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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
111 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0111**

23 MAR 2011

The Honorable Bobby Schilling
U.S. House of Representatives
507 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schilling:

I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh to your March 16, 2011, letter concerning the effect the short-term budget extensions and possible government shutdown would have on Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois.

There are approximately 70 different Department of Defense, Federal and commercial tenant organizations at Rock Island Arsenal and not all of those are under Army control. As a result, determining the number of employees that could be furloughed in the unlikely event of a government shutdown is complex.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has requested Army and the other Services to routinely review plans for operation in the absence of appropriations. As part of the routine review and update of these plans, Army is working with DoD leadership. DoD has not directed the Army to identify specific organizations and individuals yet because the administration believes that a shutdown will be averted. If one occurs, it would be disruptive, but DoD would have authority to continue key national security activities.

Members of the Assistant Secretary of the Army staff have visited Rock Island Arsenal and continue to maintain an open dialogue with their leadership. Throughout our discussions, we have pledged our support to their success and have assured them that we will assist as needed. The Honorable Thomas R. Lamont, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs looks forward to meeting with you upon your return to Washington, DC, and discussing any further concerns you may have about Rock Island Arsenal.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Stamilio
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civilian Personnel and Quality of Life)

BOBBY SCHILLING
17th DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

<http://schilling.house.gov>
www.twitter.com/RepSchilling

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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RISK MANAGEMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH,
BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

Secretary John McHugh
Department of the Army
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-1400

March 16, 2011

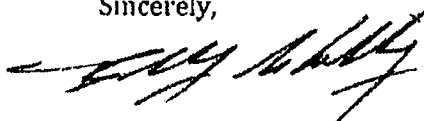
Secretary McHugh,

In light of the recent short-term budget extensions and uncertainty about a possible government shutdown I would like to inquire about how this will affect Rock Island Arsenal. Please review my questions below and expedite the answers before I return to the district for a work period on Friday, March 18, 2011.

1. Broken down by command, approximately how many civilian and non-civilian employees of Rock Island Arsenal could be furloughed in a government shut down? While this number may fluctuate based on needs at the time of the potential shut down I would be interested to know what the various contingencies might be.
2. It is my understanding that "essential employee's" are not furloughed while "non-essential" employee's are furloughed. How is this determination made on who is "essential" versus "non-essential"?
3. In the short-term the government is operating under continuing budget resolutions, how is this affecting base operations, specifically readiness, training and planning?

If you have any follow-up questions or need further clarification please contact Scott Tranter in my office at 202-225-5905. Thank you for your service and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Bobby Schilling
Member of Congress

507 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5905
FAX: (202) 225-5336

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185 SOUTH KELLOGG STREET
GAITHERSBURG, IL 61401
(309) 343-1194

3000 41ST STREET, SUITE 2
MORNING, IL 61266
(309) 757-7630

110312972



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

MAR 18 2011

The Honorable Bobby Schilling
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schilling:

Thank you for your March 16, 2011 letter concerning the effect a possible government shutdown would have on Rock Island Arsenal.

I have asked the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, who has responsibility in this area, to provide you the requested information as soon as possible.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and for continuing to support our Army.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. McHugh".

John M. McHugh

110513340



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON
JUN 06 2011

The Honorable Bobby Schilling
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

Dear Representative Schilling:

Thank you for your May 6, 2011 letter concerning the Army's combat vehicle modernization plans.

We share your belief that it is vital to maintain the combat vehicle industrial base for future production ability and absolutely appreciate the impact the shutdown of production lines has on related jobs and businesses. In fact, we are conducting several in-depth studies to determine the most cost-effective approaches to sustain the required combat vehicle industrial base capabilities during the upcoming production gaps. These studies, expected to be complete by December 2011, will examine the cost concerns mentioned in your letter. The results will help shape and begin to right-size the industrial base in an effort to maximize more cost-efficient capabilities within the industrial base.

But the fact remains that by 2013 the Army will complete the full Abrams tank requirement for the Heavy Brigade Combat Team. At that time, the average Abrams fleet age will only be two-to-three years old, and the Army will not need to begin modernizing through recapitalization of the Abrams tank fleet until approximately 2016. A 2008 study that examined this issue indicated that total costs would not exceed \$822M for a 3-4 year shutdown and restart of Abrams tank production. Costs included the impact on the supplier base; government-furnished materiel; storage, preservation, manpower and equipment; re-qualifying vendors; a Production Verification Test and the impact to Anniston Army Depot. On the other hand, maintaining a production rate of 70 tanks per year during fiscal years 2012-2016 will cost approximately \$2.67B.

