



DCN: 8906

21st Century Partnership

804 Park Drive • Warner Robins, Georgia 31088
(478) 322-3367 • Fax (478) 328-1114
E-mail: info@robins21.org • www.robins21.org

August 2, 2005

Honorable Anthony J. Principi
Chairman, Base Realignment and Closure Commission
2521 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Chairman,

All Middle Georgia citizens and the 21st Century Partnership are extremely proud to be the community partner of Robins Air Force Base. Accordingly, we are extraordinarily pleased that once again the Air Force and Department of Defense have validated the military value of Robins by recommending that Robins continue as a legacy multi-mission, multi-service installation.

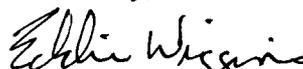
We thank you for serving the Nation in your current and most critical role. We realize that you face many difficult decisions in the days ahead, decisions that have a direct impact on our Nation's defense posture and decisions that impact many communities that have ably supported military installations for decades.

One of those looming decisions is the closure of NAS Atlanta and the move of the Reserve Marine Aviation Group to Robins AFB. Obviously you and your staff have volumes of data and analyses to guide you in this decision. Consequently, the attached package only highlights what has been formally documented through the BRAC 2005 process: the superior military value ratings of Robins. Since BRAC 2005 criteria are centered squarely on military value, it seems logical that installation military value be the determining factor in this decision. However, some have apparently questioned the ability of Middle Georgia demographics to support a reserve flying unit. We have provided demographic facts as well as documented experience that dispel such concerns. Clearly, Robins AFB and Middle Georgia are more than capable of accepting, hosting, and executing this critical operational mission.

In a related action that impacts Robins, the Air Force just modified its recommendation regarding currently assigned KC-135s. The aircraft are now recommended to go directly to Forbes AGS, KS versus going to McConnell AFB, KS for active duty consolidation. This community has not heretofore questioned the move of these tankers from Robins due to the support for and loyalty to the Air Force. However, this last minute, direct realignment brings into question an action that moves KC-135s from an installation with a higher tanker military value (Robins: 18) to one with a lower tanker military value (Forbes: 35) and provides no annual savings with a 100+ year payback period.

We stand ready to answer any questions you may have or to provide any needed additional data. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Eddie Wiggins
Chairman

**Talking Paper
on
Realignments To and From Robins Air Force Base**

Background: In testimony at the Atlanta Regional Hearing on June 30, 2005 and in discussions with the BRAC Commission staff, NAS Atlanta supporters have espoused that the installation should not be closed due to the demographics of Atlanta and the potential negative impact that a move of the operational units may have on readiness.

Middle Georgia is one of the receiving communities as the 42nd Marine Aviation Group is recommended to move from NAS Atlanta to Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins GA. Accordingly this paper is submitted for your deliberation.

Military Value: The predominant determinant for BRAC 2005 decisions remains military value. Robins' military value rankings speak volumes: three top 10 ratings and six top 18 ratings of 154 installations evaluated. These ratings compare to the military value rating of NAS Atlanta...33rd of 35 installations evaluated by the Navy. Specifically, Robins was rated 7th regarding the ability to support SOF/CSAR type missions. While the SOF/CSAR mission is not the same as an attack helicopter mission, both operate helicopter weapon system platforms. This SOF/CSAR Mission Capability Index rating bodes well for Robins' ability to support this NAS Atlanta flying mission.

Demographics: Before the Middle Georgia demographics are validated here, it should be noted that in the mid-90s, an F-15 Air National Guard unit was moved from Atlanta to Robins AFB. Not only was the unit moved, it simultaneously transitioned from F-15s to the B-1 aircraft. The bottom line: the B-1 unit activated on April 1, 1996 and met its IOC date in December 1997 on time, following an *Excellent* Operational Readiness Inspection. The unit subsequently transitioned from the B-1 to the JSTARS mission prior to the FOC date. Clearly, unit vacancies did not deter the operational readiness of this unit which transitioned weapon systems as well as moved from Atlanta.

Today, the JSTARS unit boasts 100% ANG pilot manning. Over manning in the Active Duty portion of the blended wing constrains the ANG overall manning at 91%. Again, reserve recruiting has not been a problem in Middle Georgia

Regarding demographics, it is true that Middle Georgia does not have the population of Atlanta. Very few cities in America do. However, in 2003, the Middle Georgia community sponsored a study completed by the Middle Georgia Regional Development Center to assess the area's ability to support reserve missions. The criteria used were from the Air Force Reserve Command located at Robins AFB and the BRAC 1995 process.

In the seven county area surrounding Robins AFB (Houston, Bibb, Peach, Jones, Monroe, Crawford, and Twiggs) the total population was 356,801 (U.S. Census 2000). The recruitable age bracket for the Air Force Reserves is 17 – 34 years old. That age group comprised 25.1% of the total population (89,442 individuals) for the seven counties combined. This demographic data was then compared to the criteria used in BRAC 1995. The result is shown below.

Recruitable Age (ARC Units)		2003
Percent of population of recruitable age		
Green	> 20%	X
Yellow	< 20% and > 10%	
Red	< 10%	

89,442 (17 - 34 yr olds in 7-county MSA)
356,801 (Total Population for MSA)
25.1% (percent of population of recruitable age)

When the same methodology is applied to the newly released 2004 Census population estimates, over 5,000 additional individuals are added to the recruitable nucleus. Also:

