

Department of the Navy



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IAT/MMC
15 Sep 2004

MEMORANDUM

Subj: 14 SEPTEMBER 2004 MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
HARRISON AND HANCOCK COUNTIES, MISSISSIPPI

Encl: (1) List of Attendees from Mississippi
(2) Counties' Synergies and Opportunities Brief

1. Mr. Wayne Army, Acting ASN (I&E) met with 6 members of the subject group in Room 4D583 at 0900 on 14 Sep 2004. The list of attendees is contained in enclosure (1). CDR David Seinicki CEC, USN, and Commander Margaret Carlson, JAGC, USN, of DASN (IS&A) office were also present.

2. The members provided Mr. Army enclosure (2). They highlighted that the community was already a joint military center for the Navy and Air Force with an Army installation in a neighboring county. Quality of life in the counties was outstanding and the community was very supportive of the military activities. The members noted that encroachment was not a problem for the military activities in their counties. They also noted that the counties provided synergy for research and development with state and local universities.

3. Mr. Army recounted stories from when he worked in Pascagoula. He highlighted that the Navy has learned a lot in the prior rounds of BRAC implementation and will use those lessons learned for any BRAC 2005 recommendations' implementation. He noted that future implementation would include public sale of land.

4. The meeting concluded at approximately 0945.

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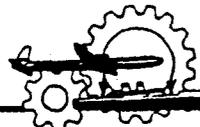
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ENCLOSURE (1)

Synergies & Opportunities

The Transformational Role of Military Facilities in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region



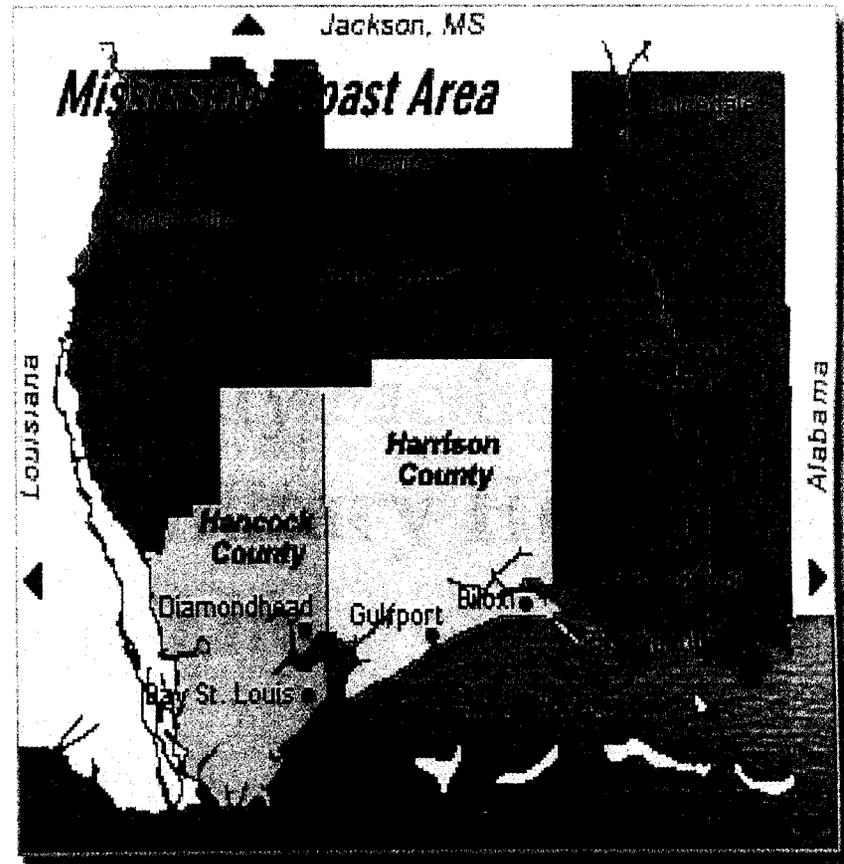
Who We Are

Harrison County

- Keesler Air Force Base
- Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport
- Air National Guard
(Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport)

