



**SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON**

SEP 12 2008

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeLauro:

Thank you for your August 20, 2008 letter concerning the BRAC 2005 project for the Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC), Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) and Army Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA).

As my staff discussed with Ms. Dodge and Mr. Zeitlin prior to the public meeting on August 27, 2008, the Army plans to implement this project through the acquisition of land in Middletown that is suitable for construction of this Reserve and Guard facility. The Army interprets and complies with BRAC recommendation language based on its plain meaning. Recommendation #15 requires that units are to be relocated to a new AFRC, OMS and AMSA "...in Middletown, CT..." not in the vicinity of, or within 20 driving miles of the town limits. This unambiguous location language directs the Army to locate the new AFRC within the city limits of Middletown.

The Army is responsible for determining site suitability. Criteria used include price, sufficient buildable area, site access, environmental issues, zoning, and site-related construction costs.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act makes the construction of a new AFRC conditional on the Army's ability to acquire land suitable for construction of the facilities in Middletown. If the Army cannot acquire suitable property in Middletown in time to complete this project prior to the BRAC-imposed deadline of 15 September 2011, then the Army will not be authorized to expend BRAC-appropriated funding for this project and will be unable to complete BRAC recommendation #15.

The Army will comply with Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act and all other applicable federal laws and regulations during property acquisition and construction. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will identify potential sites where the zoning is compatible with our intended use of the land. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, the public, regulators, and public officials will have an opportunity to review and comment on any NEPA document and impact analyses prepared for this action.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Geren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pete Geren