensional force capability, and it does so in a fiscally prudent manner.

It is generally acknowledged that future defense budgets will face greater scrutiny and more will be asked from Army leadership in terms of delivering effective results with increasingly scarce funding. This paradigm is already imbedded in the thought process of I Corps, the 7th Infantry Division and the Joint Base Command. Time and time again this installation and its' leadership demonstrated, that through innovative thinking and through the development of inter-service partnerships, they can and do thrive for the betterment of our nation.

Whether through the development of relationships with other nations using the Pacific Pathways program or through joint exercises with the Air Forces, Navy or Marine Corps, JBLM's Army component has found ways to make the most of its' resources. This innovative thinking should be rewarded and expanded upon, not reduced. It does not make sense to diminish the

capacity or capabilities of this Army mission either from a national strategic or fiscal perspective; it is indeed a best value for the investment made.

It is my hope the Commission will consider the following operational elements embedded in this region:

- All branches of service are represented at JBLM, and each service made robust investments in their own installations located less than an hour drive from JBLM. All future deployments will necessarily be joint missions.
- Deep water Ports at Tacoma, Olympia & Seattle, an adjacent air field with dozens of C-17's at McChord and a mature regional rail system make for rapid and efficient Army deployment logistics.
- The Yakima Training Center, less than two hours away, provides an Army training area second only to the National Training Center in California at significantly reduced costs.
- The Department of Defense invested \$2.7 billion in military construction and nearly \$1 billion in sustainment and modernization projects making JBLM one of the most modern installations in the Department's inventory. The Army will benefit from facilities in the infancy of their lifecycle costs.
- Associations with Guard and Reserve units in Washington State have been longstanding with multiple joint deployments and a commonality of equipment sets.
- The Washington State National Guard does not have any AH-64's in their inventory to transfer to the Army, but they do have a Theater Aviation Command, one of only two Army wide, that the Active Army can and does frequently utilize.
- Geographically, JBLM sits in perfect alignment to deploy anywhere in the Pacific Rim within days or hours for rapid power projection.
- JBLM hosts other tenant units the Army can and does take advantage of including the Western Regional Medical Command and Madigan Army Medical Center, the Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion, the Western Air Defense Sector, the 62nd Air Lift Wing, the 446th Air Lift Wing and their 62nd & 446th Medical Squadrons, the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron, the 66th Theater Aviation Command, the 1st Air Support Operations Group, and the National Center for Telehealth and Telemedicine (T2).
- JBLM is home to other Army tenant units integral to mission planning such as the 1st Special Forces Group, the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and the 4th Battalion Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

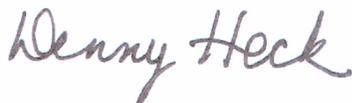
Non-operational elements needing consideration are:

- Communities surrounding the installation want the Army to be here and welcome them with open arms.

- Local Communities and the State of Washington made millions of dollars of investment in infrastructure projects and encroachment mitigation.
- The State invested millions of dollars to help replace 5 aging elementary schools serving Army families on JBLM.
- The Puget Sound region has a multitude of large companies offering employment opportunities for military spouses and the State makes credentialing easier for transferred family members.
- JBLM boast the best transition programs within the Department of Defense.
- The quality of life in this region makes JBLM the 2nd most requested duty station behind Hawaii.
- The State and local communities established many organizations whose missions are to study and adjust operations / processes to work better and more efficiently with the military. The Washington Military Alliance, the Washington Military Transition Council, the South Sound Military Communities Partnership and local Chambers of Commerce with their Military Affairs Committees are but a few organizations paying attention to the Army's presence in the South Puget Sound.

I have the good fortune of visiting JBLM each time I come home for a District Work Period and have learned much about the Army from the dozens of briefings I have received over the years. The professionalism and expertise displayed by the Leadership and the Servicemen and women of this installation is second to none. They have a difficult mission to accomplish, but please know they do it extremely well with an indefatigable dedication to duty. This installation provides an invaluable service to our nation that cannot be replicated or reformulated elsewhere. It is my hope that the National Commission will recognize the unique asset JBLM is and will work to keep the Army's capabilities strong and robust at this installation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denny Heck". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Denny Heck
MEMBER OF CONGRESS