

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

DCN 9196

September 24, 2004

General Peter J. Schoomaker
Chief of Staff
United States Army
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Dear General Schoomaker,

We are writing to share with you our strong support and enthusiasm for Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem in Atlanta, Georgia. We call upon you to work with us to protect these important facilities because they are necessary for our national defense and they make a direct contribution to the well-being of the men and women in the armed services.

As you already know, Fort McPherson is a premier Army installation in a world-renowned city. Fort McPherson, situated on 487 acres since 1885, has been an important military post, home today to U.S. Army Forces Command, the Third U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Reserve Command, and the South East Region of the Information Management Agency. Fort Gillem is the logistical base for the Army in Atlanta and it is home to the Army's only criminal investigation forensic lab, which will move into a new \$29 million facility in February, 2005. Fort Gillem is also home to 89 organizations including the First U.S. Army, the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, the Army Air Force Exchange Service Atlanta Distribution Center, the Atlanta Military Entrance Processing Station, and the 3^d Military Police Group. Both of these facilities work together as one installation and offer numerous other advantages beyond its existing base infrastructure, excellent quality of life in Atlanta, and superior community support.

Fort McPherson is home to the U.S. Army Forces Command, the Army component of Joint Forces Command, trains, mobilizes, deploys, sustains, and reconstitutes combat ready forces to meet requirements of combatant commanders across the full spectrum of current and future operations. The Third U.S. Army serves as the Army component headquarters for U.S. Central Command and it functions as a Joint Forces Land Component Command or Coalition Joint Task Force when designated by Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Central Command. The U.S. Army Reserve Command serves as command and control headquarters for all Army Reserve forces. The U.S. Army Reserve Command also provides trained and ready combat support and combat service support soldiers and units necessary to support national strategy during peacetime, contingencies, and war. The Southeast Region Office of the Installation Management Agency provides equitable, effective and efficient management of Army installations in the Southeastern United States to support mission readiness and execution, enable the well-being of soldiers, civilians and family members, improve infrastructure, and preserve the environment.

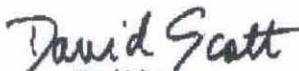
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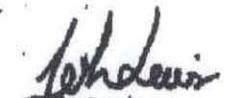
Fort Gillem is home to the First U.S. Army ensures the training, mobilization, deployment, redeployment, and reconstitution of Army Reserve and National Guard units in the eastern U.S., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory provides worldwide forensic laboratory services and operates a U.S. Army school to train and certify individuals in all of the forensic disciplines. Fort Gillem is also home to the 2nd Recruiting Brigade which recruits with integrity high quality men and women to meet Army mission requirements, while caring for all members of the command. The 3rd Military Police Group provides a full range of quality criminal investigative support and services for commanders, installations, and other areas of Army interest in the twenty-eight states east of the Mississippi, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem offer numerous other advantages such as convenient access to Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, the nation's busiest airport, and Atlanta's excellent public transportation system which provides easy commutes to and from the base. The greater Atlanta area also has a first-class communication network that is unrivaled in the Southeast, and is second nationwide only to Washington, D.C. In addition, the surrounding communities provide a strong infrastructure for Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem and a first-rate quality of life that is ideal for Army personnel and their families.

More than just a headquarters, Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem are great assets to the city of Atlanta and the state of Georgia. We are proud of the fact that Georgia is home to Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem, but we are particularly proud that the installation is a highly-efficient, cost-effective resource in support of our national defense. Therefore, we would appreciate your consideration of everything that these very important facilities provide for our armed forces, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that the assets of Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem are carefully evaluated and protected.

Most respectfully,


David Scott
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress