

A JOINT RESOLUTION urging the United States Department of Defense to reconsider proposed cuts to Fort Knox and Fort Campbell.

WHEREAS, the Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment proposes cuts to both Fort Knox and Fort Campbell in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the Army's Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment shows cuts would result in significant and widespread negative economic and socioeconomic consequences for the installations and their surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the planned cuts to both Fort Knox and Fort Campbell ignore the unique opportunities and missions, as well as regional resources, that provide future opportunities at both of these posts; and

WHEREAS, proportionally, the Army's planned force structure cuts mean Kentucky would suffer dramatically more than other powerhouse military states such as North Carolina, Texas, Washington, and Georgia, with Kentucky bearing 30 percent of the entire reduction in force; and

WHEREAS, Fort Campbell's aviation capabilities are gold standard rated, including the Aviation Center of Excellence for Air Assault Operations. It has rare qualities for training as well as community coordination for current and future growth given the amount of restricted and unrestricted air space; and

WHEREAS, Fort Campbell has unique, exceptional, and strategic enablers for deployability and training of infantry brigade combat teams. It currently supports two brigade combat teams and a combat aviation brigade, but is capable of supporting three IBCTs and two CABs through echelon training; and

WHEREAS, Fort Campbell is a premier power project platform, with railway, barge, and interstate capabilities close at hand, and works hand in hand with regional resources at the Kentucky National Guard Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center and Fort Knox within 150 miles of the post, as well as the bi-state community; and

WHEREAS, Fort Campbell's Blanchfield Army Community Hospital just received

the Army's Safety and Occupational Health "Star Status" designation, making it the first Army hospital in the United States to earn the honor and showing the quality of service the men and women at Fort Campbell have come to expect; and

WHEREAS, the planned cuts also overlook the commitment that Kentucky and the region made to the Army to prepare for the impact of BRAC 2005 on Fort Knox. In the midst of the recession, Kentucky committed \$251 million in new schools, roads, and other needed infrastructure investments at the behest of the Army's plans and anticipated growth. Communities built more housing, colleges and universities established new curriculum, and local businesses ramped up offerings to provide those stationed and working at Fort Knox a low cost, high quality lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, Fort Knox's central location provides flexibility and quick response times for the Army, with access to interstates accessible to 2/3 of the United States within one day, airports with low air fares, and river ports and rail lines close by; and

WHEREAS, Fort Knox also provides multitudes of training opportunities with no environmental or encroachment impact. There are almost 88,000 certified maneuver acres that supported the 194th Separate Armored Brigade and the Armor School for decades, and over 5,500 buildable acres currently available for the Army's future needs. Fort Knox also has world class live fire training ranges that support all light and most heavy direct and indirect systems, and supports all Army aviation airframes, including Hellfire missiles. While other installations will require extensive and expensive changes to modify surface danger zones for future needs, Fort Knox is ready now to support 5.56 mm and 7.62 mm enhanced performance rounds, and has the only 360 degree live fire Riverine Ops Range in the continental United States; and

WHEREAS, Fort Knox boasts numerous top honors and attractions in terms of its energy initiatives, ranked number one in the continental United States for energy per unit area reduction, and the surrounding community ranked number one by the Department of Energy as a top energy star small city, with 50 of the 53 certified buildings being located

on post, which leads to an annual cost savings of almost \$2 billion; and

WHEREAS, Fort Knox boasts the benefits of Kentucky's low cost of living while offering an exceptionally high quality of lifestyle, with a supportive community and large veteran population, with additional large city amenities less than 30 minutes away in Louisville, and Fort Campbell enjoys the same with the surrounding communities in Kentucky and Tennessee and a short drive to Nashville. Additionally, both posts provide service members, civilian workers, and families with an abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities both on post and right outside the gates, with large lakes, rivers, and plentiful forests; and

WHEREAS, these cutbacks would put a severe strain on economies in surrounding localities that depend on Fort Knox and Fort Campbell's sizable populations to fuel their restaurants, hotels, and other businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Programmatic Environment Assessment relies on census data that does not accurately reflect the fact that a deployed service member's economic impact is felt where he or she is stationed rather than at the home of record, skewing the economic impact reflected in the SPEA; and

WHEREAS, local chambers of commerce officials in the Fort Campbell area fear a total loss of employment of 37,000 jobs, a GDP loss of \$5.7 billion, and a total population loss of 43,000 in the region. Local small businesses in the Fort Knox area are already reporting a 30 to 90 percent loss in business and a 30 to 40 percent reduction in gross sales due to the cuts Fort Knox has already endured; and

WHEREAS, Fort Knox and Fort Campbell are vital economic drivers to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and cuts would be devastating to the posts, surrounding area, and more importantly, the brave men and women who protect our great country;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The General Assembly strongly urges the Department of Defense and

the United States Army to take action to support the military and civilian personnel serving at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell by reconsidering proposed cuts to these important military installations.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Kentucky congressional delegation, the commanding general of Fort Campbell, and the commanding general of Fort Knox.