



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

MAR 28 2011

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your March 10, 2011 letter concerning the potential expansion of Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (PCMS). As you stated in your letter, PCMS serves as an important training site in preparing our Soldiers to combat terrorism at home and abroad. Comprised of 235,000 acres, it provides critical maneuver lands for Soldiers from Fort Carson.

There continues to be discussion in local meetings and news media about potential Army land acquisition and expansion for PCMS. Please be assured that the Army has no plans to expand the boundaries of PCMS and, accordingly, has not requested any funds be programmed in the Department of the Army budget (FY12-16) for the acquisition of land at PCMS over the next five years. Soldiers and units assigned to Fort Carson will be using PCMS within its current boundaries as they train and prepare for the dangerous assignments tasked to them by our Nation.

I trust that this clarifies the Army's position on the expansion of PCMS. The Army will continue to work with the congressional delegation and local communities to accomplish its mission at Fort Carson.

Thank you for your inquiry into this matter and your continued support of our Army.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. McHugh".

John M. McHugh