

Dear YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY FOUNDATION, INC. friends/supporters:

The YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY FOUNDATION, INC's (YCAF) purposes are to: 1) Assist the State's youth who drop out of school and are engaged in the Georgia National Guard Youth Challenge Program (YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY or YCA) to improve life skills, education levels and employment potential through military based training, including supervised work experience in community service and conservation projects; 2) Educate the public, the media and Congress, and others at the state and national level on the positive impact the Georgia National Guard Youth Challenge Program is having on the lives of "at-risk" youth; 3) Provide scholarships and higher education assistance for the Georgia National Guard Youth Challenge Program graduates; 4) Provide financial assistance to the Youth Challenge Program cadets on an emergency relief basis; 5) Encourage local officials, civic groups and individuals to volunteer to serve as mentors for Youth Challenge Program cadets and graduates; 6) Acquaint industry officials with the employment potential of the Youth Challenge Program graduates; and 7) Encourage industry to provide them internships, training and entry level jobs supported by mentors.

YCAF has learned that the State budget is being reduced by 11%. The Georgia Department of Defense advised YCAF in late May that about half of its base budget is focused on YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY (YCA), and that the Georgia Department of Defense 11% reduction required a nearly \$1.8 million cut from the YCA.

YCAF has been advised that the Georgia Department of Defense needed to temporarily reduce the number of cadets at Fort Gordon YCA in order to accommodate at \$15 million refurbishment of the campus, which resulted in a reduction of that budget by \$322,000, leaving \$1.464 million to be cut, to be accomplished by closing the Milledgeville YCA campus.

The Georgia Department of Defense advises that they looked at all alternatives, including reducing operations at all YCA campuses, but that was not feasible with costs that cannot be avoided to operate a functional campus. Those costs, spread over a reduced number of cadets, would raise the "per cadet" cost to indefensible levels and reduce the overall number of cadets that can graduate with the money remaining.

The needed reduction at Fort Gordon and the closure of Milledgeville captures the required savings and maximizes the number of cadets that YCA can still graduate with the money available. While this cut reduces the overall number of cadets that YCA will graduate, they should still be graduating 700+ per year, who need your help.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support of YCA and the YCAF. We look forward to continuing our efforts, in coordination with you, to improve the cadets' lives and the lives of their families.

We humbly seek your donation to our 501(c)3 Foundation, which is fully tax deductible per IRS Tax Exempt Organization exemption determination letter, under IRC Section 170.

Thank you, YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY FOUNDATION, INC.