

## Lendlease, IHG Army Hotels break ground on Candlewood Suites hotel at Fort Liberty

**207-room hotel will be the 17<sup>th</sup> Candlewood Suites in Lendlease and IHG's Privatized Army Lodging portfolio**

(Nashville, Tenn., November 15, 2023) – [Lendlease](#), a global integrated real estate group, and [IHG® Army Hotels](#) announced today they have broken ground on a Candlewood Suites® hotel at Fort Liberty in North Carolina. Expected to open in early 2026, the 207-room hotel is the 17<sup>th</sup> Candlewood Suites property Lendlease and IHG have partnered on since 2009 as part of the Privatization of Army Lodging (PAL) initiative, a U.S. Army-led, public-private venture to revitalize on-post lodging for service members, their families and government travelers.

“For more than a decade, Lendlease and IHG have had a long and successful relationship with the Fort Liberty leadership team through the PAL program,” said Matt Garrett, Senior Vice President and General Manager of PAL, Lendlease Communities. “The new Candlewood Suites at Fort Liberty is just the latest project to exemplify the benefits of privatization for military lodging, and the positive results that are possible when we combine our joint expertise across development, hospitality management and operations with a unique understanding of the specific needs of those seeking accommodations on Army installations.”

Garrett noted that as one of the largest U.S. Army installations by population in the U.S., Fort Liberty welcomes approximately 100,000 travelers annually across its existing three hotel properties, including active service members and their families awaiting permanent housing and military personnel visiting an installation for training or other short-term needs.

“For almost 15 years, IHG Army Hotels has proudly worked to extend IHG’s commitment to deliver True Hospitality to military members and their families through first-class, service-minded properties,” said Chuck Sourbeer, Vice President of Operations for IHG Army Hotels. “Groundbreaking of the Candlewood Suites on Fort Liberty further underscores the successes of collaboration with the PAL initiative. Whether for a single night or an extended stay, this hotel will provide all the amenities guests need to rest and reconnect, delivered by an understanding and caring staff.”

Located on the site of a previous IHG Army Hotels property, the Fort Liberty Candlewood Suites will include guest rooms ranging from studios to one- and two-bedroom suites. The hotel will also offer features to meet the specific needs of military travelers, such as fully equipped kitchens in each suite; a business center, fitness center, laundry facilities and 24-hour Candlewood Cupboard

market; outdoor seating and barbeque area; a separate lounge for Distinguished Visitors; and amenities such as complimentary hot breakfast, pet-friendly accommodations and weekly social events.

Lendlease and IHG Army Hotels were the first to build a hotel in the U.S. using Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT), and Fort Liberty Candlewood Suites will be the 6<sup>th</sup> hotel in the PAL portfolio to employ CLT. As it is composed of renewable materials that store carbon, CLT surpasses traditional building methods when it comes to sustainability. However, CLT also offers maximized strength and durability characteristics that were ideal for this project.

“Given the security requirements and physical constraints of the site, we determined that CLT was the only structural system that could meet installation-specific design specifications,” said Garrett. “Our experience using CLT on previous hotel projects gave us the confidence that it was the right choice for Fort Liberty Candlewood Suites in terms of decarbonization and force protection outcomes.”

In addition to the new Candlewood Suites, Lendlease and IHG will make other enhancements to military lodging options at Fort Liberty over the next year including FFE (furnishing, fixtures and equipment) updates that are currently underway at Carolina Inn; and future renovation of the existing Normandy House hotel, which will be designated part of IHG’s Historia Collection™ comprising buildings of historical importance to the Army and the nation.

"Partnerships like the one we celebrate today are not just about buildings; they are about the quality of life we provide to our service members," stated COL(P) John B. Hinson, ACG-S, XVIII ABN CORPs, Fort Liberty.

As the exclusive developer for the Department of Defense’s only lodging privatization program, Lendlease is the owner, developer, design-builder and asset manager for the Candlewood Suites at Fort Liberty. IHG Hotels & Resorts is the hotel operator and manager. Lendlease’s PAL portfolio includes more than 12,000 hotel rooms on installations across the country.

In addition to providing quality service, Lendlease and IHG Army Hotels offer unique benefits for military travelers and their families. Guests can earn loyalty points through the IHG One Rewards program which can be redeemed for personal travel at more than 6,000 IHG Hotels & Resorts properties spanning 17 brands worldwide. Additionally, IHG Army Hotels proudly employs veterans and military spouses who understand the unique challenges and needs of the on-post environment, and are qualified to serve guests accordingly. Family members and spouses working at these hotels have the option to maintain employment with IHG if relocated, eliminating one of the many stresses of reassignment.

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### **About Lendlease**

Lendlease ([www.lendlease.com](http://www.lendlease.com)) is a globally integrated real estate group with operations in Australia, Asia, Europe and the United States. We create places where communities thrive. Headquartered in Sydney, Australia and listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX:LLC), Lendlease has approximately 7,600 employees globally. Our core capabilities are reflected in our



operating segments of Investments, Development and Construction. The combination of these three segments provides us with a sustainable competitive advantage in delivering innovative integrated solutions for our customers.

In the US, Lendlease's Communities business is one of the nation's leaders in public/private community development. We manage one of the largest military housing portfolios in the US and are the Army's exclusive partner for privatized lodging. With a focus on creating sustainable value, Lendlease creates communities that regenerate our environment, enrich people's lives and foster economic growth. Lendlease has worked extensively with the Department of Defense through the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI), a program that provides for the transfer of military housing assets to private sector companies. With over 40,000 residential units, 192 apartments and more than 12,000 hotel rooms in its portfolio, Lendlease will finance, develop, build, renovate and operate these sites for at least 50 years.

#### **For more information:**

Sarah Lyons  
Senior Account Director – Taylor Johnson Public Relations  
[slyons@taylorjohnson.com](mailto:slyons@taylorjohnson.com)  
+1 312 267-4520

Isabel Sepkowitz  
Corporate Affairs, Senior Corporate Communications Manager, Americas – Lendlease  
[isabel.sepkowitz@lendlease.com](mailto:isabel.sepkowitz@lendlease.com)  
+1 917 504-6975

#### **Rendering and Image Captions:**

1. **Candlewood Suites Fort Liberty Rendering 1:** Lendlease and IHG Army Hotels have broken ground on a new Candlewood Suites hotel at Fort Liberty in North Carolina. Expected to open in early 2026, the 207-room hotel is the 17<sup>th</sup> Candlewood Suites property Lendlease and IHG have partnered on since 2009 as part of the Privatization of Army Lodging (PAL) initiative.
2. **Candlewood Suites Fort Liberty Groundbreaking – Shovel Photo:** Pictured from left: COL(P) John B. Hinson, ACG-S, XVIII ABN CORPs, Fort Liberty; Justin Kern, Executive General Manager, Lendlease Communities; Phillip Carpenter, Chief Operating Officer, Lendlease Communities; Matthew Garrett, Senior Vice President and General Manager of PAL, Lendlease Communities; Virginia Helwig, Retired General Manager, IHG Army Hotels – Fort Liberty; Donna Carrier-Tal, Chief of Real Estate Branch, US Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division; Chuck Sourbeer, Vice President of Operations, IHG Army Hotels; Greg Starkey, Operations Director, DoD Design Build, Communities and Infrastructure, Lendlease; Amanda Bermudez, Development Manager, Lendlease Communities; Command Sergeant Major Gregory Seymour, Command Sergeant Major, Fort Liberty Garrison.

[Click here](#) to view additional images and renderings via Dropbox.