Hancock County

- Stennis Space Center
 - NAVOCEANO
 - Naval Research Lab
 - Special Boat Team 22



Organization of Briefing

1) Overview of Military Facilities

- a) Major Installations and Missions
- b) Transformational Capabilities
- c) Synergies between Military Facilities

2) The Gulf Coast as a Military Home

- a) Outstanding Quality of Life
- b) Community Support
- c) Opportunities for Expansion



Keesler AFB



HQ of Air Education & Training Command

- In charge of all Air Force technical training and initial military training

81st Training Wing

- Over 40,000 students/year, over 4,000 on any day
- Communications/Computer & Electronic Center of Excellence -- home of all AF basic electronic courses
- Roughly 500 different courses taught to students from all services, DoD, Coast Guard, other agencies
- **Keesler Medical Center** is the second largest AF hospital in U.S. & a major medical training center



Keesler AFB



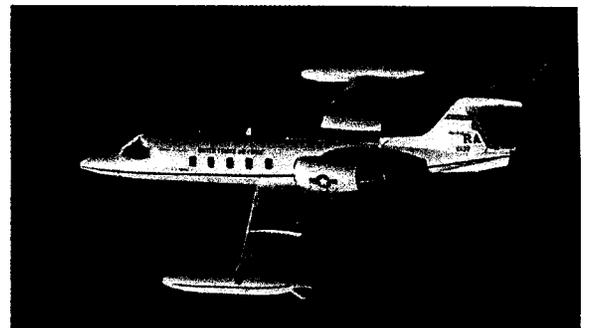
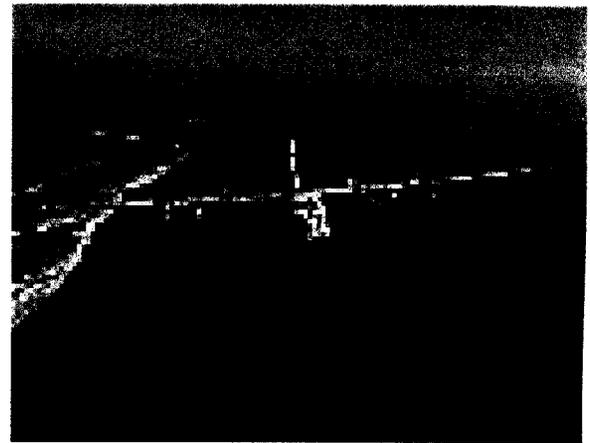
Keesler AFB Flying Missions

403rd Wing [WC-130J & C-130J]

- 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (“Hurricane Hunters”)
- 815th Airlift Squadron

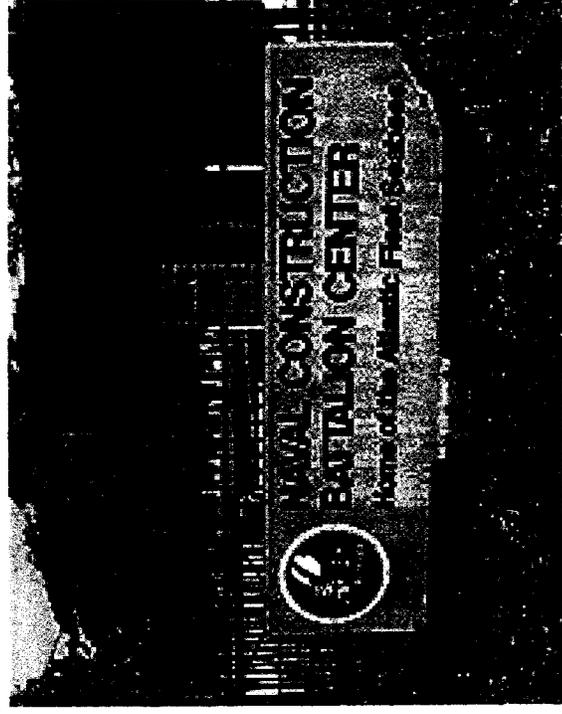
45th Airlift Squadron:

- Produces pilots and instructor pilots for C-21A aircraft
- Conducts initial training for future C-130J pilots



NCBC Gulfport

- **Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport is home of Atlantic Fleet Seabees**
- **One of two Seabee centers in U.S.**
- **Base's core function is Seabee Readiness**
 - Trains Seabees
 - Outfits Seabees
 - Supports deployed Seabees
 - Provides home for families



NCBC Gulfport

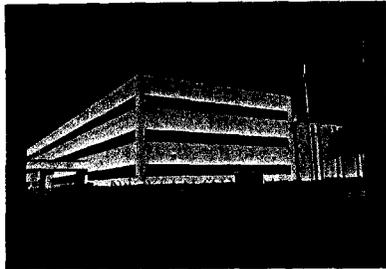
NCBC Gulfport supports many fleet units; e.g.,

- 10 Naval Mobile Construction Battalions
- 3 Naval Construction Regiments
- Naval Construction Force Support Unit
- Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit
- Underwater Construction Unit
- Cargo Handling Battalion
- Harbor Defense Command and Port Security Unit

NCBC Gulfport also:

- Operates a strategic storage site
- Supports mobilization/reserves
- Supports amphibious forces

Naval Activities at Stennis



**Commander,
Naval Meteorology
and Oceanography
Command**



**Special
Boat
Team 22**



**Naval
Oceanographic
Office**



**Human Resources
Service Center
Southeast**



**Naval
Research
Laboratory**



**Naval Small Craft
Instruction and
Technical Training
School**

14 Sept. 2004

Harrison & Hancock Counties, Mississippi

8

Naval Activities at Stennis

Naval Oceanographic Office

- Global center of expertise with most of world's oceanographers & world's best oceanographic library
- Operates 7 oceanographic survey vessels worldwide
- Warfighting Support Center

Naval Research Laboratory

- One of only three Navy-wide research centers
- Proven record of innovation

Special Boat Team 22

- Ideal unencroached special warfare training site
- New \$15.4M, 120,000 sq. ft. facilities

ANG -- Gulfport

Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTTC)

- Provides an integrated, year round, realistic training environment in air space, systems, facilities, and equipment
- Outstanding facility that trains ANG units from all across the United States

Deployable ANG units

- 255th Air Control Squadron
- 209th Civil Engineering Squadron



ANG -- Gulfport's Home

Gulfport -- Biloxi International Airport

- Recently completed \$20M expansion, tripling size of facility
- 9,000 foot runway: C-5/C-17/C-141 capable
- Unencroached and secure ANG facilities
(Hewes Avenue was relocated for security reasons)
- Five airlines offer increasing levels of service
- Large tracts of land set aside for warehouses and complementary commercial aviation activities

Transformation

“The war on terrorism is a transformational event that cries out for us to rethink our activities ... and put that new thinking into action.”

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld
National Defense University, 31 Jan. 2002



We recognize the importance of the ongoing transformation of our armed forces

We believe that our bases:

- Have important transformational capabilities
- Have shown commitment to transformational goals

Jointness

Stennis Space Center

- Unique “Federal City” with 30 different tenants, cost-efficient home of several Naval activities