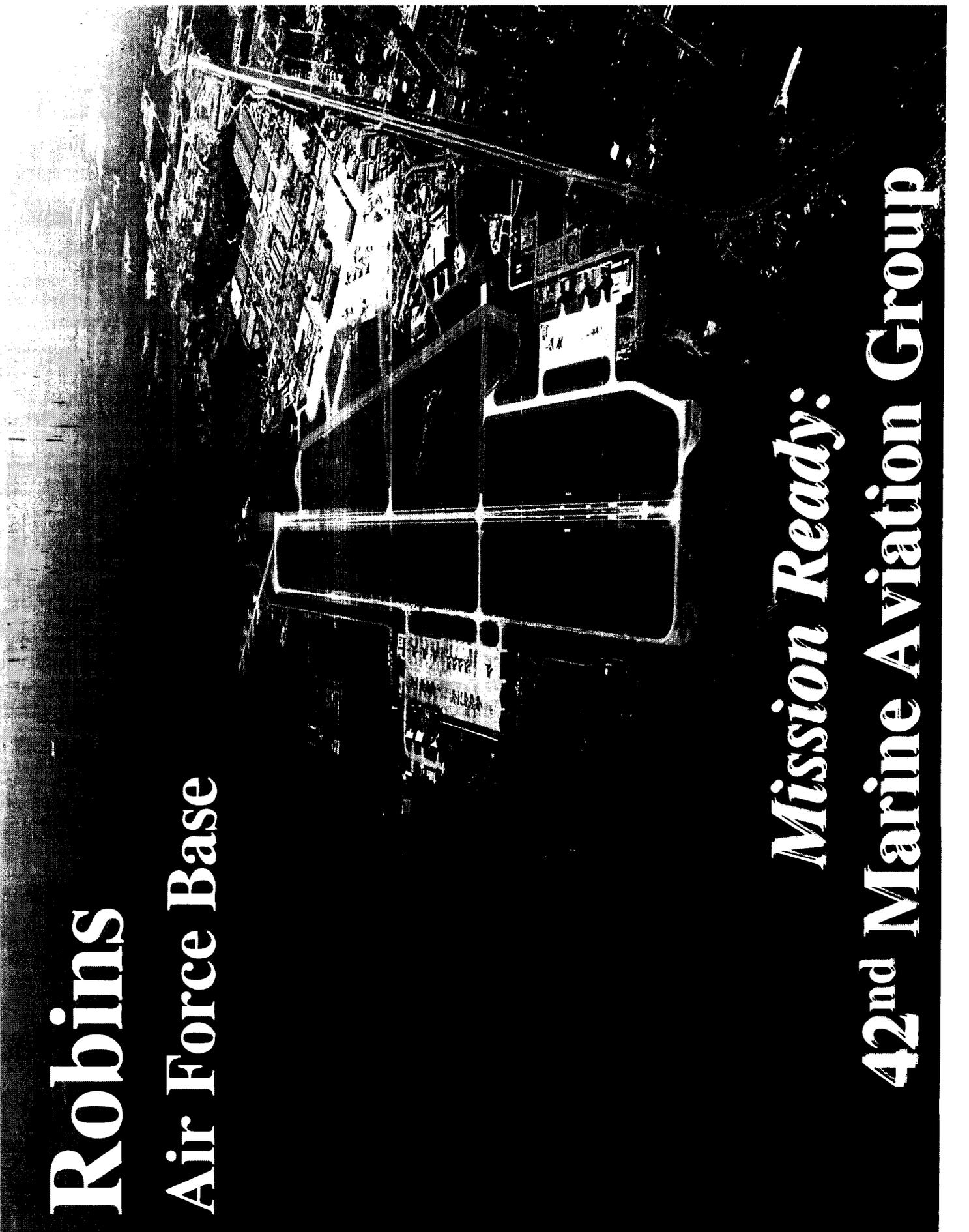
- The recruiting area for the Air Force Reserve Command is generally a 100-mile radius surrounding Robins Air Force Base. The total 2000 population for that 100 mile recruiting area was 4,828,744 of which 28.5% or 1,372,179 individuals were between 17-34 years of age.
- It should be noted, that Robins AFB is only 126 miles south of NAS Atlanta.
- Today, the host city for Robins AFB is the 10th largest in Georgia and the Warner Robins MSA is the second fastest growing in Georgia.
- In the Navy's BRAC Recommendation Report, part of the justification for relocating NAS Atlanta assets to the designated locations was, "this recommendation reduces excess capacity while maintaining reserve forces in regions with favorable demographics."

It is a safe assumption that with any move, military or private industry, not all personnel will follow the unit. The real question then seems to be whether the unit can operate (recruit) in the new locale. There is documented evidence that Middle Georgia can fully support a Reserve unit. Robins: a mission ready base, located in a pro-defense region, with access to a recruitable population, is ready for the 42nd MAG.

KC-135 Realignment: In related realignments that impact Robins, the Air Force has just modified its recommendation regarding currently assigned KC-135s. The aircraft are now recommended to go directly to Forbes AGS, KS versus going to McConnell AFB, KS for active duty consolidation. This community heretofore has not questioned the move of these tankers from Robins due to the support for and loyalty to the Air Force. However, since BRAC 2005 decisions are to be driven by military value, this last minute, direct realignment brings into question an action that moves KC-135s from an installation with a higher tanker military value (Robins: 18) to one with a lower tanker military value (Forbes: 35) and has no annual savings with a 100+ year payback period. KC-135s have operated successfully from Robins since 1968. Clearly, Robins has the capability to handle the unit size being established at Forbes and it is difficult to conceive that with the active duty consolidation at McConnell, more refueling capability is needed in Kansas.

Submitted By:
The Middle Georgia 21st Century Partnership

**Robins
Air Force Base**



Mission Ready:
42nd Marine Aviation Group

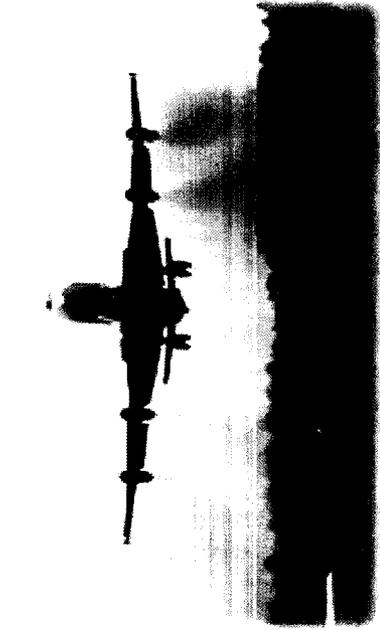
Robins Air Force Base

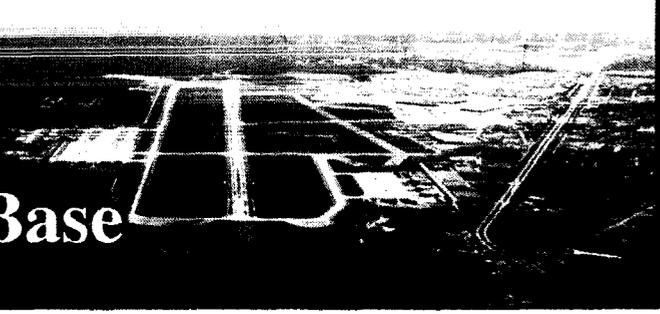
PROVIDING UNIQUE MILITARY
VALUE TO AMERICA