Consequently, given that the Army can save approximately \$1.85B by shutting down and restarting production at JSMC, the Army must stop Abrams tank production at JSMC with the last M1A2 System Enhancement Program v2 tank delivery in June 2013.

I have asked the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology to follow up with your office upon the conclusion of our studies and provide you with the Army's plan for the combat vehicle industrial base and the Abrams tank.

Thank you for your bringing your concerns to my attention and for continuing to support our Army.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. McHugh".

John M. McHugh

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 6, 2011

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We want to express our concern regarding the Army's combat vehicle modernization plans and their impact on the U.S. industrial base that develops and manufactures these vehicles. Based on the future year's defense program included in the President's fiscal year (FY) 2012 Budget request, the Army has decided to stop tank production for the first time since 1941. Production gaps will also occur during FY 2014 to FY2016 on other important combat systems, such as the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the Stryker Vehicle. These current plans could end up costing more in the long run and result in lost capacity and readiness.

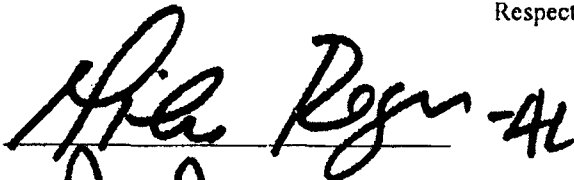
The FY 2012 budget request we are now considering proposes to terminate production of the Abrams main battle tank in 2013. The end of Abrams production would shut down the unique national asset that is the U.S. tank industrial base even with the expectation that later in the decade the same industrial base will be required to produce modernized Abrams tanks and/or the Ground Combat Vehicle.

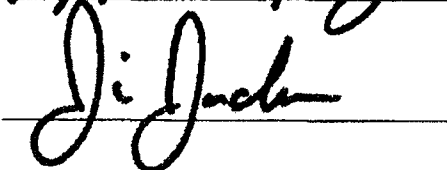
The cost of shutdown and restart of Abrams tank production appears to be more than the cost of continued limited production. Instead of reconstituting this vital manufacturing capability at a higher cost, it would seem prudent to invest those select resources in continued Abrams production. We believe it prudent to continue limited production of M1A2 SEP tanks at 70 per year in order to bridge the production gap until the next generation of Abrams begins fielding.

Mr. Secretary, we strongly urge you to consider continued multiyear procurement of the M1A2 SEP tank as you formulate your FY 2013 to FY 2017 investment plan. We would also like your feedback on this recommendation and what is needed to ensure that the tank industrial base is preserved.

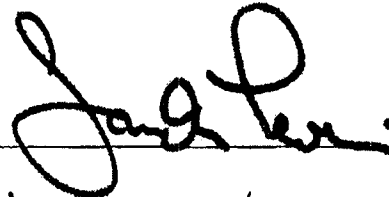
Thank you for your consideration and prompt attention to our concerns that potentially impact the warfighting capabilities of our Army and continued availability of critical resources for our troops.

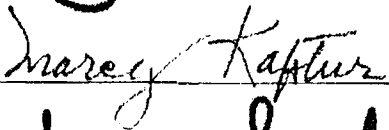
Respectfully,

-AL











Mike M. Stutzman

Glenn Emerson

Jim Moran

Pete Vischosky

Charles B. Adair

Ed Lutz

Stanley

Alfred J. Bishop

Frankie Banks

Todd R. Blake

Tom Salham

Joe Wilson

Bill Ouz

Ed Bremer

Robert E. F.

Rich Simpson

Walter B. Jones

Jeff Miller

C.A. Dutch Ruppelberg

Ed Pastor

Edward Shear

John A

Steve Curtis

Paul Kelly

Joe Decks

MST

Alan Nunnlee

Betty Sutton

Thomas Poney

McBrook

Joe J. J. L

Andre Cursho

John A. Carter

Bill Shuster

John P. P. P.

Vicky Hartzler

T. B.

Ann Decker

Larry Kinell

Allen B. B.