Keesler AFB: trains all branches of military

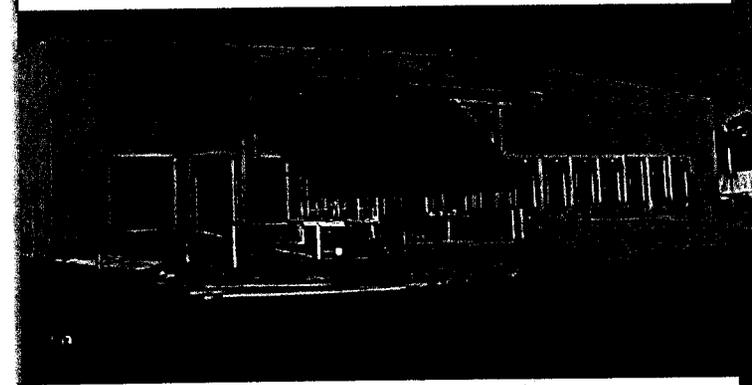
- Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT) trains 1,000 sailors annually
- Marine Detachment (MARDET) also provides advanced technical training at Keesler



Rapid Deployment

- Bases have access to air, rail, sea, & interstate infrastructure
- Keesler AFB, Stennis, & Gulfport ANG have airlift access
- NCBC Gulfport has crucial deployment capabilities for Seabees and other Atlantic Fleet units
 - Base supports deployed Seabees and expeditionary forces worldwide
 - Base also operates a strategic storage site [1.9M sq ft of warehouse space]
 - Excellent distribution center
 - Assets include brand-new MCOOC [high volume, flow-through containerization loading facility]

Mobilization Contingency
Outfitting Operations Center



Opened February 2004

Warfighter Support/Sustainment

Stennis Naval Activities

- Provide the information that the Navy needs to fight
- Oceanographic & aerial littoral survey data

NCBC Gulfport

- Logistical support for deployed Seabees
- Seabee capabilities are more crucial than ever for sustainment of forces in new combat environments

Keesler AFB

- Significant medical readiness capabilities
- On 9/11, people were airborne within four hours

All bases deploy personnel to support warfighters

Technology & Innovation

Future U.S. troops will continue to have to fight smarter to meet future threats

- Keesler AFB's technical training will become even more critical to mission success
- Scientific and engineering support from Gulf Coast Naval activities will have continuing importance

Naval Research Laboratory's proven record of innovation will also be invaluable

- Manning & Smart Ship
- Airborne Surveys
- UUVs / AUVs
- Supercomputing
- Oceanographic and Environmental Support

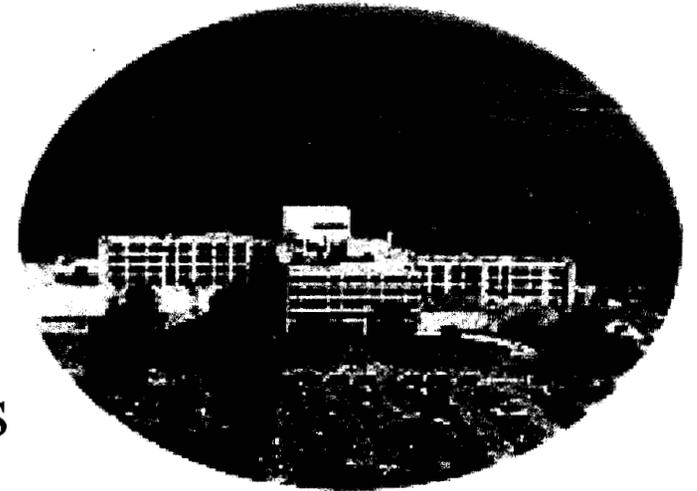
Gulf Coast Military Synergies

- We believe that all of our military bases are exceptional**
- To fully appreciate the value of Gulf Coast bases, however, important to go beyond “stovepipe” view**
- These bases work together and support each other in synergistic ways that benefit the nation**

Gulf Coast Military Synergies

Keesler Medical Center & 81st Medical Group

- All military bases in region use Keesler medical facilities
- Excellent care provided by 2,300 medical professionals is a major positive moral factor
- Base also provides medical care for area veterans
 - Serves 56,000 local beneficiaries
 - Serves nearly 600,000 beneficiaries in DoD Service Region IV



