

WESTFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, INC  
P.O. Box 373  
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457  
[www.WRAMiddletown.org](http://www.WRAMiddletown.org)



August 13, 2008

Richard Blumenthal  
Attorney General  
55 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Attorney General Blumenthal:

I am writing on behalf of the Westfield Residents Association to thank you for your response to our request for assistance regarding the Military Training facility on Boardman Lane in Middletown. Your letter to project manager Diane McCartin, of the US Army Corps of Engineers on August 4<sup>th</sup> was a powerful summary of the environmental and legal reasons why the Corps has failed to adequately examine alternatives to the selected site as required by federal law. We are particularly grateful for your visits to Middletown on July 31<sup>st</sup> to hear the Corps' press conference, and on August 4<sup>th</sup> to attend the Common Council meeting.

As you know, at the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City of Middletown expressed its consensus that the Boardman Lane site is unsuitable for the construction of a military training facility. This manifested itself in the unanimous passage of Resolution 134-08 (Concerning the Army Training Facility proposed for Boardman Lane), in which the city (among other things) agreed with you that a facility on Boardman Lane would violate the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and would absolutely require a full and complete Environmental Impact Statement.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, Governor Rell decided to keep the 250<sup>th</sup> Engineer Co. in its present location, reducing the space needed for the new facility. She suggested that the Corps of Engineers "consider a wider range of possible locations." You have written the Army Corps of Engineers, stating, "The site selection process should go back to square one." Secretary of State Bysiewicz has indicated that the plain language of the bill authorizing this training facility does not require it to be built in Middletown.

However, despite the consensus at the citizen, City, and State levels, the Army continues to proceed with plans for a military facility at Boardman Lane. They have given no indication of backing away from their designation of the Boardman Lane site as their "preferred site". We are grateful for your continued engagement in this dispute. Specifically, we would respectfully like to request copies of all the information you receive from Diane McCartin, the project manager for this facility. I understand from your letter that you have requested this information by August 19<sup>th</sup>, this coming Tuesday.

One of the legal issues that many Middletown residents have been concerned about is whether this base is required by law to be built in Middletown. An Army letter of November 16, 2006 (attached) indicates that they required land for this base that was simply within 20 miles of the city limits. More recently, on their informational web site, the Corps state that the Office of the Secretary of Defense provided a legal opinion in the case of a base that BRAC 2005 proposed for Ayer, MA. This opinion was that the BRAC 2005 report legally required the base specifically to be built in Ayer. However,

we would point out that the language used in BRAC 2005 regarding the Ayer base is substantially different from the language used in BRAC 2005 regarding the Middletown Base. I attach a side by side comparison of these two paragraphs.

The Westfield Residents Association is Middletown's largest neighborhood organization, representing more than 16,000 Westfield-area residents, and working to make Middletown great for over 27 years. We have written to all of our Federal representatives to provide them with information about this important issue. Congresswoman DeLauro has written to Governor Rell and Secretary of the Army Geren to object to the Boardman Lane site. We are looking to our Congressional representatives for their active involvement and influence in the site selection process to create the "win-win" that we all wish for.

We are especially grateful for your continued, active involvement in this issue of great importance to both Middletown and to our Armed Forces, and look forward to hearing from you with regards to the information you requested from Ms. McCartin.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen H. Devoto  
Acting Secretary, Westfield Residents  
[WestfieldResidents@gmail.com](mailto:WestfieldResidents@gmail.com)

Attachments: BRAC language regarding Middletown and Ayer; Army letter of 11/16/06



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
696 VIRGINIA ROAD  
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01742-2751

RECEIVED  
06 NOV 20 AM 9:20  
CITY OF MIDDLETOWN  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

November 16, 2006

Real Estate Division  
Conveyancing Branch

Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano  
City of Middletown  
245 deKoven Drive  
Middletown, CT 06457

Re: New Armed Forces Reserve Center--  
Available vacant land in the Middletown,  
CT Vicinity


Dear Mayor Giuliano:

We are inquiring as to the availability of approximately 16-25 acres of land in the town of Middletown or within 20 driving miles of the town limits that could be used for an Armed Forces Reserve Center. We would appreciate information on any property owned by the city that might be available for a 99-year nominal-cost lease or for other terms. We also would welcome information on property owned by counties, other municipalities, or other parties that might be suitable for our requirements.

We placed an ad in the Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Hartford Courant and will be writing to the State of Connecticut to ask if they would like to identify property for us to consider.

If you know of any property you would like us to consider, please contact Pam at the above address or by phone at (978) 318-8025 no later than November 22, 2006.

Sincerely,

*for*   
Joseph M. Redlinger  
Chief, Real Estate Division

The USACE insists that 2005 BRAC language mandates a training facility be built in Middletown. They are basing this conclusion on a legal opinion, by the office of the Secretary of Defense, regarding a base proposed for Ayer, MA (<http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/poi/article.asp?id=463&MyCategory=309>). However, the language of BRAC 2005 is very different for Ayer and for Middletown. Below is the complete paragraph for Ayer and the complete paragraph for Newton and Middletown, CT, from the 2005 DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION REPORT.

**From Page 38**

## SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Close the Army Reserve Equipment Concentration Site 65 Annex, Ayer, MA, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Ayer, MA; realign the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area, MA, by relocating the 323d Maintenance Facility, and the Regional Training Site Maintenance to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA; realign Ayer Area 3713 by relocating storage functions to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA. Realign the Marine Corps Reserve Center Ayer, MA, by relocating the 1/25th Marines Maintenance Facility, Marine Corps Reserve Electronic Maintenance Section, and Maintenance Company/4th Marine Battalion to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex in Ayer, MA. The new Armed Forces Reserve Center complex shall have the capability to accommodate all Reserve units affected by this recommendation, including Army National Guard units from the Ayer Armory and Consolidated Support Maintenance Shop, Ayer, MA, if the state decides to relocate the National Guard units.

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## SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION

Close Turner US Army Reserve Center, Fairfield, CT; close Sutcovey US Army Reserve Center, Waterbury, CT; close Danbury US Army Reserve Center Danbury, CT, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center and Maintenance Facility in Newtown, CT if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities adjacent to the existing Connecticut Army National Guard Armory in Newtown, CT. The new AFRC and OMS shall have the capability to accommodate units from the following facilities: Connecticut Army National Guard Armories in Naugatuck, Norwalk and New Haven, CT, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units. Close the US Army Reserve Center, Middletown, CT, the Organizational Maintenance Shop, Middletown, CT; the SGT Libby US Army Reserve Center, New Haven, CT; the Organizational Maintenance Shop, New Haven, CT; the Army Reserve Area Maintenance Support Activity #69, Milford, CT, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center, Organizational Maintenance Shop and Army Maintenance Support Activity in Middletown, CT, if the Army is able to acquire land suitable for the construction of the facilities. The new AFRC, OMS and AMSA shall have the capability to accommodate units from the following facilities: Connecticut Army National Guard Armories in Putnam, Manchester, New Britain and the CTARNG facility in Newington, CT, if the state decides to relocate those National Guard units.