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27 February 2013

FROM: Mr. Jefferson Davis  
President  
Vancouver Barracks Military Assn  
PO Box 820203  
Vancouver, WA 98682

TO: Dr. Theresa Langford  
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site  
612 E. Reserve Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661

SUBJECT: Vancouver Barracks Military Association Displays at Pearson Air Museum

Dear Tessa:

I am writing this letter in response to our conversation last week and the email you sent me, with ideas for the VBMA to create displays at the Pearson Air Museum. I delayed this response until I spoke with my membership on Saturday and yesterday, Tuesday. I regret to say that our answer to your proposal, for the present time, is no. The main concern of my constituency was the present day uncertain situation at the Pearson Air Museum, which I will explain below. This decision was not easy to make. I have enjoyed the professional relationship you and I had over the past eight years. I and other VBMA members have also enjoyed working with Dr. Robert Cromwell, Ms. Megan Huff, Mr. Aaron Ochoa and others in your offices. This includes earlier loans of displays from our collection to your visitor center and your visitor center staff hosting our military history talks in 2012. We hope that despite our refusal, you continue to explore the proposal you sent us for the displays you are currently creating.

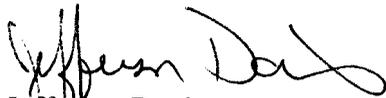
Many VBMA members were impressed with the broad possibilities you suggested, interpreting the many phases of military history at the Vancouver Barracks, from 1849 to 2011. They and I approve of this idea, which expands beyond the official plan adopted by the National Park Service in December 2012. We would like to participate but for the uncertainty, I mentioned.

At this time, Ms. Jamie Herrera Buetler introduced a bill into Congress, which may give ownership of the Pearson Air Museum building and land to the City of Vancouver. If we partnered with the Park Service and moved our artifact collection into the Air Museum building, and the bill succeeded, we would have to remove our displays. Last year, the VBMA partnered with a different organization and found itself in a similar situation. It created a great amount of effort on our part to remove and store our collection. As you know, the very act of moving artifacts will create wear and possibly tear on them. We do not want to do this too many times to some of our artifacts. In addition to this concern, they are currently stored in a donated space, which we might lose to other organizations, if we remove our artifacts.

Creating museum type displays also takes a great amount of time and effort. While we have some existing displays, we would need to create many more of them to fill the space available at the Air Museum. Before you

contacted me, the VBMA had already agreed to create and loan display items to other organizations and we could not support them and the Pearson Air Museum at the same time.

Having given you the reasons we cannot participate in your efforts at this time, our 'no' answer is not permanent. I think that very soon, the unpredictable situation will improve and we can renew our cooperative efforts. In that hope, please do not hesitate to contact us in the near future. I intend to call, email, or visit you, Dr. Cromwell or Mr. Ochoa myself, with future partnership ideas in mind.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jefferson Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Jefferson Davis

President

Vancouver Barracks Military Association