Gulf Coast Military Synergies

Operational Cooperation; e.g.,

- Keesler AFB and NCBC Gulfport personnel often work cooperatively in deploying to meet military crisis situations and offer civilian disaster assistance
- NCBC Gulfport supports Special Boat Unit 22 after deployment from Stennis Center home base

Training Cooperation; e.g.,

- Keesler AFB pilots have training opportunities at:
 - ANG-Gulfport's Combat Readiness Training Center
 - Stennis Airport & Stennis Center facilities

Gulf Coast Military Synergies

Sharing of Educational and Operational Knowledge

- Naval Activities at Stennis engage in operational cooperation to NCBC Gulfport Seabees
- NAVOCEANO offers training on-site at NCBC Gulfport relevant to Seabee missions
- NCBC personnel have access to Keesler AFB training courses such as precision measurement and weather forecasting
- Engineering and technical expertise is shared between all military bases and personnel

Gulf Coast Military Synergies

Overall Message:

- **Gulf Coast has a healthy “critical mass” of military activities**
- **Removing any activities could have detrimental impacts that may not be readily apparent or easy to quantify**
- **Adding defense activities to the Gulf Coast could result in additional synergistic benefits**

Mississippi as a Military Home

Certain military missions & personnel may be relocated in years ahead

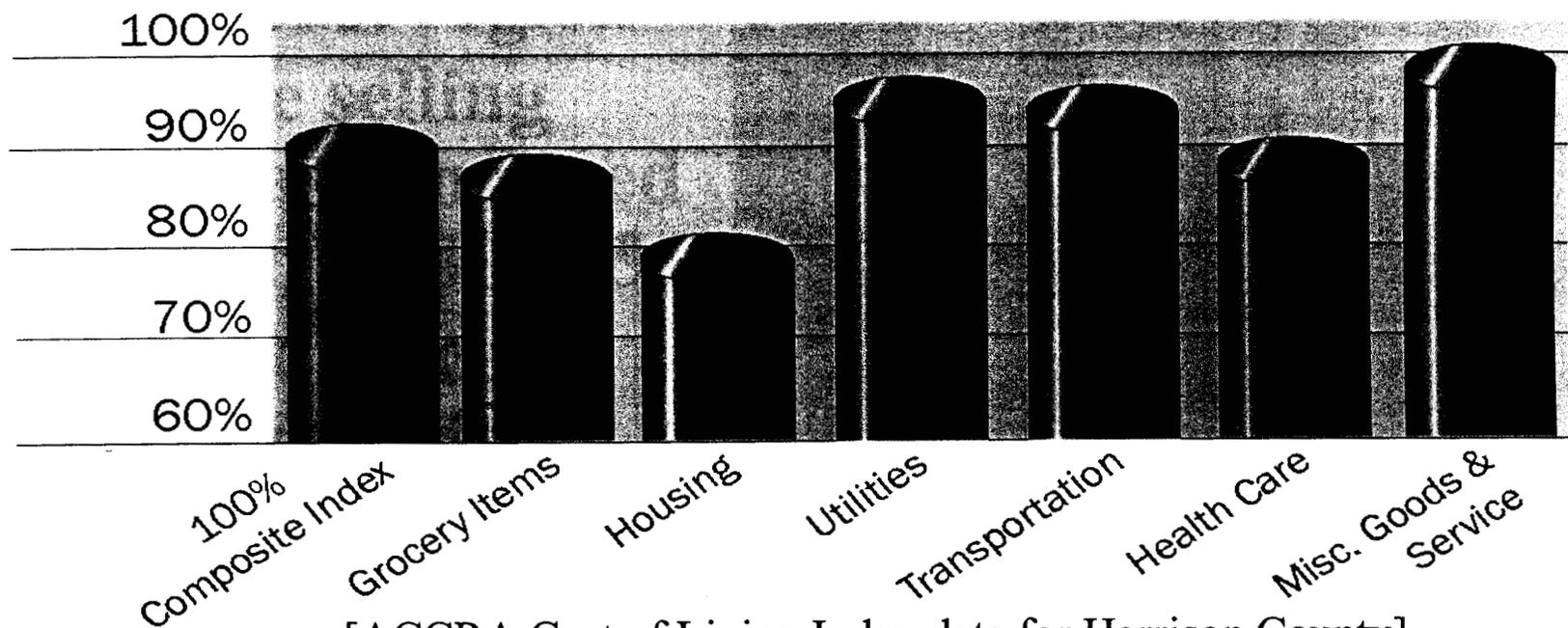
- **Overseas basing moves**
- **Infrastructure rationalization**

