

**COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
READINESS – RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
SEAPOWER AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

**JUDICIARY**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,  
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW



**J. Randy Forbes**  
**United States Congress**  
**4th District, Virginia**

July 23, 2009

2438 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6365

425-H SOUTH MAIN STREET  
EMPORIA, VA 23847  
(434) 634-5575

2903 BOULEVARD, SUITE B  
COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834  
(804) 526-4969

505 INDEPENDENCE PARKWAY  
LAKE CENTER II – SUITE 104  
CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320  
(757) 382-0080

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
Office of the Governor  
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

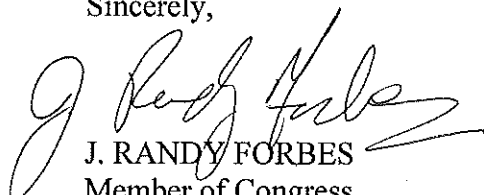
I have become aware of a proposal to consolidate the Virginia National Guard Headquarters element from Fort Pickett to Sandston, Virginia. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I wanted to share with you report language concerning the Virginia National Guard Headquarters consolidation that was included by the Committee in the FY2010 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 2647) The bill passed the House on June 25, 2009.

“The committee understands that the Adjutant General of the Virginia National Guard has recommended that the Virginia National Guard headquarters relocate from Fort Pickett to Sandston, Virginia, to be closer to Richmond. The cited purpose of the move is to improve the Commonwealth’s emergency response capabilities in a natural disaster or terrorist attack by collocating the state National Guard headquarters with other state emergency response agencies in the state capital. The committee believes that the current Virginia National Guard headquarters facility meets the needs of the Commonwealth, and questions whether this move is the best use of federal military construction funding. The committee believes that the Army National Guard military construction budget would be better applied to higher priority projects.”

In addition, some members, myself included, believe that funding equipment shortfalls and upgrading training facilities, which are both documented shortcomings, should be our highest priority. In April 2009, Secretary Gates said the Department of Defense was committed to spending \$39 billion dollars over the next five years to improve the Guard’s equipment levels. At that level of spending, Secretary Gates stated that the Army Guard’s equipment level “should be about 70% by about FY 2011.” Until the Army Guard’s equipment levels are much improved beyond that level, it is my expectation that the House Armed Services Committee will not give priority consideration to this military construction project. Given the current fiscal environment, it is uncertain at best if those levels will be reached, and that the Virginia National Guard should plan accordingly.

I remain a strong supporter of the men and women who serve in the Virginia National Guard, and look forward to working with you to provide the resources they need.

Sincerely,



J. RANDY FORBES  
Member of Congress