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For Immediate Release:

Senator Pat Roberts Honored by CGSC

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas – Today in a ceremony at the Lewis and Clark Center, Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) was honored by military and local community members in recognition for his efforts to support the funding and construction of the facility. As part of the ceremony, Trophy Lounge in the Lewis and Clark Center was renamed the Senator Pat Roberts Room. The ceremony was hosted by LtGen Robert L Caslen, Jr, Commandant of the Command and General Staff College and Commander for the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth.

Addressing the audience, Roberts said, “There was a need and it was the least I could do to fight for a new facility to ensure the education of future leaders would not be interrupted. I was honored to walk the halls of Congress and gather support for the cause.”

Caslen said, “Senator Roberts has been a friend of Ft Leavenworth for more than 30 years and without a doubt he was the driving force behind this wonderful and awe-inspiring facility.”

On Oct 2, 1998 the Combined Arms Center commander, LtGen Mike Steele, sent a letter describing the situation of Bell Hall, then the site of the Command and General Staff College. In the letter he wrote, “We have reached a major crossroad regarding Bell Hall ... We have now reached a point where we must start investing millions of dollars in repairing the internal building systems... or face major system failure that will shut down the CGSC indefinitely.”

Taking up the mantra, Roberts addressed the Senate on June 7, 2000 stating, “Bell Hall, at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, is becoming incapable of performing its mission of preparing officers for positions of increased complexity and responsibility. I am concerned that if a replacement facility is not constructed as soon as possible maintenance costs will continue to increase while Army operation and maintenance resources decline and student access to state of the art technology required to teach advanced warfighting skills will remain limited.”

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Seven years later at a cost of nearly \$150 million dollars, the Lewis and Clark Center opened its doors to students on Aug 13, 2007. The state-of-the-art facility is 410,000 square feet and houses 96 classrooms. A student body of more than 1,400 officers attend the facility annually, where leader development is the priority to prepare them for the challenges associated with full spectrum operations in the 21st Century.