Frank Lo Bando

Mike J

Kayil Loy

Steve Lopez

Barth P

7 McElther

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Harvard Webb

Elizabeth Perry

Niki Wongas

Reed J Riddle

Ben Quince

Hank Johnson

Robert J Wittman

Sam Johnson

Jim Scott

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Ray Miller II-17

Bertel Meade

Al Wall

Jim Langover

Clegg Harper

Brett Hathorn

William R. Keating

Bill Johnson

Bob Muhl

RE

Jim Myerson

Mike Kelly

Lou Baillitt

W. R. Pompeo

FK

D. G. O.

Tom Marino

David Ricci

Tim Walling

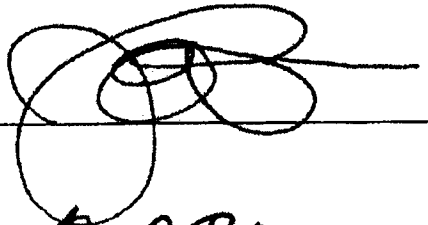
Leonora Lanza

Dan Bernick

Paul Leard

Pat Tilner

mil Tz



Ly C. Palm

Chun Fung

Red Paul

Geoff Jarvis

Mine Stepatren

Don Hitz

R. E. Smith

Peter Welch

David Schwöfer

Sue Myrick

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Marian L. Judge

Yvette J. Clark

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Dolly Long

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Colli C. Palm

T. Hold

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Robert A. Brady

Robert A. Brady

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	Brady, Robert	PA-01



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
1600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-1600

May 10, 2011

The Honorable Robert Schilling
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

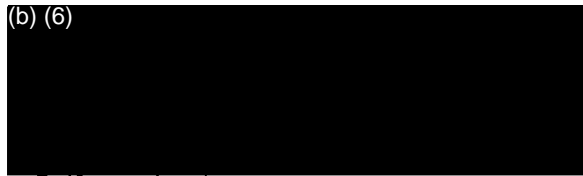
Dear Representative Schilling:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your May 6, 2011 letter to the Honorable John McHugh, Secretary of the Army, concerning the Army's Combat Vehicle Modernization plans and its impact on the industrial base.

An inquiry into this matter has been initiated. You will be further advised as soon as information becomes available. If you have any questions about this inquiry, please contact me at (703) 697-4773 and refer to the following case number: 110511372. *(lead case#)*

Sincerely,

(b) (6)



00
Congressional Actions Coordinator
Congressional Inquiry Division



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

110610284

JUL 27 2011

The Honorable Robert T Schilling
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schilling:

This letter is a follow up to my June 1, 2011 response regarding the Rock Island Arsenal's Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center. As requested in our phone conversation and in your May 27, 2011 letter, I am providing additional information about the establishment of the Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command (JM&L-LCMC) at Picatinny Arsenal and the location of the Expeditionary Contracting Command (ECC) at Redstone Arsenal.

The purpose of establishing the JM&L-LCMC at Picatinny Arsenal was not to duplicate those functions historically done at Rock Island Arsenal, but rather to unite the Army's full munitions acquisition, logistics, and technology capabilities and to create a more effective life cycle management process for conventional ammunition. The alignment of the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center; Joint Munitions Command; and the Program Executive Office for Ammunition is a prime example of successful acquisition reform and demonstrates how the Army's move to the enterprise approach improves management efficiencies.

The stationing decision to locate the ECC at Redstone Arsenal, announced to Congress in January 2010, was made following a thorough review of all potential stationing options. When the ECC was established, the intent was for it to remain small and deployable and for it to rely on the Headquarters, Army Contracting Command (HQ, ACC) to provide the majority of its support. Co-locating the ECC with HQ, ACC centralizes the vast majority of Army contracting operations, and the \$28 million HQ, ACC/ECC facility has been designed to leverage the infrastructure requirements and staff resources shared by the complementary missions of these commands.

I understand your concerns regarding Rock Island Arsenal should additional realignment and closure studies occur. I assure you we will keep you apprised of results of any such studies and will coordinate subsequent recommendations with Congress as appropriate.

Thank you for your inquiry into this matter and for your continued support of our Army.

Sincerely,

John M. McHugh

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2011

Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
United States Army
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0110

Dear Secretary McHugh:

Earlier this month, we requested a meeting with General Ann Dunwoody through the Army Congressional Liaison Office but were told she would not be available until July at the earliest. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a number of issues including the jobs and workload at Rock Island's Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (JMTC), locating the Expeditionary Contracting Command (ECC) in Huntsville, Alabama away from one of its primary customers, the Army Sustainment Command (ASC), efforts to establish capabilities to perform work at Picatinny that has historically been done at Rock Island, and rumors of another round of base closures.

