



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT
600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0600
SEP 25 2009

The Honorable J. Randy Forbes
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Forbes:

I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Secretary of the Army to your September 14, 2009, letter concerning the Army's proposal to construct a new hotel on Fort Lee, Virginia.

Fort Lee is one of the Army's primary training installations. It is projected that the demand for student lodging at Fort Lee will increase from the current level of approximately 1,000 rooms per day to approximately 2,300 rooms per day by 2011. A majority of those students will be in a temporary duty status. Additionally, there is an estimated daily demand for approximately 250 rooms by personnel in other duty statuses.

The Army has a vital interest in lodging Soldiers on the installation. Lodging Soldiers on-post has a positive impact on readiness, force protection, and safety. Additionally, learning retention is enhanced by lodging Soldiers proximate to where they attend classes, dine, and have access to study resources. Reducing Soldier exposure to vehicular travel during high traffic periods is also a major consideration.

The Army Senior Leadership has concluded that building a new 1,000 room hotel by 2012, and continuing to operate the existing 577 Army lodging rooms on Fort Lee is a prudent course of action. Expanding on-post lodging capacity to 1,577 rooms will allow the Army to accommodate approximately 70 percent of students on post. The remaining 30 percent of students, as well as most non-student travelers, are expected to stay in off-post commercial hotels. Fort Lee currently refers approximately 500 travelers per day to local hotels. As the student population increases, the anticipated daily requirement for commercial hotel rooms will peak at approximately 1,800 rooms by 2011 and remain at over 700 rooms per day after completion of construction of the proposed new lodging on Fort Lee. Accordingly, the Army plans to continue to actively partner with local hotels and businesses in order to accommodate the needs of official travelers who cannot obtain lodging on-post.

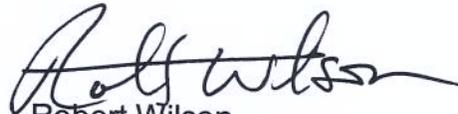
On September 10, 2009, the Fort Lee Garrison Commander hosted a meeting with local business and government officials to address their concerns and review the Army's rationale for this project, the project scope, economic impact, and its current status. In order to ensure that concerns of the local community are adequately considered, we have extended the public comment period for the project Environmental Assessment from the original closing date of September 7, 2009, to October 7, 2009.

The Virginia State Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have completed their reviews and provided comments indicating no significant environmental impacts are associated with the proposed project. We believe the 30 day extension of the public comment period is sufficient for the community to comment on the proposed project.

We appreciate the successful and mutually supportive relationship between Fort Lee and the surrounding communities. As this project proceeds, we will work closely with all parties to facilitate opportunities for local businesses to provide services to Soldiers and their Families.

Thank you for your inquiry in this matter and for your continued support of our Soldiers and their Families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert Wilson
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding General
Installation Management Command



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT
600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0600

SEP 25 2009

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Secretary of the Army to your September 14, 2009, letter concerning the Army's proposal to construct a new hotel on Fort Lee, Virginia.

Fort Lee is one of the Army's primary training installations. It is projected that the demand for student lodging at Fort Lee will increase from the current level of approximately 1,000 rooms per day to approximately 2,300 rooms per day by 2011. A majority of those students will be in a temporary duty status. Additionally, there is an estimated daily demand for approximately 250 rooms by personnel in other duty statuses.

The Army has a vital interest in lodging Soldiers on the installation. Lodging Soldiers on-post has a positive impact on readiness, force protection, and safety. Additionally, learning retention is enhanced by lodging Soldiers proximate to where they attend classes, dine, and have access to study resources. Reducing Soldier exposure to vehicular travel during high traffic periods is also a major consideration.

