

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Patrick J. Murphy
Acting Secretary of the Army
120 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0101

General Mark A. Milley
Chief of Staff of the Army
1600 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0101

Dear Acting Secretary Murphy and General Milley:

Fort Jackson is the premier basic training facility for the United States Army, and the largest, most active Initial Entry Training Center processing over 45,000 basic recruits and advanced soldiers annually. In FY15, the 120th Reception Battalion was slated to receive funding for the Training Barrack Upgrade Program (TBUP) to renovate and repair three of the existing barracks over the span of three years – Building 1877 was to receive \$18.5 million in FY16, Building 1897 \$14 million in FY17 and Building 1889 \$5 million in FY18 (\$37.5 million total). However, in FY16 the Army chose to delay the funding and reprioritize it for other needs. The result of this erroneous decision is clear. The barracks are now in a state of complete disrepair and continue to further deteriorate. Requiring our recruits to live in substandard conditions is unacceptable. Attached to this letter are a few photos to highlight the urgency of this funding reprioritization request.

In addition to our deep concerns about the reception barracks, the lack of adequate funding for critical force protection improvements is equally alarming. Fort Jackson has an estimated 200,000 annual visitors, all of whom must be vetted prior to entering the installation. Currently, Fort Jackson does not have adequate force protection measures in place to ensure the base's perimeter security. It also has a critical need for a new visitor control center and gate (Gate 4) in order to limit visitor access to one point. Fort Jackson has a long-term plan for these security upgrades at Gate 4 but again, lacks the required funds for these critical security improvements. As our Nation faces increasing security threats at home, we must be proactive in our security measures to ensure the safety of our armed forces, their families, and civilians who visit the base.

We request that you reconsider prioritizing funds for the TBUP program in FY17 and make the aforementioned barracks renovation a priority. Additionally, we ask you provide the necessary funds to enhance Fort Jackson's existing force protection as soon as possible.

As Fort Jackson approaches its 100th anniversary, the State of South Carolina remains proud of the role it plays in training and educating our nation's soldiers. The base is woven into the fabric of South Carolina and is a key to the Army's future success. Supporting these measures will serve as a commitment to those who will continue to train at Fort Jackson over the next 100 years.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