Recent events highlight the need for this meeting to take place immediately. It is our understanding that Army Materiel Command (AMC) has formed an internal task force charged with cutting \$3 billion from the overall AMC budget, which will report its recommendation in July. We are deeply concerned that closing the JMTC is a potential approach being considered by this task force. We cannot understand how this is a course of action that will provide the needed cost savings given that the JMTC is a Working Capital Fund facility and is therefore sustained through sales revenue, not appropriated funds, not to mention the added cost of moving or replicating the many unique capabilities at Rock Island Arsenal. We do, however, understand how it would negatively impact our national security and we find that to be unacceptable.

We have issues with the assignment of ECC to Huntsville for several reasons. First, the mission of ECC closely aligns with the ASC with both organizations maintaining a deployable capability. Plus ASC has a complete command staff with all of the matrix support needed for the ECC. Additionally, ASC already has a command operations and intelligence center that maintains a 24/7 tactical level global logistics operations support. This is a capability that ECC requires, and which simply does not exist in Huntsville today. Further, and perhaps more important, is the fact the Army has recently programmed \$28 million for a new facility in Huntsville to house, in part, the ECC. This verges on a tremendous waste of taxpayer money when there will be perfectly good office space at Rock Island Arsenal available this summer when 1,200 jobs move to Warren, Michigan.

When the Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command (JM & L LCMC) was established, the Illinois and Iowa Congressional delegation asked that it be headquartered at Rock Island. When AMC instead headquartered the JM & L LCMC at Picatinny Arsenal, we expressed concerns about the future of ammunition management and procurement functions historically accomplished at Rock Island by the JMC. The entire Illinois and Iowa Congressional delegation met with the AMC leadership, and the delegation was assured that no JMC jobs were


in jeopardy and that no ammunition functions then being performed by Rock Island's JMC would be closed out or moved to Picatinny.

When we met with General Dunwoody prior to her Senate confirmation, we discussed this agreement with her. However, we have been informed about efforts to establish Picatinny capabilities that duplicate functions (such as ammunition acquisition support and configuration control) historically done at Rock Island. When the Goldwater-Nichols acquisition reform law was passed, the Program Executive Officer organic structure was to be lean and to rely on matrix support from the existing commands. It appears to us that these efforts by Picatinny to duplicate Rock Island ammunition functions do not live up to past acquisition reforms and do not make sense in today's resource constrained atmosphere.

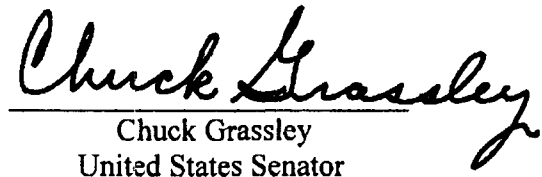
As referenced in our letter of May 26, we are further concerned about the rumors of another round of base closures. If these rumors hold true, near-term actions such as those referenced above will position Rock Island Arsenal for total closure. This would be devastating for the community, the Army, and our Nation. Had we closed the JMTC during BRAC 2005, we would not have been able to provide the armor protection desperately needed by our young men and women in combat in the expeditious manner in which we did. That would have translated to more deaths of our brave men and women.


The events described above concern us greatly and therefore, we reiterate our request to discuss these matters with you as soon as possible.

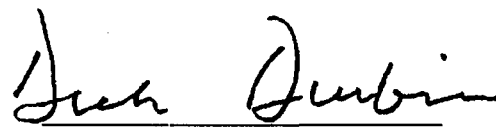
Sincerely,

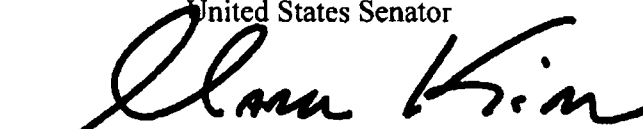

Bobby Schilling
United States Representative

110610284


Chuck Grassley
United States Senator


Tom Harkin
United States Senator


Dick Durbin
United States Senator


Mark Kirk
United States Senator


Bruce Braley
United States Representative


Dave Loebsack
United States Representative



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
ACQUISITION LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY
103 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0103**

MAY 24 2011

**The Honorable Robert T Schilling
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515**

Dear Representative Schilling:

I have been asked to provide an interim reply on behalf of Secretary of Army John McHugh to your May 27, 2011 letter regarding Rock Island Arsenal's Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (JMTC), the location of the Expeditionary Contracting Command (ECC) at Redstone Arsenal, the establishment of the Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command (JM&L-LCMC) at Picatinny Arsenal and rumors of another round of base closings.

