



The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy
Secretary of the Army
U.S. Department of the Army
16 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-1600

Dear Secretary McCarthy,

The Columbus Chamber of Commerce was thrilled to learn that Fort Benning is among the finalists for the Army's newest Corps. I am writing to express our support and encourage you to select Fort Benning as the Fourth Corp's new home. Fort Benning and Columbus have enjoyed an incredible partnership of mutual support for over a century, Fort Benning's history is our history.

Columbus is proud of its military heritage and ties. The military theme is seen throughout the community with businesses and museums honoring military achievements and the presence of military officers and trainees. Our community was shaped in part by military members and their families who have called Columbus home over the years. Fort Benning is engrained in our culture.

Columbus has been named on more than one occasion as the number one military friendly city in the country. A testament to this is our growing population of veterans and retirees. The business friendly environment of Columbus, including three publicly traded companies Aflac, Synovus, and TSYS, offer ample employment opportunities for employment for military spouses. Columbus State University, Columbus Technical College along with many other academic institutions throughout the region provides unique and military friendly opportunities for the Columbus and Fort Benning communities.

For the reasons listed above, we believe Fort Benning stands out among its peers and is the clear choice to house the Army's newest Corps Headquarters. We look forward to welcoming these new Soldiers and their families to our community!

Sincerely,

Pace M. Halter
President and COO, W.C. Bradley Real Estate
Chair, Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce

Russ Carreker
Chair, Development Authority