

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2008

The Honorable Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Geren:

We are writing about a two-star level, Army Contracting Command proposed as part of the Gansler Commission Report and Committee testimony of December 6, 2007. This command would include two subordinate commands; a one-star Expeditionary Contracting Command (ECC), and a restructured one-star level installation contracting organization.

We strongly support the ECC being located at Rock Island Arsenal (RIA) in Rock Island, Illinois with the Army Sustainment Command (ASC). We believe co-locating the new expeditionary contracting command with the ASC's centralized logistics and contracting functions will ensure seamless support to the warfighter. This synergy will prevent duplication and maximize efficiencies through proximity, and allow the Army to capitalize on capabilities, functionalities, expertise and corporate knowledge at ASC.

The ASC at RIA manages a state-of-the-art operations center and serves as the single logistics integrator and the logistics point of contact for deployed soldiers worldwide. The ASC provides a full compliment of logistics services and management of pre-positioned stocks (supplies and equipment) in-theater through the Army Field Support Brigades. In addition, ASC provides contracting support through the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) contract, and contingency contracting executed by the Army Contracting Support Brigades.

The joint logistics contracting structure at ASC places RIA in a unique position. Management of the LOGCAP contracts has given ACS contracting experience that is not available anywhere else in the Army, and locating ECC at RIA will provide ECC with a trained workforce. Combining logistics and contracting support at ASC has also allowed for better coordination between the two systems, both critical to the military's ability to quickly respond to the needs of warfighters.

There is also sufficient Class A administrative space available at RIA to accommodate the ECC, and would only require minimal to moderate renovation – not new construction. Therefore, locating ECC at RIA would cut down procurement costs for the Army.

As the Army begins to transform contracting operations, we ask that you consider locating the ECC at Rock Island Arsenal for the aforementioned reasons, and request that you inform us about the Army's plans for the proposed Expeditionary Contracting Command.

We appreciate your consideration, and look forward to working with you as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,



PHIL HARE
Member of Congress



BRUCE BRALEY
Member of Congress



DICK DURBIN
United States Senator



BARACK OBAMA
United States Senator



CHUCK GRASSLEY
United States Senator



TOM HARKIN
United States Senator