

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Ryan McCarthy  
Office of the Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101  
Pentagon

Dear Secretary McCarthy,

We commend your decision to realign forces under a new corps headquarters in support of the National Defense Strategy and strongly recommend that you consider Fort Benning for its basing. Fort Benning is a crown jewel of the Army uniquely qualified to host the new corps headquarters.

Consistent with the Army's timely requirement for additional operational-level headquarters to execute multi-domain operations, Fort Benning stands ready to meet all facility, deployment support infrastructure, and community support requirements needed for an October 2020 activation. As the home to the Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning provides unmatched training, support, and command facilities. It includes 26 million square feet of facilities and 102,000 acres of maneuver training areas capable of supporting all manner of maneuver operations, tactics, and training. Not only can the Army capitalize on that expansive capacity, it can make even more efficient use of recent investments made to preserve and prepare the areas at Kelly Hill where prominent brigade combat teams were once based. As a leading edge of the Army's Installation of the Future Initiative, Benning will undoubtedly tie the fourth corps headquarters into its efforts to maintain a resilient installation enabling a Fight Tonight force.

Aside from its attributes as a force generation installation, Fort Benning is an ideal power projection platform on the East Coast to support U.S. military commitments in Europe. Lawson Army Airfield provides timely air access for rotational troop deployments and its new airport control tower is projected to be completed in January of next year. Fort Benning is also only a ninety minute drive to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, the largest international airport in the country and busiest airport in the world, with 2,700 arrivals and departures on average per day. The airport has daily flights to Frankfurt and multiple flights each week to Stuttgart, Munich, Brussels, and Rome, directly meeting the need of frequent commercial flights to operationally-driven locations in Europe.

Finally, and just as importantly, we understand that community support is vital for the success of the new corps headquarters. We in Georgia are proud to support the career opportunities for

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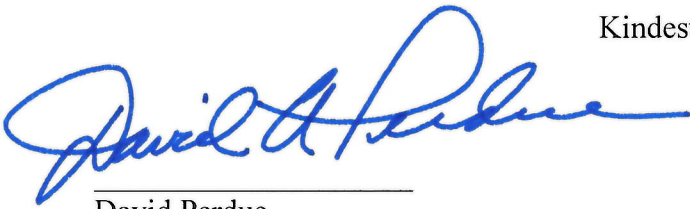
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military spouses, as Georgia state law requires the expedited processing of military spouse professional licenses. Not only do these applications already get processed within an average of three business days, the Georgia State Legislature is also actively considering legislation to expedite the process even more to ensure that Georgia maintains a high quality of life for military families.

Fort Benning is also home to a strong Department of Defense Education Activity elementary and middle school system, while the Muscogee County School system provides excellent K-12 education opportunities in the Columbus area. As we continue to work together to make the privatized housing experience fitting of what soldiers and their families deserve, we are proud of the recent reports that rates of satisfaction at the Villages of Benning are increasing.

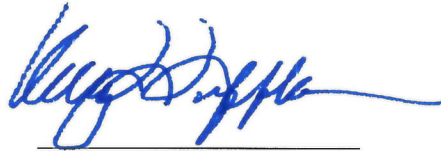
We are grateful for your long-standing service to the U.S. Army, and appreciate your careful consideration of Fort Benning to serve as the home of the new fourth corps headquarters. Georgia is proud to work alongside our nation's Army to exceed the needs of the National Defense Strategy.

Kindest Regards,



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David Perdue  
United States Senator



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Kelly Loeffler  
United States Senator