The issues you have raised are complex and we are working with the Army Materiel Command, JMTC, ECC, and JM&L-LCMC to respond to your concerns. Extensive documentation is being reviewed to investigate this matter thoroughly and is taking longer to complete than originally foreseen. I anticipate the Secretary providing you a final response within thirty days.

Thank you for your continued support of the U.S. Army and of our Soldiers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Shyu".

**Heidi Shyu
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Acquisition, Logistics and Technology)**

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 2011

Honorable John McHugh
 Secretary of the Army
 United States Army
 The Pentagon
 Washington, DC 20310-0110

Dear Secretary McHugh:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with our delegation today regarding the future of the Rock Island Arsenal. We appreciate the value of your time, and your attention to our concerns is much appreciated.

As you know from our letter of May 27th and our conversation today, we are especially concerned about jobs and workload at Rock Island's Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (JMTC); the planned expense of programmed funds to locate the Expeditionary Contracting Command (ECC) in Huntsville, AL, away from one of its primary customers, the Army Sustainment Command (ASC); and rumors of another round of base closures.


As we discussed, Army Materiel Command (AMC) recently formed an internal task force charged with recommending cutting \$3 billion from the overall AMC budget in July. We were reassured today to hear that there are not currently plans to close the JMTC as a result of this task force study, and that the Arsenal is currently "not a target." We will be closely following the progress of this study and look forward to working with you to promote a strong future for the JMTC, Rock Island Arsenal, and the Army. As noted in our May 27th letter, closing or relocating JMTC will not provide the needed cost savings, and would negatively impact our national security. As the bipartisan congressional delegation representing Rock Island Arsenal requested in our May 26th letter, we would appreciate the chance to meet with you in person and to receive a briefing and report on the process of the task force before it renders its recommendations in July.

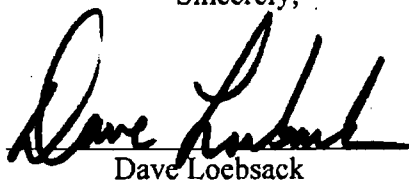
We also appreciate the need for efficiencies that you and the entire Department of Defense are facing. We therefore greatly appreciate your willingness to investigate and review the programming of \$28 million for a new facility in Huntsville to house, in part, the ECC. This construction is not only a waste of taxpayer money but will reduce Army efficiencies as noted in our letter of May 27th.

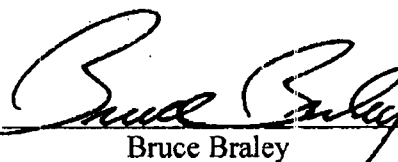
Finally, as we noted, rumors of another round of base closures heighten concern regarding the impact near term actions such as those referenced above may have on the potential closure of Rock Island Arsenal. We therefore appreciate your willingness to reassure us and look forward to hearing from you as the study progresses. We are grateful for your efforts to support this nation's warfighter and our national security interests.

Thank you for your service to this nation.

Sincerely,


 Bobby Schilling
 United States Representative


 Dave Loebsack
 United States Representative


 Bruce Braley
 United States Representative

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SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

JUN 01 2011

The Honorable Bobby Schilling
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schilling:

Thank you for your May 26, 2011 letter concerning the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (JMTC) at Rock Island Arsenal. I appreciate your taking the time to speak to me about this issue today.

As we discussed, Army Materiel Command (AMC) has made no proposal to close JMTC at this time. AMC, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, is examining every entity within its command structure in an effort to create a more agile and cost-effective research development and acquisition system. I assure you that we understand the importance of the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center to your constituency in the Quad Cities region and will keep your concerns in mind as we move forward with our review.

With our future force demands and budgets uncertain, it is imperative that we reform our institutional Army to create leaders, weapons systems and equipment that match the needs and capabilities of our operational forces in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. We will continue to look to our partners in Congress for support as we undertake this effort.

Thank you for your inquiry into this matter and for your continued support of our Army.

Sincerely,

John M. McHugh

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 26, 2011

The Honorable John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Mr. Secretary:

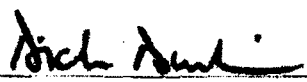
We hope to meet with you as soon as practicable to discuss the importance of Rock Island's Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center to the Quad Cities region.

It is our understanding that the Army Materiel Command (AMC) has formed an internal task force charged with cutting \$3 billion from the overall AMC budget. These recommendations are due in July as part of an Army-wide effort to find savings in a time of tight budgets. We understand that closing Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (JMTC) is a potential approach being considered by this task force.

