

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3302

General Raymond T. Odierno
Army Chief of Staff
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

March 2, 2015

Dear General Odierno:

Thank you for sending Brigadier General Roger L. Cloutier Jr. to Fort Bragg for the Army's "listening session" on February 5, 2015. The Fort Bragg community is extremely proud of our Army base, which was demonstrated when nearly 500 people showed up to support Fort Bragg, Pope Army Airfield and the Special Forces who train there and protect our great nation. For this reason, we hope you understand that saving money via cuts to Fort Bragg is unwise and we must work to solve our fiscal crisis without sacrificing the safety of our nation or the livelihood of the great men and women who fight to defend it.

When evaluating any possible spending cuts to our military, we should have a long-term vision that takes a holistic view of the force structure, instead of simply looking to reduce spending in the short term. While fiscal austerity is a vital component of any taxpayer funded plan, we need to review the current and potential future requirements of our military and how we can best protect our nation. With the emergence of asymmetrical warfare and threats in an increasingly dangerous world, the need for the highly-trained forces located at Fort Bragg is even greater. It is incredibly important to take into account the value of Fort Bragg and the potentially dangerous consequences that could come from decreasing its capability and capacity.

We must hold each and every department accountable for taxpayer dollars; however the critical mission capacity and capabilities at Fort Bragg should not bear the brunt. We thank Brigadier General Cloutier for attending this "listening session" and hope he understands that while making broad cuts may make sense on paper, decreasing funding for Fort Bragg will have a detrimental impact on our readiness at a time when we can least afford it.

As the representatives of Fort Bragg and the surrounding communities, we look forward to working with the Army and the Department of Defense as a whole to promote, grow and maintain this vital military installation.

Respectfully,


Renee Ellmers


Richard Hudson


David Rouzer