A Multi-Service, Multi-Mission Installation

No Operational Restrictions

New Mission Capable





Robins

Air Force Base

65 MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS
25,000+ PERSONNEL

A multi-service, multi-mission installation

- **Aviation centric: multiple operational and flying units**
- All integrated weapon system sustainment capabilities
- Extensive storage and distribution capabilities
- Multiple Defense mission support agencies

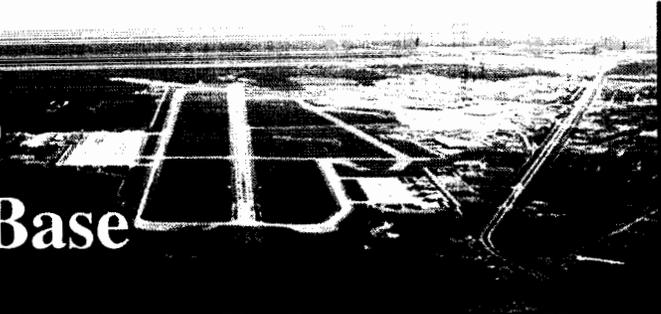
No operational restrictions

- **24/7 use of a 12,000 ft runway**
- Abundant access to airspace and training areas
- Clean Air Act compliant

New mission capable

- **Modern-turnkey flying mission complexes available**
- 513 buildable acres on 8,800 acre installation
- Homeland Defense ready

Robins Air Force Base



**BRAC 2005:
VALIDATED MILITARY VALUE**

The BRAC 2005 Bottom Line is *Military Value*

Robins MV

Three top-10, six top-18 MCI ratings: 154
AF installations

Bomber Missions	5 th
UAV Missions	6 th
SOF/CSAR Missions	7 th
Airlift Missions	16 th
C2ISR Missions	16 th
Tanker Missions	18 th

NAS Atlanta MV

DoN aviation installations Rating:
33rd of 35

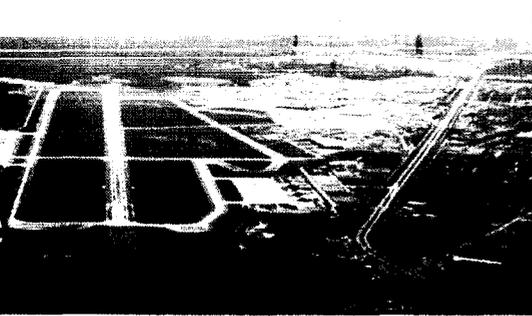
Capacity

DoN Aviation Installations
Rating: 20th of 23
Total Aviation Operations
Rating: 28th of 35

Robins: By Far, The Most Capable, Versatile Installation

Robins

Air Force Base

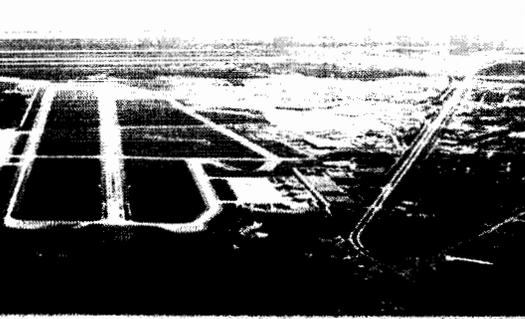


BRAC 2005
VALIDATED MILITARY VALUE

Robins' Major Military Value Attributes

- Airfield Elevation
- Runway Dimensions and Serviceability
- Ability to Support Large-Scale Mobility Deployment
- ATC Restrictions to Operations
- Prevailing Installation Weather Conditions
- Buildable Acres for Industrial Operations Growth
- Attainment/Emission Budget Growth Allowance
- Level of Mission Encroachment
- Ramp Area and Serviceability
- Sufficient Explosives-Sited Parking
- Installation Pavements Quality
- Area Cost Factor
- Utilities Cost Rating (U3C)
- BAH Rate
- GS Locality Pay Rate

Robins Air Force Base



MIDDLE GEORGIA DEMOGRAPHICS

100-Mile Radius Population*

4,828,744

Recruitable Age (17-34) Population (28.5%)

1,372,179

Seven County Area Population**

356,801

Recruitable Age (17-34) Population (25.1%)

89,442

Host City: 10th largest in Georgia

Host MSA: 2nd fastest-growing in Georgia



* 2000 Census **2003 Census

Middle Georgia Can Support Reserve Flying Units

Robins Air Force Base



**MIDDLE GEORGIA HAS
DOCUMENTED EXPERIENCE**

Transitioning a Reserve Flying Unit to Robins is Not New

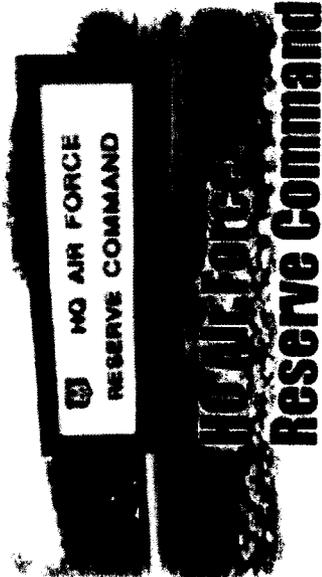
- Georgia ANG unit moved from Dobbins: activated Apr 1996
 - PLUS...the unit simultaneously transitioned from F-15s to B-1s
- IOC completed on time: Sep 1997
- IOC followed an *Excellent* Operational Readiness Inspection
- Unit has since transitioned to JSTARS mission
 - Air Force's first blended wing
 - Pilot billets 100% manned...most are traditional Guardsmen
 - Over 1,100 total reserve authorizations: 91% filled
 - Fill rate constrained by active duty overmanning

