



July 12, 2021

Mark Miller
General Manager, Parkfairfax
3360 Gunston Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

RE: Martha Custis pool rental 2021

Dear Mr. Miller –

I'm reaching out on behalf of the Fort Myer Swim Team to inquire about renting the Martha Custis pool for the 2022 season. This may seem premature to discuss next summer, but one of our lessons learned from the pandemic is that things take longer and it's important to plan early.

First, a little bit about who we are. We are not affiliated with the U.S. Army, but we have been using the Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall swimming pool since the 1960s as part of the Colonial Swim League. As a non-profit, our mission is to serve area military and federal employee families. We are the only team that prioritizes military families since they don't have the time to get on a waitlist since their tour in the Washington area is limited.

While we are independent of the Army, the pandemic in 2020 showed us how much our fate is dependent on Army regulations. As such, the pool never opened last summer, and we lost a good portion of our swim families who found other alternatives. We were dealt additional setbacks this summer, most recently when a large tree smashed our 25m pool during the violent storm. Fortunately, we still have access to the 50yard pool on base, but that is not an ideal situation for summer swim.

I'm reaching out at this junction because we don't anticipate the 25m pool being repaired by next summer. Thus, I'm hoping you could broach this issue with your Board later this month, to gauge their interest for allowing us to use your pool.

In terms of logistics, our season runs from the Tuesday after Memorial Day till the end of July/first week in August.

- Afternoon practices after Memorial Day run from 4-7pm, Monday -Friday till third week in June.
- We switch to morning practices, 7-10am, once Arlington schools finish (usually 3rd week in June), and we continue that Monday-Friday schedule until the end of July/early August.
- We can provide our own lifeguards for the off-hour practices, that's been our current arrangement with the base.
- This year, we had to cap our team size to under 100 because of Army covid-restrictions, but we usually average about 150 swimmers. We would consider limiting our team size again if needed due to facility limitations.
- We could consider adjusting our practice schedule if needed.
- Lastly, we are not looking to host any Saturday morning swim meets at your pool unless you are interested in exploring the additional revenue opportunity.

Please let me know if there is any other information that I can provide to you at this time for us to continue the conversation.

Best,

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