



RESEARCH
AND ENGINEERING

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3030 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3030

JUN 26 2019

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter provides the status of Department of Defense compliance with section 227(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013 (P.L. 112-239) and section 1681 of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2018 (P.L. 115-91) to assess the environmental impacts of locating an additional Continental United States interceptor site (CIS) in the eastern United States and identifying a preferred location for a CIS.

The Department evaluated four candidate CIS locations in the eastern United States: two at Fort Custer, Michigan; one at Fort Drum, New York; and one at Camp Garfield, Ohio, and completed environmental impact statements for each. Given available data at the time, the sites varied in operational performance and affordability. Fort Drum provides the best operational coverage, but is likely the most expensive option with the most environmental challenges. Cost estimates identified Fort Custer as the least expensive option. Camp Garfield had similar environmental challenges to Fort Drum with reduced capability.

At this time, and by a small margin, Fort Drum would be the preferred CIS in the eastern United States. However, since the Department's 2019 Missile Defense Review determined there is no operational requirement for an East Coast CIS, the Department has no intent to develop one.

Should a requirement for an East Coast CIS emerge, the decision would be re-evaluated and additional analysis based on updated performance, the evolving threat, and the fact-of-life changes to the ballistic missile defense system would be accomplished.

An identical letter has been sent to the other congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Griffin", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael D. Griffin

cc:
The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member