No Readiness Degradation

Robins

Air Force Base

ROBINS: MULTIPLE
OPERATIONAL MISSIONS



**10th Air Force
Reserve Command**

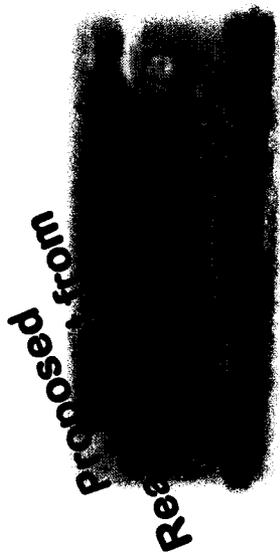


Proposed
Reassignment to

**19th Air
Refueling Group**

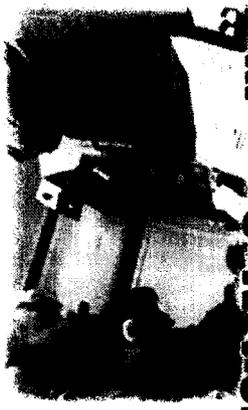


**Operational
Missions
Major Expeditionary
Force Projection
Platform**

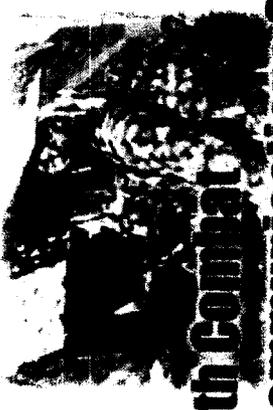


Proposed
Reassignment from

42nd MAG



**116th Air Surveillance
Wing (Joint STARS)**



**5th Combat
Communications Group**



339th Flight Test Group

Robins: A Major Expeditionary Force Projection Platform

Robins

Air Force Base

- 12,000', barrier equipped runway
- 306 days/year >3000'/3NM
- No operational restrictions
 - 24/7 operations
- Clean Air Act compliant
- No air space congestion
 - ATC delays non-existent
- Multiple training areas available
- Climate...perfect!

Season	Max	Min	Mean
Annual	76.4	52.8	64.8
Winter	59.3	36.3	48.1
Spring	77.2	51.9	64.8
Summer	91.3	69.4	80.6
Fall	77.8	53.5	65.9

No snow removal required!

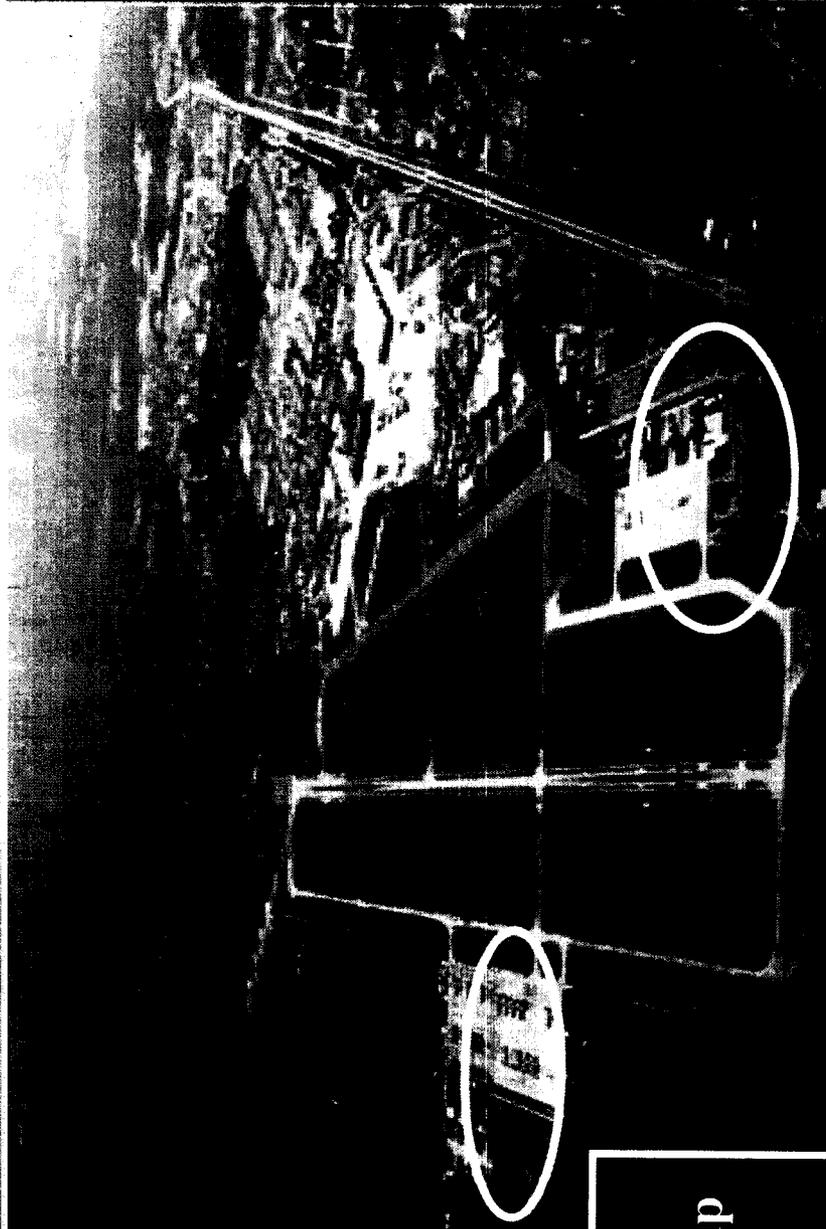
ROBINS OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT



