

Department of the Navy



## INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS TEAM

ODASN (IS&A), 2221 South Clark Street, Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22202

(703)-602-6300 <sup>DCN 8365</sup>

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### MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: MEETING WITH JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA COMMUNITY DELEGATION

1. LtGen Richard L. Kelly, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (I&L), met with members of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, including Jim Overton, Office of the Property Appraiser, Jacksonville, FL; Lad Daniels, President Jacksonville City Council; John H. Haley, Vice President, Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce; Steve Kaufman, Public Relations, President, Jacksonville Navy League; Gary Brose, SAIC (Business Development); Dan McCarthy, City of Jacksonville, Herschel Vinyard, Atlantic Marine; Joe O'Connor, Earl Industries; Kellie Vo Kilberg, Clay County Chamber; Jacquelyn Smith, District Director, Congressman Ander Crenshaw; Mary Alice Phelan, St Vincent's Health System; Gary Donoher, AD&D Inc.; and Leigh Bradley of Holland & Knight LLP on 11 February 2004, at 1445 in Suite 6600, NC1. Captain James A. Noel, USMC, IAT Recorder, was also present. The delegation indicated that they had also met with RADM Chris Weaver, USN, Commander Navy Installations and Ms. Ariane Whittemore, Deputy OPNAV N4.

2. LtGen Kelly discussed the history and future of Maritime Pre-positioning Force, with particular emphasis on the role of Blount Island. He discussed the relevance of Blount Island and Marine Corps Logistic Base (MCLB) Albany to future sea basing and the transition from Marine Corps lease to ownership of Blount Island. LtGen Kelly suggested that the probable name for the installation will be MCLB Blount Island; discussed the opportunity to civilianize many billets and work with future tenants. Several tenants are currently located at Blount Island; BRAC '05 could place more there in support of the major theme of joint basing and joint operations. LtGen Kelly responded to a query as to whether the Army could move to Blount by indicating that the Army is located at Charleston and it is likely that DoD will continue to require two sites. He responded to a query concerning bi-coastal force protection issues, replying that sufficient separation exists between DoD logistics bases. LtGen Kelly added that Blount Island is a national strategic asset, emphasizing the military value of the installation as the Corps' power projection platform for Maritime Pre-positioning Force. Phase I of the Blount Island project is complete; Phase II, now in progress gives the Marine Corps ownership of the leased maintenance area and supporting dredge disposal site. Prior commitments required LtGen Kelly to decline an invitation to a cocktail at the Navy memorial to meet rest of the Jacksonville delegation.

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3. The delegation inquired about possible changes to Blount Island as a result of the change in ownership with particular emphasis on any expansion potential. They commented on the fantastic relationship with Jacksonville Navy and civilian community and requested to be kept informed regarding any opportunity to enhance the relationship. The delegation voiced their support of Marine Pre-positioning Force future. They invited LtGen Kelly to visit Jacksonville to allow community representatives to interact with Marine Corps leadership. As the acquisition of Blount island will close out in the spring, the delegation suggested considering themes for a possible parade to commemorate the new base. When LtGen Kelly informed the delegation that spring might be too optimistic, the delegation suggested a possible Superbowl themed celebration. LtGen Kelly indicated that he'd attend if invited to any appropriate ceremony. The delegation commented that Colonel Carl Matter is an excellent base commander, great emissary for the Marine Corps and greatly appreciated by the community.
4. The meeting concluded at 1545.



J. A. NOEL  
Captain  
United States Marine Corps  
Recorder, IAT