



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT
110 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0110

FEB 20 2008

COL Edward H. Cummings, USA-Ret
Concerned MWR PATRONS
PO Box 57
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Dear COL (Ret) Cummings,

Thank you for your letter of January 29, 2008, to GEN (Ret) William Hartzog, President of the Army Historical Foundation (AHF). Since the responsibility for choosing the site of the National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA) resides with the Army, he has forwarded your letter to me.

On 11 October 2001, with the full concurrence of Congress, the Secretary of the Army decided to locate the museum at Fort Belvoir. Until the congressionally mandated implementation of BRAC 2005, a golf course site was never considered for the museum. Since then, we have considered all possible locations at Fort Belvoir, including portions of the North Golf Course. No decision has been made, nor will one be made before this summer, following completion of environmental requirements.

Should the final decision be that a portion of the golf course is selected for the NMUSA that could conceivably reduce the total number of golf holes to 27—a number which could still support current course loads without operating at a loss. The FMWR staff is considering business plans to operate such a course to maximize access for customers. Key to this is that they balance outings and tournaments to gain the revenue they produce (to keep player fees reasonable), while giving maximum access to players, especially on weekends. However, the FMWR staff is also looking at options to rebuild holes elsewhere to maintain a 36-hole configuration. This will require available and accessible land adjacent to the courses, project approval, and a funding source.

I assure you that the best interests of the Army, the Army Family, the Soldiers, and Veterans are key considerations of Army leadership in decision-making. Golf, and the availability of affordable courses throughout the area, is one of many factors. Honoring the legacy of the Army in a National Museum in a site accessible to the public and the veterans is another important factor. We hope that your group will support the long-overdue establishment of the Museum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KEE", written over a horizontal line.

Keith E. Eastin