SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

AUG 3 1 2010

The Honorable James P. Moran
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Moran:

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates asked me to respond on his behalf to your August 6, 2010 letter concerning relocating certain Department of Defense (DoD) offices to the Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia. We share your interest in these health, safety and quality of life issues, and will continue to diligently pursue acceptable solutions to all issues. The enclosed information papers expound on the topics discussed below.

It is important to clarify that the selection of the Mark Center resulted from a competitive, best value solicitation process and the attendant completion of environmental studies in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. One of the imperatives of our solicitation was that the sites offered must have local zoning and development approvals in place to support the density requirements of the BRAC 133 project.

For example, the Mark Center site had been zoned and approved in 2004 for an office park development that included over 4,600 parking spaces; DoD is using 1,000 fewer parking spaces than a comparable private developer would have built.

The Transportation Management Plan (TMP), including the Traffic Impact Analysis to which you refer, is intended to provide a transparent and realistic assessment of the traffic conditions that will occur in the vicinity of the Mark Center following the opening of the BRAC 133 facility in September 2011. We understand your concern with respect to levels of service (LOS) for intersections and roadways around the Mark Center and we continue to aggressively address mitigating measures in the TMP. The TMP was submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission on July 30, 2010 for review and is on the September 2, 2010 meeting agenda for consideration. However, none of the six key intersections will experience an overall (aggregate) LOS score of "F" (forced/breakdown flow) as a result of BRAC.

Regarding the fire and emergency services mutual aid agreement, Fort Belvoir is currently a party to the existing Northern Virginia Emergency Services Mutual Response Agreement that includes the City of Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax Counties, and other military fire departments and local municipalities in the greater Northern Virginia area. The agreement is being updated to include the new Fort Belvoir Garrison

Commander as a signatory, and any other necessary updates will be in place prior to building occupation and before the BRAC statutory completion date.

The Army is fully committed to working with you and your constituents to ensure that the Mark Center/BRAC 133 facility becomes a valued part of the community. It is important to note that in its Statement of Administration Policy for the FY11 NDAA (HR 5136), the Administration opposed Section 2711 because it modifies, delays, repeals or otherwise impedes implementation of a BRAC recommendation. These restrictions are unnecessary and set an undesirable precedent for addressing challenging BRAC execution issues. The Army is already working in concert with DoD, City of Alexandria, Fairfax and Arlington Counties, Virginia Department of Transportation and numerous other stakeholders to find common solutions to our shared traffic challenges.

Thank you for your continued interest in this project and your support of our Army.

Sincerely,

John M. McHugh

Enclosures