



September 29, 2015

LTC Edwin "Brian" Rice
Commission Staff
National Commission on the Future of the Army
Via email: edwin.b.rice@ncfa.ncr.gov

Dear Col. Rice:

Thank you for your earlier communications to insure an accurate record of our remarks during the NCFA's Tacoma meeting by requesting an e-copy of our remarks. It appears I forwarded an incorrect letter, remedied with this email.

When the members and support staff for the NCFA visited our community last week, you were undoubtedly struck by the actuality of the joint base, in that the bases really are contiguous.

Hopefully you were also made aware that the active duty installation is also contiguous with the Washington National Guard's (WNG) Camp Murray. This narrative brings me to a point that the Chamber did not cover in its presented remarks, but issues that we shared during our 30th annual Washington-to-Washington, D.C. 2015 conference with our Congressional delegation.

Firstly, I wish to share with you, as attached, Washington State Senate's Joint Memorial 8008 speaking to the reflagging of the 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) from its outdated tracked vehicle composition to the Stryker Brigade mission and equipment. With the reduction of a Stryker Brigade at JBLM, the collaborative role of the WNG to Strykers has already been approved. However, we wish to encourage your recognition and support of this affordability realignment.

Secondly, we wish to ensure that WNG does not lose the 66th Theater Aviation Command (TAC) and its dual domestic response capability for domestic emergency response and wartime missions. We support preserving the 66th Theatre Aviation Command (TAC) and re-designating it as a Theatre Aviation Brigade (TAB). WNG's 66th TAC is at 110% strength, manned with experienced aviators that have deployed many times to the toughest missions in combat theaters. This unit could easily be converted to the TAB structure. It is important to preserve this valuable capacity and experience as a tool the Army can draw upon in future conflicts. This unit is strategically positioned to align with and support the Pacific area of operations that currently is without sufficient dedicated aviation headquarters at this level. While Army has directed the inactivation of the 66th TAC, it is currently on hold by not been cancelled.

Thank you for your consideration of these additional remarks. If I may assist with further clarifying information, please call on me.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary D. Brackett'.

Gary D. Brackett, CCR
Manager, Business and Political

Encl. SJC 8008