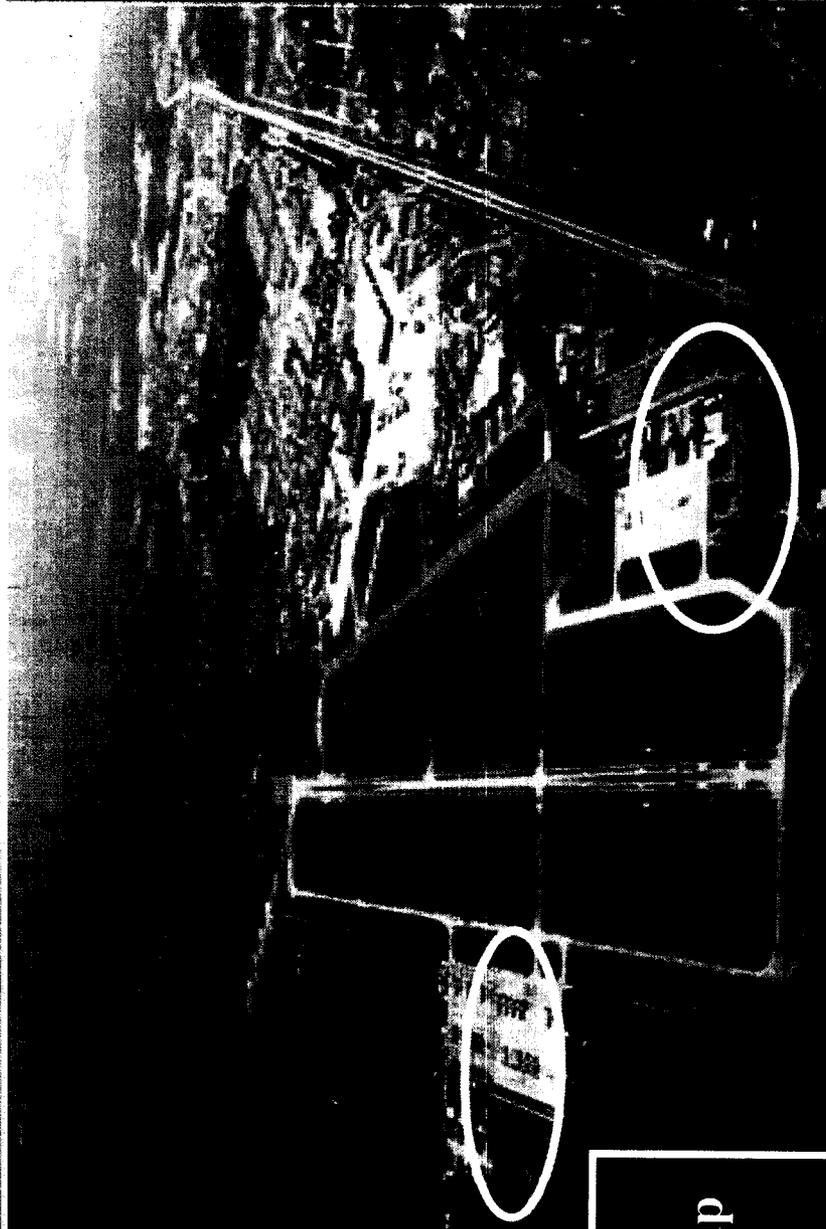
Robins

Air Force Base

OPERATIONAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE



19th Air
Refueling Group
Complex



B-1 Complex

Robins

Air Force Base

ROBINS: ASSURED RAPID DEPLOYMENT

A Consolidated Deployment Center

- Unique installation capability for supporting all Strategic Airlift assets
 - 12,000 ft runway, hangars, massive parking aprons, airlift personnel
- Operated by the "host" combat support elements
 - Serves all assigned Robins' units
 - Valuable regional asset
 - Over 11,000 personnel processed in '03
- One "host" combat support element provides deployment stability for rear echelon



Strategically Located for Assured Rapid Deployment

Robins Air Force Base



PLUS, ROBINS...

Is Located in a Defense-Rich Environment

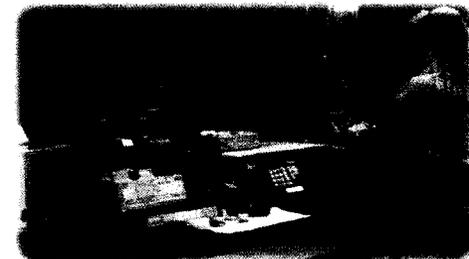
Unique joint basing, deployment, training opportunities • Abundant training ranges

