DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96301
April 6, 1983

Office of the Public Affairs Officer

Mr. Hal Barker
Barker Associates
Box 1492
Boulder, Colo. 80306

Dear Mr. Barker,

This letter is in response to your letter of January 27, 1983, asking about the possibility of seeing Heartbreak Ridge during your Revisit Korea Program trip here this Fall.

Heartbreak Ridge is near the western slope of the geographic formation called the Punchbowl and it is inside the sector of the Demilitarized Zone controlled by communist north Korea. It thus is impossible to visit or even to see it from outside the DMZ. On our side of the Military Demarcation Line, that area is manned by the Republic of Korea Army. There are restrictions on who is authorized entry into the DMZ; there also are security and safety considerations. The former are imposed by the 1953 Armistice Agreement which brought a halt to the shooting war in Korea. The latter exist because, from time to time, the shooting goes on inside the DMZ. The zone remains dangerous. Since the truce was signed on July 27, 1953, there have been several hundred Koreans and 58 Americans killed during DMZ incidents provoked by north Korea.

I recommend that you advise your Korean hosts for the Revisit Program about your desire to visit the area near Heartbreak Ridge. They may be able to work out some arrangement outside the DMZ that would satisfy your needs as well as meet the restrictions of the Armistice Agreement and safety/security conditions.

Congratulations on your decision to visit Korea; I know you will be impressed with the progress here that was made possible by the years of relative peace paid for by the sacrifices of war and sustained and protected today by determined Republic of Korea and United States personnel of the Combined Forces Command. If I can be of further assistance, please ask.

[Signature]
Rallin J. Mars
Colonel, USAF
Public Affairs Officer