

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2011

Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
United States Army
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0110

Dear Secretary McHugh:

Earlier this month, we requested a meeting with General Ann Dunwoody through the Army Congressional Liaison Office but were told she would not be available until July at the earliest. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a number of issues including the jobs and workload at Rock Island's Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (JMTC), locating the Expeditionary Contracting Command (ECC) in Huntsville, Alabama away from one of its primary customers, the Army Sustainment Command (ASC), efforts to establish capabilities to perform work at Picatinny that has historically been done at Rock Island, and rumors of another round of base closures.

Recent events highlight the need for this meeting to take place immediately. It is our understanding that Army Materiel Command (AMC) has formed an internal task force charged with cutting \$3 billion from the overall AMC budget, which will report its recommendation in July. We are deeply concerned that closing the JMTC is a potential approach being considered by this task force. We cannot understand how this is a course of action that will provide the needed cost savings given that the JMTC is a Working Capital Fund facility and is therefore sustained through sales revenue, not appropriated funds, not to mention the added cost of moving or replicating the many unique capabilities at Rock Island Arsenal. We do, however, understand how it would negatively impact our national security and we find that to be unacceptable.

We have issues with the assignment of ECC to Huntsville for several reasons. First, the mission of ECC closely aligns with the ASC with both organizations maintaining a deployable capability. Plus ASC has a complete command staff with all of the matrix support needed for the ECC. Additionally, ASC already has a command operations and intelligence center that maintains a 24/7 tactical level global logistics operations support. This is a capability that ECC requires, and which simply does not exist in Huntsville today. Further, and perhaps more important, is the fact the Army has recently programmed \$28 million for a new facility in Huntsville to house, in part, the ECC. This verges on a tremendous waste of taxpayer money when there will be perfectly good office space at Rock Island Arsenal available this summer when 1,200 jobs move to Warren, Michigan.

When the Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command (JM & L LCMC) was established, the Illinois and Iowa Congressional delegation asked that it be headquartered at Rock Island. When AMC instead headquartered the JM & L LCMC at Picatinny Arsenal, we expressed concerns about the future of ammunition management and procurement functions historically accomplished at Rock Island by the JMC. The entire Illinois and Iowa Congressional delegation met with the AMC leadership, and the delegation was assured that no JMC jobs were

in jeopardy and that no ammunition functions then being performed by Rock Island's JMC would be closed out or moved to Picatinny.

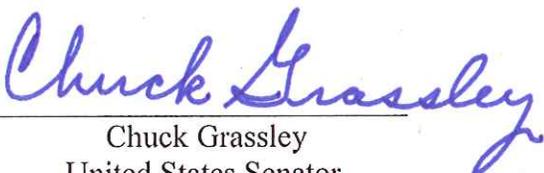
When we met with General Dunwoody prior to her Senate confirmation, we discussed this agreement with her. However, we have been informed about efforts to establish Picatinny capabilities that duplicate functions (such as ammunition acquisition support and configuration control) historically done at Rock Island. When the Goldwater-Nichols acquisition reform law was passed, the Program Executive Officer organic structure was to be lean and to rely on matrix support from the existing commands. It appears to us that these efforts by Picatinny to duplicate Rock Island ammunition functions do not live up to past acquisition reforms and do not make sense in today's resource constrained atmosphere.

As referenced in our letter of May 26, we are further concerned about the rumors of another round of base closures. If these rumors hold true, near-term actions such as those referenced above will position Rock Island Arsenal for total closure. This would be devastating for the community, the Army, and our Nation. Had we closed the JMTC during BRAC 2005, we would not have been able to provide the armor protection desperately needed by our young men and women in combat in the expeditious manner in which we did. That would have translated to more deaths of our brave men and women.

The events described above concern us greatly and therefore, we reiterate our request to discuss these matters with you as soon as possible.

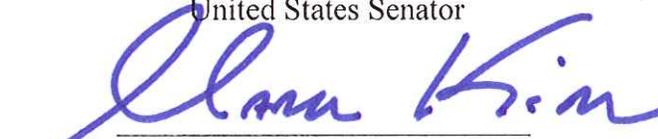
Sincerely,

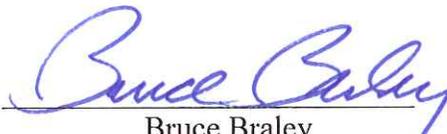

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