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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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September 25, 2013

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The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
1500 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-1500

Dear Secretary McHugh:

As you know, Explo Systems, Inc. (Explo) has improperly and illegally stored large amounts of M6 propellant at Camp Minden. Based on a ruling by the court, the propellant is now the property of the Louisiana National Guard (LANG). This hazardous situation is very serious and clean up of the remaining explosive material should begin as soon as possible. As such, I respectfully request that you consider making available as soon as possible resources from the National Guard Bureau for the purpose of making the training areas at Camp Minden safe for use by Title 32 Forces.

Failure to act now will lead to a protracted and expensive clean up process. Should this happen, several federal and federally funded activities on Camp Minden, to include the MTOE units, the Regional Training Institute (RTI), and the Youth Challenge Program would be affected. The Army should work with the LANG as expeditiously as possible.

Improving the training areas by remediating environmental, safety and health risks to Camp Minden remains a high priority. These resources will support the readiness of Title 32 Forces by ensuring access to air, land, and water for training and operations and protect military personnel and families from existing safety and health risks. In remediating these risks, this funding will enable RTI personnel and other Title 32 Forces to fully utilize the training areas at Camp Minden. Again, I respectfully request that you approve the use of National Guard Bureau resources to ensure the continued safe operation of federal activities at Camp Minden.

Additionally, the citizens of Minden need assurance that the threat of the hazardous explosive material is removed in a timely manner. As the former location of the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant, Camp Minden and the surrounding community have had a longstanding relationship with the Army. I look forward to the Army's continued partnership with the LANG to ensure the safety of Minden's residents.

Thank you again for your consideration of this matter. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,


John Fleming, M.D.
United States Representative