We respectfully suggest that the Gulf Coast be considered due to:

- **Excellence of military installations**
- **Outstanding quality of life and community support for military**

Quality of Life: Cost of Living

Low cost of living makes Gulf Coast a bargain for both the federal government and defense families



[ACCRA Cost of Living Index data for Harrison County]

Quality of Life: Housing

- Housing is abundant and affordable in Gulf Coast region
- Average selling price has remained constant at \$115,567
- Average price of new home with 2,000 sq ft & 1/2 acre: \$165,000

Houses under \$100K



Quality of Life: Military Housing

Military housing has been a priority; e.g.,

- Keesler AFB's \$123M "Triangle Vision" program will result in 9 new student dormitories (7 done) and support facilities, best in AETC
- Keesler has new temporary lodging facilities as well as 152 new family housing units
- Other base housing units have been aggressively renovated and refurbished
- NCBC Gulfport has \$30M in new base housing
- Base communities have also worked to encourage housing construction off-base as well

Quality of Life: Education

The Mississippi Gulf Coast has excellent public school systems

Facilities:

- Since the gaming industry came to the Gulf Coast in 1992, substantial investments made in education
- Over \$200 million in new school construction alone

Performance:

- Over half of Harrison/Hancock County schools classified as Level 5--Superior (highest state rank)
- Achievement levels are steadily increasing

Quality of Life: Climate

Mild temperatures support outdoor activities year-round

- Military operations
- Recreational activities

Sub-tropical resort climate makes Gulf Coast a popular home for troops and families

Average Temperatures

Winter (JAN) 44-61 degrees

Spring (APR) 60-76 degrees

Summer (JUL) 74-90 degrees

Fall (OCT) 60-80 degrees

Other Assets: Transportation

Gulf Coast transportation assets include:

- Convenient north-south & east-west interstates
- Four ports: \$200M Port of Gulfport expansion
- Extensive rail access
- Multiple airports with expanded & updated facilities

State funds base-beneficial improvements

- Funded through-rail access to NCBC warehouse
- Planning underway for direct freeway access to base
- Funded Port of Gulfport Navy lay berth (\$13.8M)
- Funded transportation access roads for Keesler AFB
- New North-South Connector route under study

Other Assets: Work Force

We recognize that defense efficiency can involve public-private partnership

Mississippi Gulf Coast has a large and capable defense contractor community

- Northrop Grumman • General Dynamics
- Lockheed Martin • General Electric
- Boeing • Pratt & Whitney

The region is blessed with a significant pool of engineering, scientific and technical talent to support defense needs

Community Support Generally

Mississippi Gulf Coast's pro-military attitude and support is outstanding

- Communities have a great tradition of appreciating the role of our nation's military and our troops
- Gulf Coast is a favored retirement area for veterans
- Local officials proactively support the military
- Strong willingness to take any actions necessary to support military presence in the Gulf Coast region

Example: In 2003, the Biloxi Mayor and City Council voted **unanimously** to institute height restrictions to protect Keesler AFB from encroachment

