**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

**352D CIVIL AFFAIRS COMMAND**

**2118 ANNAPOLIS ROAD, SUITE 5510**

**FORT MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5510**

July 17, 2020

To whom it may concern

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

33 Liberty Street

New York, NY 10045

Dear Sir/Ma’am:

I am writing this letter to you today seeking to establish a relationship between the US Army Civil Affairs branch and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

**BACKGROUND**

The US Army’s Civil Affairs branch is organized, trained, and equipped specifically to conduct Civil Affairs operations and to support civil-military operations. Military Government Operations (MGOs) are one of the core responsibilities of the Civil Affairs branch. These operations are supported by Civil Affairs generalists through assessments and initial identification of civil vulnerabilities and executed by military government experts through the provision of expertise in civilian sector functions that normally are the responsibility of civilian authorities. MGOs are designed to enhance, rehabilitate, restore, or establish civilian sector functions and are executed by providing support to an established civil authority or asserting transitional military authority until a civilian authority or government can be established.

During the Second World War, the US military established relationships with ten universities that provided training in various civilian specialties to 1,760 Officers. The ten Universities were: Boston University, Harvard University, Northwestern University, Stanford University, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, University of Pittsburgh, University of Wisconsin, Western Reserve University (present Case Western University), and Yale University.

After the Second World War, Civil Affairs Officers no longer were associated with particular specialties. However, approximately 5 years ago the US Army decided to again supplement the existing Civil Affairs Officers with Civil Affairs Officers who are specialists in specific fields of study. The change was in part based on the lessons learned in Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters.

Even more recently, the US Army has identified 18 functional specialties and now intends to align each specialty with a supporting institution.

[The Smithsonian and the US Army signed a memorandum](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/21/arts/design/new-monuments-men.html) of understanding with the United States Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC) in October 2019, the first functional specialty to be aligned with an institution. The University of Wisconsin, one of the original ten universities associated with this initiative, is also finalizing a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Army to provide support for the Environmental Specialty.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

The 352DCivil Affairs Command, Finance, Money and Banking Team believes that the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has the institutional knowledge and expertise to educate and assist Civil Affairs Officers in their duties as they relate to finance, money and banking. Civil Affairs Officers with this specialty/this set of duties are expected to:

* Advise and assist on, or reestablish and direct, the analysis, assessment, planning and implementation of economic, banking, financial, and macro stabilization programs.
* Promote monetary, fiscal, banking and financial sector reform programs and policies to reestablish or enhance the development of indigenous economic stability and growth.
* Provide technical expertise, advice, and assistance at the national and provincial levels in monitoring, assessing, analyzing, and evaluating the indigenous economic systems and metrics related to banking and financial activities, agencies, services, personnel, and resources, to include the impact those systems and activities have on the cross-cutting functions of governance of budgetary systems, monetary and fiscal policies, revenue-producing systems, and treasury operations.
* Assist in the development of financial sector programs and policies that stabilize and enhance the overall economic development and stability of the operational environment.

This set of responsibilities greatly overlaps with the duties of the Federal Reserve as a whole and with the backgrounds of individual members of the staff.

The present goal of this initiative to establish an agreement between the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the U.S. Army and a collaborating University that allows for the following:

* Collaboration with USACAPOC functional specialists on issues relating to the finance, money and banking specialty.
* Host an annual, or bi-annual, “excursion” meant to develop and review historical case studies relating to Civil Affairs and the functional specialty and to build relationships between military functional specialists and civilian experts.
* Willingness to share with relevant community the opportunity to become a USACAPOC Civil Affairs Functional Specialist Officer.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York plays an essential and effective role in making the economy stronger and the financial system more stable, establishing this relationship will allow the Bank to build on its long-standing commitment to public service and to positively influence and improve the ability of the US Army Civil Affairs Branch to perform its duties.

Sincerely,

Luke William Neal

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army

Military Government Specialist – Finance, Money and Banking