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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES
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JUDICIARY
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December 21, 2021

The Honorable Christine Wormuth
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington DC 20301-0102

Dear Secretary Wormuth:

As you are aware, the *Army Posture Statement 2021* clearly states that people are the Army's number one priority. Additionally, the current *Army People Strategy* correctly identifies improving Quality of Life programs for servicemembers by prioritizing Housing and Barracks as a primary goal for supporting the people who make up the Department of the Army. I agree that it is imperative for the Army to focus on modernizing housing and barracks, and I commend the Army for recognizing the significance of ensuring servicemembers have access to adequate living quarters. Adequate housing is essential for maintaining Army readiness and maintaining the health and well-being of servicemembers.

It has come to my attention that many unaccompanied housing installations at Fort Bragg, North Carolina are experiencing issues due to mold and outdated infrastructure. For example, in October 2020 soldiers of the 1st Special Forces Command soldiers, part of the Command's 528th Special Operations Sustainment Brigade, were temporarily moved into alternate housing following an air quality test that revealed extensive mold damage in their barracks. Recently, a Fort Bragg soldier contacted our office with photo evidence of mold in his barracks that Bragg's Department of Public Works (DPW) has stated they will not address. Photos of the mold are attached.

Home to the 82nd Airborne and nearly 550,000 active duty servicemembers, Fort Bragg is the largest U.S Army installation by population. As the Army continues to undergo modernization and readiness enhancement efforts to prepare for Strategic Competition with near-peer competitors, Fort Bragg will remain singularly important as the "tip of the spear" for the Department of Defense. Therefore, I urge the Department of the Army to continue the ongoing effort to recapitalize barracks across the Army enterprise and address the conditions of the barracks immediately. Allowing soldiers to live in moldy and unsafe housing is a danger to country. I look forward to working with you in my capacity as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee to ensure the Army is effective in receiving and executing all available funding to modernize and replace substandard barracks by 2030.

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I appreciate your favorable consideration of my request and look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thom Tillis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Thom Tillis
United States Senator

Cc: General James McConville