Community Cooperation

The Mississippi Gulf Coast is a model for regional and state cooperation

- Our joint delegation is just a sample of ongoing cooperative working relationships
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance
 - Six county economic development alliance
 - www.mscoast.org
- Mississippi Military Communities Council
 - National leader in military support activities
 - Helps coordinate community cooperation and state & federal base enhancement activities

Regional Collaboration

The Gulf Coast collaborates on regional initiatives to support military installations

- We understand that projects that help one military base invariably help the larger military community
- We appreciate the importance of military bases to our national security and our regional economy

We have excellent working relationships with State leaders and Congressional delegation

- We will continue to support our military leaders and installations in meeting defense challenges

Gulf Coast Opportunities

We understand the DoD and Services are considering how existing capabilities can best be used to support armed forces in future

We would like to encourage DoD actively to consider potential roles for outstanding Gulf Coast facilities

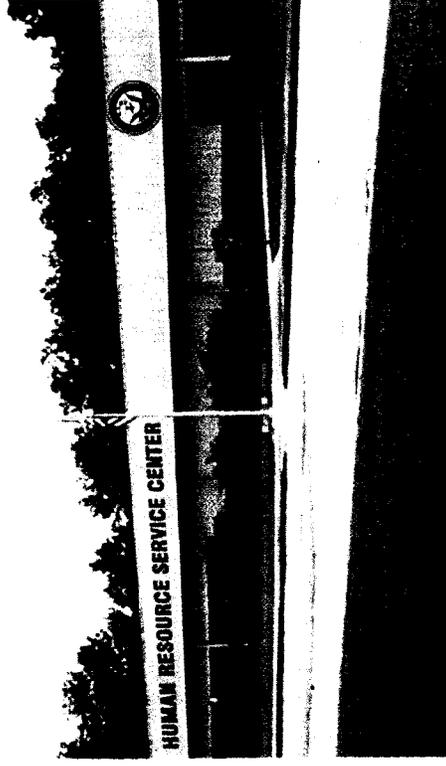
We would like to throw out a few ideas to help spur creative consideration of installations and facilities

Administrative Consolidation

The Gulf Coast is a logical consolidation point for regional administrative activities

Navy Human Resources Service Center Southeast (located at Stennis Center)

- One of eight Navy-wide centers
- New modern facility in 2001
- Serves 31,000+ Navy civilian employees in ten southeastern states and Puerto Rico
- Efficient operation with 174 workers & \$12M FY03 budget



Tactical Airlift Training

- Stennis International Airport has an 8,500 foot runway and will be gaining new runway tower
- Airport is near Stennis Space Center, which has:
 - 14,000 acres
 - 125,000 acre buffer zone
- Stennis Airport will have unencroached excess capabilities and could accommodate increased use for tactical airlift training exercises
- More use could also be made of ANG Gulfport's Combat Training Readiness Center
- DoD could utilize these facilities and reduce expensive excess range capacity elsewhere

Increased Joint Training

- **Keesler AFB is a leader in education & training**
- **Recognizing base excellence, Air Force has already increased courses and instructors**
- **Installation could accommodate increase in Trained Personnel Requirement**
- **Keesler AFB is already involved in substantial joint cross-service training**
 - **On-base Navy and Marine detachments**
 - **Army trainees administered through Ft. Gordon**
- **Increased use of Keesler AFB could allow for reduction in excess classroom capacity**

Special Operations Training

- **New asymmetrical challenges have resulted in calls for increases in:**
 - Special forces
 - Specialized training for troops
- **Special Boat Unit 22 is pleased with Stennis Center site**
 - Unencroached and private location
 - Excellent environment for riverine training
- **Minor expenditures for urban combat training facilities could increase capacity and result in effective joint training**

Concluding Messages

- **Gulf Coast military installations have resources and capabilities vital to transformational armed forces**
- **Opportunities may exist for Gulf Coast to take on more missions that could increase synergies and save money**
- **Our communities, working in tandem with State and Congressional leaders, would ensure that any such moves would have maximum support**