Saves DoD \$Millions

Civilian labor costs and per diem lowest in CONUS • COL 10% below Nat'l Avg

Has A Vibrant, Focused Community Partner

60+ year partnership • Focus is Military Value • Postured for the future



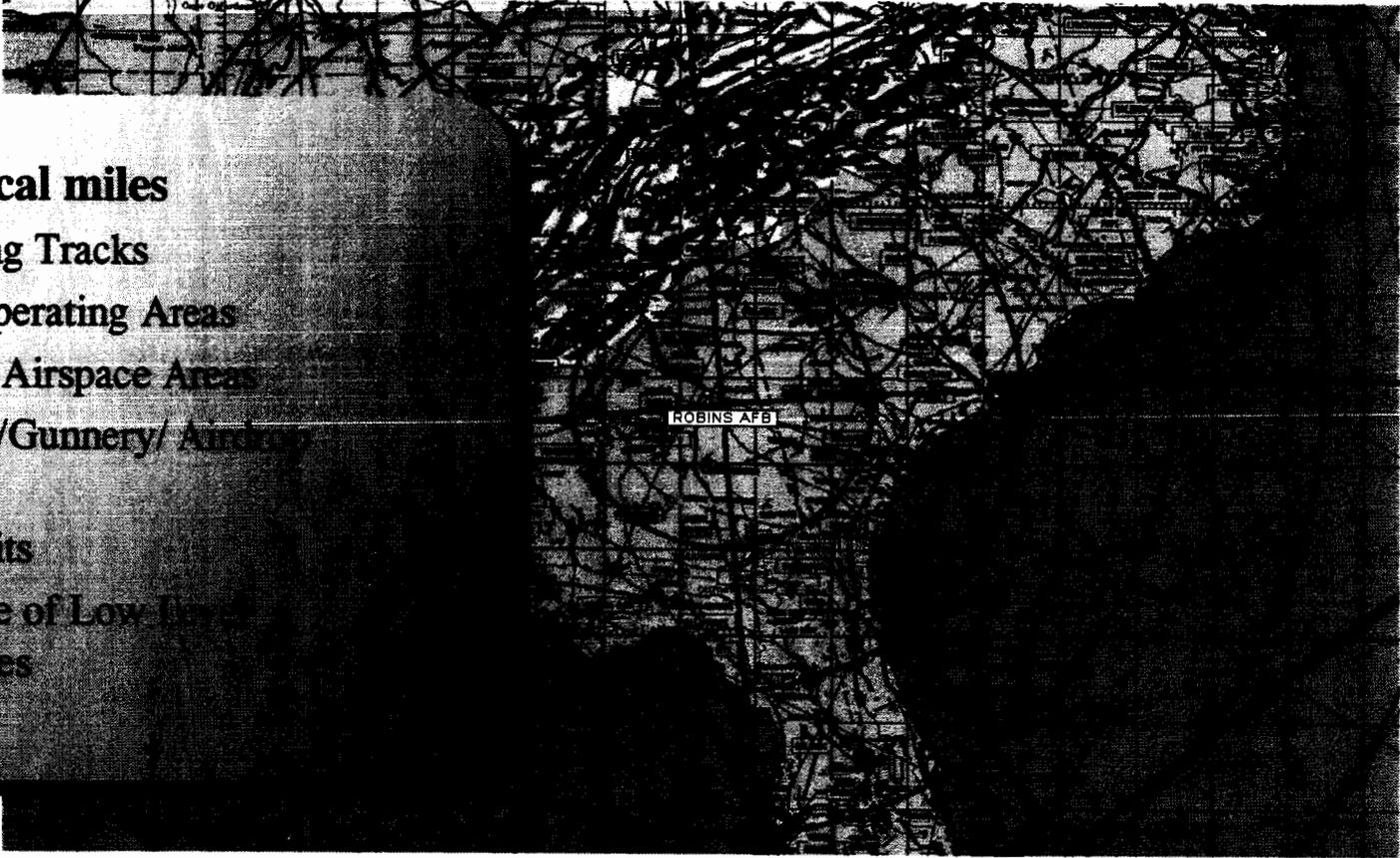
Multiple Joint Basing/Training Opportunities

Robins Air Force Base



**ROBINS: LOCATED IN A
DEFENSE-RICH
ENVIRONMENT**

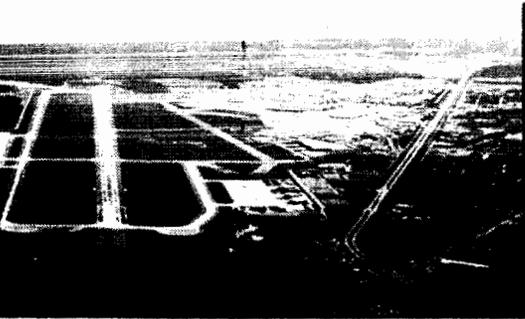
Within 300 nautical miles

- 9 Air Refueling Tracks
 - 10 Military Operating Areas
 - 6 Special Use Airspace Areas
 - 6 ECM/Bomb/Gunnery/ Airdrop Ranges
 - 6 C2/ISR Orbits
 - An Abundance of Low Level Training Routes
- 

