

December 7, 2023

Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs  
700 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Friends:

We gather today to celebrate another remarkable year of partnership that further enshrined Kentucky's reputation as a first-class environment for servicemembers and their families to live, work, and transition to civilian life. I greatly appreciate this opportunity to share a few thoughts on our collaboration this past year.

First and foremost, I would like to salute the numerous servicemembers from Kentucky who deployed to confront rising global threats. Kentucky's units have stepped up time and time again when called upon to defend our great Nation, and our Commonwealth couldn't be prouder of their efforts this year. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the harrowing loss of life in March and November of this year. These tragedies serve as a sobering reminder to all Americans that the price of freedom is great, and we must never forget the debt we owe to those who pay the ultimate price for our country.

This year also provided many opportunities to celebrate numerous accomplishments that should make every Kentuckian proud. The 123rd Airlift Wing received its 20th Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, a rare achievement reserved for only the most prestigious units in the United States Air Force. Additionally, we collectively achieved numerous critical improvements to our already impressive installations. At Fort Campbell, we resourced the Army to renovate all remaining Vietnam-era barracks, dramatically improving the quality of life for soldiers. We partnered to increase staffing at the Ft. Knox Ireland Army Health Clinic, which I am told has dramatically reduced wait times for soldiers and their families. The Bluegrass Army Depot accomplished the final destruction of the U.S. Chemical Weapons Stockpile, culminating a decades-long initiative I was proud to spearhead.

With global threats on the rise and demand for American Leadership never greater, much will continue to be asked of Kentucky's servicemembers and their families. 2024 will be a pivotal year, and we must rise to the occasion together. I remain committed to using my position as Senate Republican Leader to bolster Kentucky's military installations and defense communities and support our brave servicemembers with the resources they need to protect our Nation.

As always, I want to thank the KCMA's executive committee. It is an honor to stand shoulder to shoulder with you all in advocating for Kentucky to ensure it remains the best place in the country for our servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

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