



KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State Capitol

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

502-564-8100

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U.S. Army Environmental Command
ATTN: SPEA Public Comments
2450 Connell Road (Building 2264)
Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7664

On behalf of the Kentucky House of Representatives, we appreciate the opportunity to comment with our concerns about the Army's Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) for the Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment. We are deeply concerned about the possible impact on Kentucky's two military installations, Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. These military installations have served the nation through two world wars and continue to deploy this nation's sons and daughters across the globe in defense of freedom and liberty, all the while having the boundless support of the commonwealth.

The economic impact of the Army's 2013 Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) cuts at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell has been and will continue to be costly for all Kentuckians. Estimates of the total economic impact of these installations are as high as \$15 billion dollars annually, and as such, force reductions are extremely detrimental to our local and regional economies. We are further concerned that many military installations with less value, as measured by the latest publicly available military value analysis by the Army, received significantly smaller cuts than Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. For example, Fort Knox saw a 42% reduction in their active component strength, the most of any military installation under PEA consideration.

Kentucky's commitment to and support of Fort Knox and Fort Campbell cannot be overstated. This Commonwealth made enormous commitments in the midst of a historically severe economic downturn to prepare for BRAC. Kentucky has already committed \$251 million for new schools, new roads and other needed infrastructure investments to accommodate the anticipated growth at Fort Knox. Colleges and universities established new curricula to ensure local job seekers were prepared to fill any vacancies within the new commands. Local business and community organizations partnered to host hundreds of civilian employees and their families who were considering the move to Kentucky, a workforce the Army needed to move in order to meet its mission.

The region surrounding Fort Campbell will suffer greatly with a loss of 16,000 soldiers. Fort Campbell is the primary economic driver and employer in that area. It will impact funding for public school systems and education, higher education, housing, business and retail, not to mention the depletion of a workforce. The consequences will be detrimental for this region.

We sympathize with the fact that the Department of the Army (DOA) must make tough decisions at a time when our nation's finances are in a precarious situation. However, we urge the DOA to avoid making additional force reductions at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. These installations provide the military with significant stationing resources and maneuver acreage that many other military installations cannot offer. Fort Knox and Fort Campbell *right now* are able to support additional forces which would allow the Army to leverage highly valuable, but underused training assets. The Kentucky General Assembly stands ready to support the DOA in word and deed to ensure that Fort Knox and Fort Campbell offer the Army a long-term combat ready presence, and that they will thrive as national examples of efficiency and state, local and Federal partnership.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the 2014 SPEA and to offer our support for continued collaboration between the DOA and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Sincerely,



Gregory D. Stumbo
Speaker



Larry Clark
Speaker Pro Tem



Rocky Adkins
Majority Floor Leader



Sannie Overly
Majority Caucus Chair



Tommy Thompson
Majority Whip

- C: U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator Rand Paul
U.S. Representative Ed Whitfield
U.S. Representative Brett Guthrie
U.S. Representative John Yarmuth
U.S. Representative Thomas Massie
U.S. Representative Harold Rogers
U.S. Representative Andy Barr