

LANE EVANS

17TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

RANKING MEMBER
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRSMEMBER
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

DCN: 4857

JUL 18 2005

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1317

July 14, 2005

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The Honorable James H. Bilbray
Commission Member
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
2521 South Clark Street, Suite 600
Arlington VA 22202

Dear Commissioner *James* Bilbray:

As the proud member of Congress representing the Rock Island Arsenal, I would like to provide some supplemental information regarding the 1st US Army's move to Rock Island Arsenal. I would also like to reiterate my invitation for you and your staff to visit Rock Island Arsenal.

Rock Island Arsenal is set to lose nearly 2,000 positions under the 2005 BRAC report, with our only significant addition being the 1st US Army Headquarters. The potential gain of the 1st US Army is vitally important to the Rock Island Arsenal and local community. Rock Island Arsenal is a superior location to house and support this dynamic command and I would I would like to make you aware of the following key points:

- **Immediate costs savings through lower direct costs** to the Army by locating at Rock Island Arsenal. Locality pay for civilian employees is significantly lower because Rock Island utilizes the "rest of the United States rate" and Atlanta requires a higher locality scale-- as much as \$16,000 more for senior GS-15 employees. Most active duty and temporary duty personnel also receive BAH, which is 30% less in Rock Island than in Atlanta. Rock Island BAH is on average \$357/month less for enlisted personnel and \$435/month less for Warrant and Commissioned Officers than in Atlanta.
- **547,000 sf available immediately** that can accommodate 3,376 personnel at the Army standard of 162 sf/ per person. The June 24th response by the Army Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment affirmatively state there is room without additional military construction to accommodate the 1st US Army
- **Highly secure facility that exceeds or meets all DOD anti-terrorism and force protection standards.** Rock Island Arsenal has spent \$16 million since 2001 to upgrade security.
- **Central US location** providing better proximity to both coasts and major training areas than the current site in the Southeastern US. Quad Cities International Airport is only a 10 minute commute from the installation and offers daily jet service to Chicago, Atlanta, Memphis, Minneapolis, Orlando, Dallas-Fort Worth, Denver, Detroit, and

Cincinnati. RIA is also within proximity to Chicago's O'hare International Airport which offers more connections to more cities, more often than any other airport in the world.

- **Full complement of services for personnel** including a child development center, the Army's first school age center, Post Exchange, Commissary, Medical clinic & pharmacy, Fitness Center, Waiting Families Program, and MWR services. Many of Fort Gillem's facilities are located a 13.5 mile commute at Fort McPherson.
- **40 sets of modern housing** for officers and enlisted personnel as well as 8 sets of single family and unaccompanied sets of quarters. **6 additional sets of senior officers quarters** on the National Register of Historic Places with sizes ranging from 20,000 sf to 5,000 sf. Fort Gillem has only 10 sets of quarters for military personnel.

Rock Island Arsenal is a top rate installation that will provide a superior home to the 1st Army Headquarters. Not only will this move save the Department of the Defense millions of dollars, but it also provides a high quality of life that will attract and retrain valued employees making the transition. I urge you to consider these positive aspects of the Rock Island Arsenal when deliberating on the DOD recommended move of the 1st US Army.

*Jim,
Don't hesitate to
call me if you
have questions about
Rock Island Arsenal
- Lane*

Sincerely,



LANE EVANS
Member of Congress