Rapid Access to Abundant Air Space & Training Areas

Robins

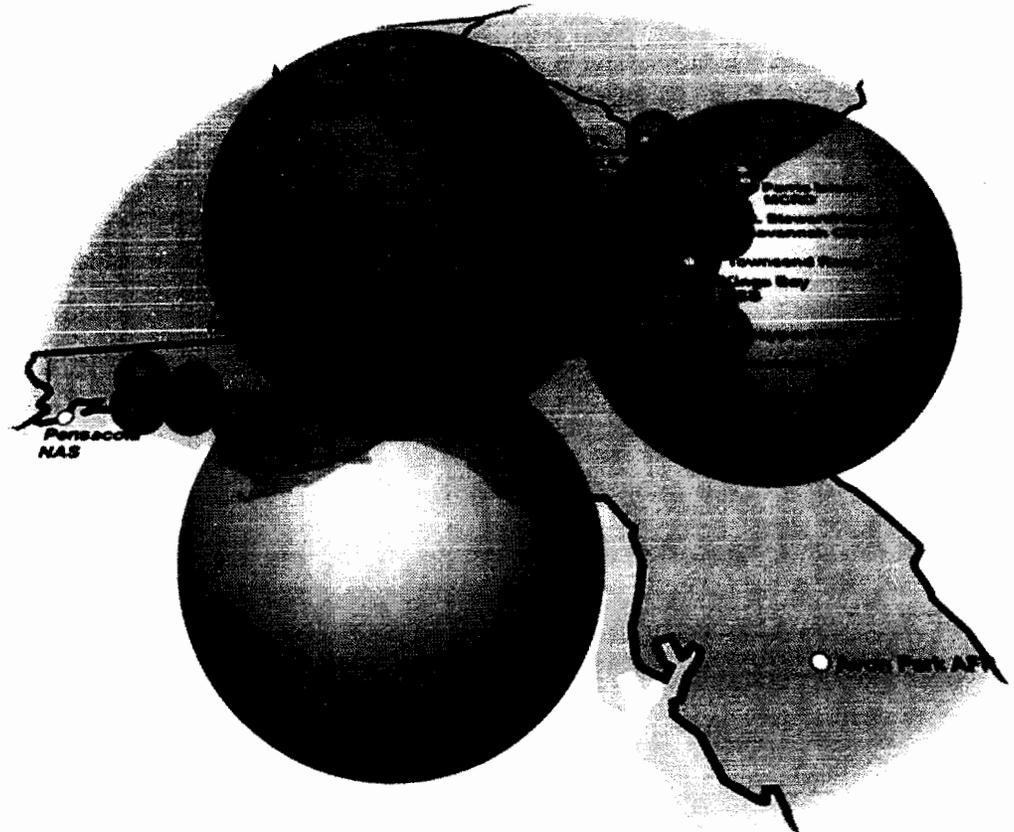
Air Force Base



**ROBINS: LOCATED IN A
DEFENSE-RICH
ENVIRONMENT**

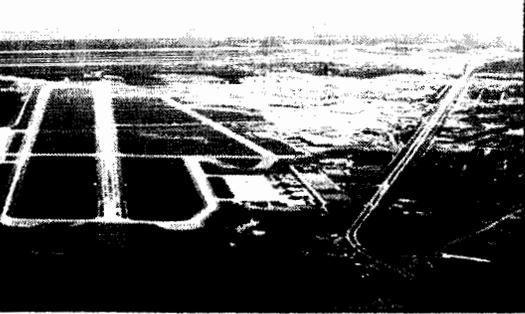
The Southeastern United States

- Multi-Service Force Structure
- Extensive Command & Control Capability
- Unique Training Areas
- Easily Receptive to Joint Mobile Headquarters
- Significant Deployment & Mobilization Capability



TOTAL FORCE CAPABILITY

Robins Air Force Base

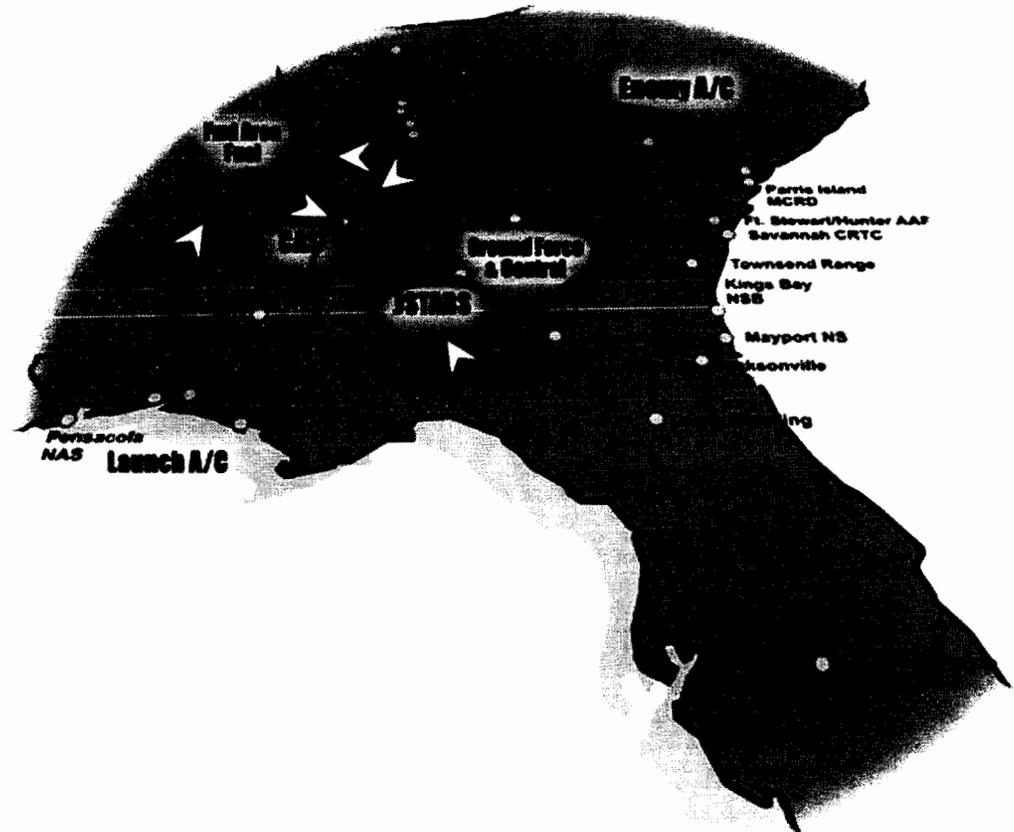


**ROBINS: LOCATED IN A
DEFENSE-RICH
ENVIRONMENT**

Multiple Joint Training/Basing Opportunities

Scenario: Air-Ground Operations

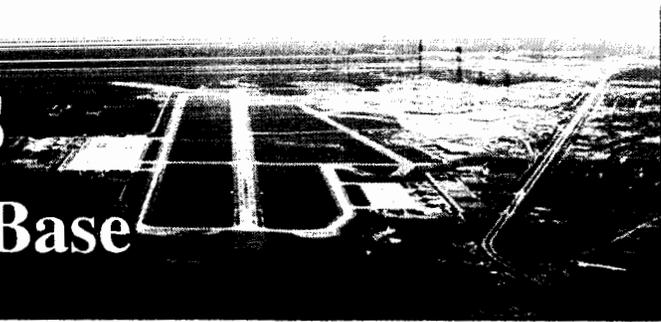
- Ft Benning maneuvering UOA calls for CAS
- Attack helicopters from Robins
- JSTARS from Robins in orbit
- F-16s launch from Eglin
- Enemy aircraft launch from Beaufort
- Air controllers call in strikes from Benning/JSTARS
- CSAR launched from Moody