The Army Senior Leadership has concluded that building a new 1,000 room hotel by 2012, and continuing to operate the existing 577 Army lodging rooms on Fort Lee is a prudent course of action. Expanding on-post lodging capacity to 1,577 rooms will allow the Army to accommodate approximately 70 percent of students on post. The remaining 30 percent of students, as well as most non-student travelers, are expected to stay in off-post commercial hotels. Fort Lee currently refers approximately 500 travelers per day to local hotels. As the student population increases, the anticipated daily requirement for commercial hotel rooms will peak at approximately 1,800 rooms by 2011 and remain at over 700 rooms per day after completion of construction of the proposed new lodging on Fort Lee. Accordingly, the Army plans to continue to actively partner with local hotels and businesses in order to accommodate the needs of official travelers who cannot obtain lodging on-post.

On September 10, 2009, the Fort Lee Garrison Commander hosted a meeting with local business and government officials to address their concerns and review the Army's rationale for this project, the project scope, economic impact, and its current status. In order to ensure that concerns of the local community are adequately considered, we have extended the public comment period for the project Environmental Assessment from the original closing date of September 7, 2009, to October 7, 2009.

The Virginia State Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have completed their reviews and provided comments indicating no significant environmental impacts are associated with the proposed project. We believe the 30 day extension of the public comment period is sufficient for the community to comment on the proposed project.

We appreciate the successful and mutually supportive relationship between Fort Lee and the surrounding communities. As this project proceeds, we will work closely with all parties to facilitate opportunities for local businesses to provide services to Soldiers and their Families.

Thank you for your inquiry in this matter and for your continued support of our Soldiers and their Families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "W".

Robert Wilson
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding General
Installation Management Command



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT
600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0600

SEP 25 2009

The Honorable Jim Webb
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Webb:

I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Secretary of the Army to your September 14, 2009, letter concerning the Army's proposal to construct a new hotel on Fort Lee, Virginia.

Fort Lee is one of the Army's primary training installations. It is projected that the demand for student lodging at Fort Lee will increase from the current level of approximately 1,000 rooms per day to approximately 2,300 rooms per day by 2011. A majority of those students will be in a temporary duty status. Additionally, there is an estimated daily demand for approximately 250 rooms by personnel in other duty statuses.

The Army has a vital interest in lodging Soldiers on the installation. Lodging Soldiers on-post has a positive impact on readiness, force protection, and safety. Additionally, learning retention is enhanced by lodging Soldiers proximate to where they attend classes, dine, and have access to study resources. Reducing Soldier exposure to vehicular travel during high traffic periods is also a major consideration.

The Army Senior Leadership has concluded that building a new 1,000 room hotel by 2012, and continuing to operate the existing 577 Army lodging rooms on Fort Lee is a prudent course of action. Expanding on-post lodging capacity to 1,577 rooms will allow the Army to accommodate approximately 70 percent of students on post. The remaining 30 percent of students, as well as most non-student travelers, are expected to stay in off-post commercial hotels. Fort Lee currently refers approximately 500 travelers per day to local hotels. As the student population increases, the anticipated daily requirement for commercial hotel rooms will peak at approximately 1,800 rooms by 2011 and remain at over 700 rooms per day after completion of construction of the proposed new lodging on Fort Lee. Accordingly, the Army plans to continue to actively partner with local hotels and businesses in order to accommodate the needs of official travelers who cannot obtain lodging on-post.

On September 10, 2009, the Fort Lee Garrison Commander hosted a meeting with local business and government officials to address their concerns and review the Army's rationale for this project, the project scope, economic impact, and its current status. In order to ensure that concerns of the local community are adequately considered, we have extended the public comment period for the project Environmental Assessment from the original closing date of September 7, 2009, to October 7, 2009.

The Virginia State Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have completed their reviews and provided comments indicating no significant environmental impacts are associated with the proposed project. We believe the 30 day extension of the public comment period is sufficient for the community to comment on the proposed project.

We appreciate the successful and mutually supportive relationship between Fort Lee and the surrounding communities. As this project proceeds, we will work closely with all parties to facilitate opportunities for local businesses to provide services to Soldiers and their Families.

Thank you for your inquiry in this matter and for your continued support of our Soldiers and their Families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Wilson".

Robert Wilson
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding General
Installation Management Command