

Concerned MWR PATRONS
P.O. Box 57, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
www.concernedmwrpatrons.org

February 21, 2008

Brigadier General John D. Johnson
Deputy Commanding General
Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command
US Army Installation Management Command
4700 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302-4401

Dear General,

Thank you for your letter of 23 January 2008 in response to our initial letter of 15 November 2007. It is encouraging that your command is open to considering alternative solutions that seek to reconcile the interest of the NMUSA's siting along with the interests of MWR patrons who play golf at Fort Belvoir.

Since our November letter, we have initiated an Impact Study to provide an objective and comprehensive assessment of the impact of NMUSA's construction on the Fort Belvoir's North-36 golf courses. Specifically, we are examining the impacts on eligible MWR golf patrons under a 36-hole versus 27-hole layout from four perspectives – operational, economic, social, and political. Additionally, the impact study will offer an alternative solution involving the construction of replacement holes to maintain a 36-hole MWR facility. We plan to publish the study this coming April. We will provide you and other Army leaders with copies of the report. Additionally, we are available to brief you on the study's findings.

One emerging finding as we continue our research is that this issue has the potential for producing some very adverse public relations impacts for the Army, which are not likely to go away. An estimated 24,000 military golfers reside in Fairfax and Arlington counties alone. Many of them, especially the retirees from all the services, depend on playing golf at Fort Belvoir due to its physical proximity and affordable MWR rates. If their interests are not protected, the ill feelings by military golfers in the area toward the Army leadership's handling of this matter are likely to persist. This was the essence of our message in the enclosed letter we sent to General Hartzog as President of the Board of Directors of the Army Historical Foundation on January 29, 2008. The undersigned received a telephone call from General Hartzog on February 6th indicating he was forwarding our letter to Assistant Secretary of the Army Keith Eastin who has the lead on the NMUSA's site location.

We look forward to working with your command and remain available to answer any questions you may have in the months ahead.

Very Respectfully,

Edward (Ted) H. Cummings
Colonel, USA (Ret)
for Concerned MWR PATRONS
tedcummings@verizon.net
Tel: (H) 703-978-0966

Enclosure: Concerned MWR Patrons Letter to General Hartzog, AHF, 01/29/08
CC to: LTG Robert Wilson, CG, U.S. Army IMCOM
Col. Brian W. Lauritzen, Fort Belvoir Garrison Commander