



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

*CW*

23 FEB 1976

SEC DEF HAS SEEN  
26 FEB 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: XMI Tank Production Site Selection

Governor James A. Rhodes, Ohio (in correspondence at Tab B) presents the case for selection of the Lima Army Modification Center as the production site for the XMI tank, and requests guidance to assist his state's efforts to secure the selection. Proposed response to Governor Rhodes is at Tab A.

*MRH*  
Martin R. Hoffmann

- 2 Incl
- Tab A - Ltr to Governor Rhodes
- Tab B - Ltr fm Governor Rhodes

CONCUR:

*J.F. Blunt*  
Acting ASD(I&L)



*EB*

52/235 ✓

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

FEB 28 1976

Honorable James A. Rhodes  
Governor of Ohio  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Jim:

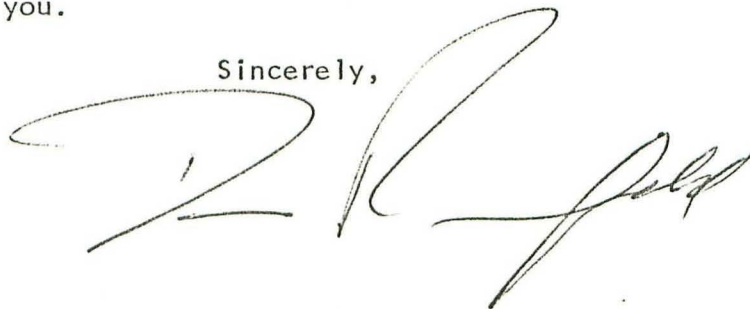
This is in response to your letter of 3 February 1976 pertaining to the Army's forthcoming selection of a production site for the new XM-1 Main Battle Tank.

As you know, many factors must be considered before a production site can be determined. Accordingly, the Department of the Army is in the process of reviewing the Production Alternative Study prepared by the U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command. This effort involves a number of alternative sites which were derived from the detailed studies conducted by the Corps of Engineers and the two XM-1 competing contractors, Chrysler and General Motors. As you are aware, the Lima Army Modification Center facility and the Army Tank Plant in Warren, Michigan are the principal alternatives under consideration.

Since the Army's decision on the XM-1 production site is anticipated in the near future, my comments at this time must be necessarily limited. You can be assured that all information, including the factors you presented in your letter, will be fully considered before a final decision is made.

Thank you for your interest in this matter and I hope this information will be useful to you.

Sincerely,





STATE OF OHIO  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COLUMBUS 43215

JAMES A. RHODES  
GOVERNOR

February 3, 1976

Mr. Donald Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Don:

In the next few weeks, the Secretary of the Army will be making an important decision on the location of production facilities for the new XM-1 battle tank.

I would like to point out to you some of the advantages inherent in reactivating the Lima Army Modification Center, Lima, Ohio, as the production site. The U.S. Army's Lima facility and a similar plant in Warren, Michigan are under consideration for XM-1 production. The Warren plant is now fully utilized and would require building of an entirely new facility or extensive modifications causing production delays.

The Lima facility, on the other hand, is not presently active and would require only an add-on plant. Therefore, XM-1 production is more quickly available and provides important advantages from a cost effectiveness standpoint.


The Lima facility presently consists of a 582,000 sq. ft. production facility, with heavy cranes and tooling. Another 440,000 sq. ft. of covered area is available for support and administrative facilities. There is adequate acreage for the additional manufacturing space required for full XM-1 production, parking and storage, and a buffer zone between the test track and residential areas. Six miles of railroad lines and spurs are now in place and readily available.

Lima and Ohio support industries for steel, energy, electronics, automotive, machine tool and service are more than adequate to provide the needs of full XM-1 production requirements.

And Ohio is well known for its highly skilled labor force, particularly in heavy manufacturing.

I am requesting your guidance in our efforts to locate the XM-1 battle tank production facility in Lima. Selection of the Lima site would be of great assistance in lifting Ohio's economy during this post-recessionary period.

Sincerely,

  
JAMES A. RHODES  
Governor

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