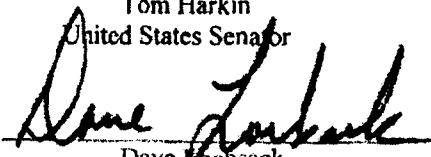
As you know JMTC is a state of the art manufacturing facility that can rapidly respond to warfighter needs. It has produced armor that protected our troops overseas and has produced almost every howitzer in the Army inventory. JMTC employs more than 1,700 jobs and is an anchor in the local and regional economy.


Given the urgency of this matter, we request a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss these matters as they may impact Rock Island.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator


Tom Harkin
United States Senator


Dave Loebsack
United States Representative


Bruce Braley
United States Representative


Mark Kirk
United States Senator


Chuck Grassley
United States Senator


Bobby Schilling
United States Representative

110612916

cc: Dr. Malcolm Ross O'Neill, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology
General Ann E. Dunwoody, Commanding General, Army Materiel Command

110515058



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
1800 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-1600**

May 27, 2011

The Honorable Bobby Schilling
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Schilling:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your May 26, 2011 letter to the Honorable John McHugh, Secretary of the Army, concerning Rock Island's Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center.

An inquiry into this matter has been initiated. You will be further advised as soon as information becomes available. If you have any questions about this inquiry, please contact me at (703) 697-4773 and refer to the following case number: 110515058.

Sincerely,

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Congressional Actions Coordinator
Congressional Inquiry Division



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

SEP 09 2011

110816047

The Honorable Robert T. Schilling
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schilling:

Thank you for your August 26, 2011 letter regarding Rock Island Arsenal (RIA). I appreciate your recognition of the flexibility and capabilities that RIA has to offer.

The United States Army Materiel Command is still in the process of completing the task force report about the transformation of the Army management structure. As soon as the results of the task force report are released, I will ensure that you are provided a copy at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your active interest in this issue and for your continued support of our Soldiers, Civilians and Families at Rock Island Arsenal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. McHugh". The signature is stylized and cursive.

John M. McHugh

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 26, 2011

Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
United States Army
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0110

Dear Secretary McHugh,

Thank you for your openness and willingness to work with us regarding issues at the Rock Island Arsenal (RIA). As you know we are committed to ensuring that the Army takes advantage of RIA's strong flexibility and the capabilities that exist there. In light of the work of your Army Transformation Commission, a panel charged with finding new ways to make the Army a more "agile, cost-effective organization," We urge you to look closely at the RIA as a model of efficiency.

RIA is specifically designed to address multiple mission requirements for seamless support to the Army and the rest of our U.S. military forces, and to do so without adding further expenses to the taxpayer. Because RIA hosts the Army Sustainment Command (ASC) as well as the Joint Munitions Command (JMC) and the Joint Manufacturing & Technology Center (JMTC), these groups are able to work together seamlessly to address the needs of our troops at a moment's notice.

For example, in 2006 when our troops were faced with the need to improve the safety of their vehicles quickly in Iraq and Afghanistan due to improvised explosive devices, not only was the JMTC able to design and manufacture the FRAG 5 kits that were needed within a week, but this was accomplished faster than specified in the original contract. In fact, ASC was able to ship needed protective parts out to our troops just three weeks after requisition, delivering more than 6,000 interim FRAG 5 kits to the field within six months.


This example of rapid problem solving and development of real solutions to challenges faced by our warfighters illustrates how vital the seamless coordination – which in part comes from being co-located on RIA - between JMTC and ASC is. What is more, this rapid fielding of critically needed equipment would not have been possible without the dedicated and highly capable civilian workforce at RIA and JMTC. They are able to do for the Army what contractors cannot always achieve. Ensuring that these programs, backed by a highly capable workforce, continue to coordinate seamlessly at RIA is vital to the safety of our troops and the cost efficient goals of our government.


The RIA continues to support our entire military with the ability to work together quickly and efficiently at very low cost to our taxpayers. We agree that it is important to make our Army a more "agile, cost-effective organization," which is why we would encourage you to consider how important the work is that is done at the Rock Island Arsenal and how efficiently that work is done.

We are, therefore, also very interested in reviewing the task force reports that are focused on the transformation of the Army management structure. We would appreciate receiving these reports as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and support for our troops and the missions on the RIA. We appreciate your consideration of this important issue and look forward to future conversations on these matters.

Sincerely,


Bobby Schilling
United States Representative


Dave Loebsack
United States Representative

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