



SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Lori Maughan	Chair
Jamie Harvey	Vice-Chair
Silvia Stubbs	Commissioner
Mack McDonald	Administrator

February 19, 2026

Re: Letter Requesting Reconsideration Regarding the Potential Closure of Det. 1, 118th Transportation Company Armory in Blanding, Utah.

To Whom It May Concern:

The San Juan County Board of Commissioners unanimously requests reconsideration of the proposed closure of the Utah National Guard Armory, Det. 1, 118th Transportation Company, located in Blanding, Utah. We were recently informed that this facility may be slated for closure and wish to express our strong opposition.

This armory is vital to the economic stability and future of San Juan County. We understand the stated reason for closure is insufficient enlistment and operational support to sustain the unit. However, it is our understanding that the armory is currently allocated 14 traditional Guard positions, two full-time Active-Duty personnel, and one Federally Reimbursed State Employee position, and that all of these positions are consistently filled. Furthermore, we believe that, if additional slots were made available, they could be filled by additional residents of San Juan County.

The loss of 17 family-wage supporting positions would have a significant economic impact on our rural county, where comparable employment opportunities are limited. The Transportation Company also supports workforce development by aligning with full-time employment roles in mineral extraction, County and State government, transportation, and heavy equipment operations.

In addition, the armory serves an essential role in supporting members of our Navajo, Ute, and Paiute communities, who have historically filled many of the traditional Guard positions. If the Blanding facility closes, these service members would be required to travel to the Transportation Division in Spanish Fork. For those living in the southern portion of our county, this would require nearly six hours of travel for weekend training, creating a significant hardship and likely reducing participation.

The local armory provides valuable opportunities for our youth. Recruiters offer structured career pathways for students growing up in a high-poverty rural environment, creating access to education, job training, and service opportunities that might otherwise be unavailable. Additionally, the armory plays a key role in regional emergency preparedness coordination with local Cities and County agencies.

For these reasons, the San Juan County Board of Commissioners respectfully urges reconsideration of the proposed closure. The loss of this facility would have lasting economic, social, and operational consequences for our County.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely

Lori Maughan, Commission Chair