TOTAL FORCE CAPABILITY

Robins

Air Force Base



SAVES DOD MILLIONS

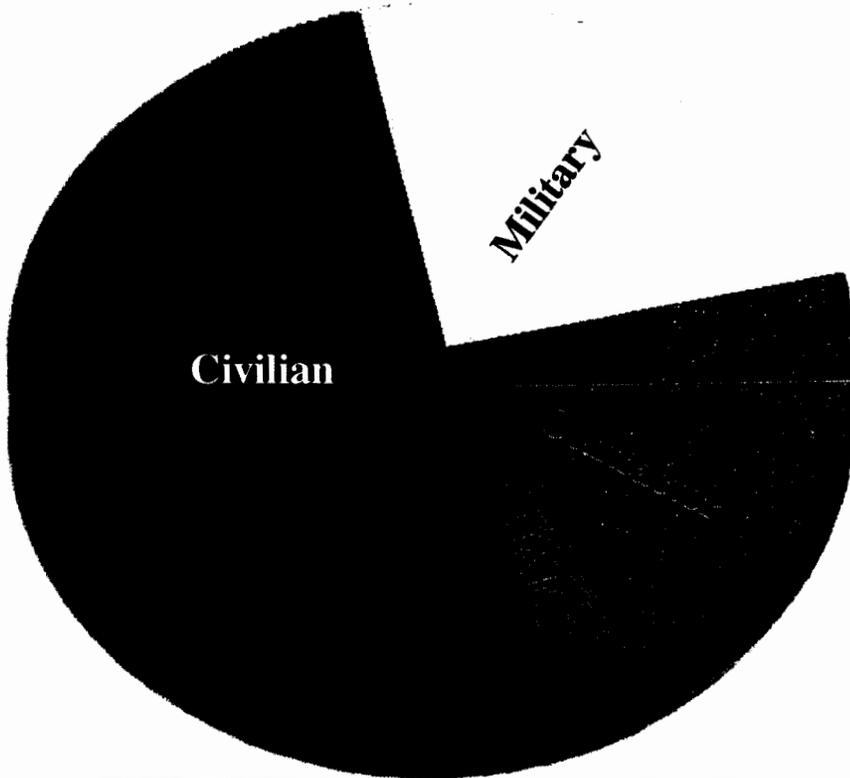
Robins: Significant Tooth-to-Tail Ratio Savings

25,000+ Base Population

Supported by

1 Mission Support Team

- 1 Civil Engineer
- 1 Chapel
- 1 Personnel Office
- 1 BX
- 1 Commissary
- 1 Hospital
- 1 Security Police Squadron
- 1 Communication Squadron
- 1 Transportation Squadron
- 1 Supply Squadron
- 1 Family Support Center
- 1 Physical Fitness Center
- 1 Child Development Center



MORE THAN 25,000 Personnel

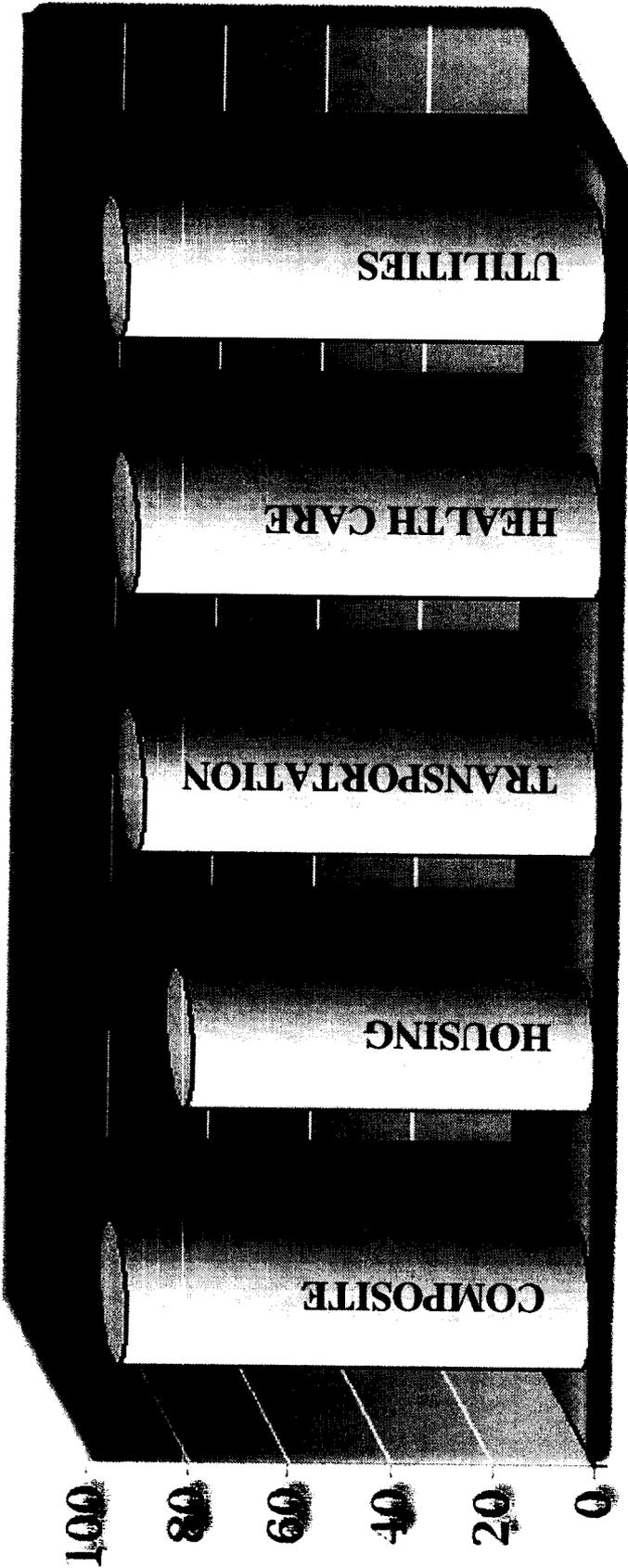
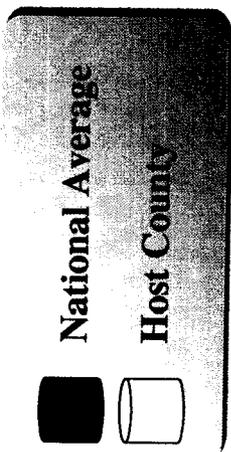
Installation Mission Support Team Is In Place

Robins

Air Force Base

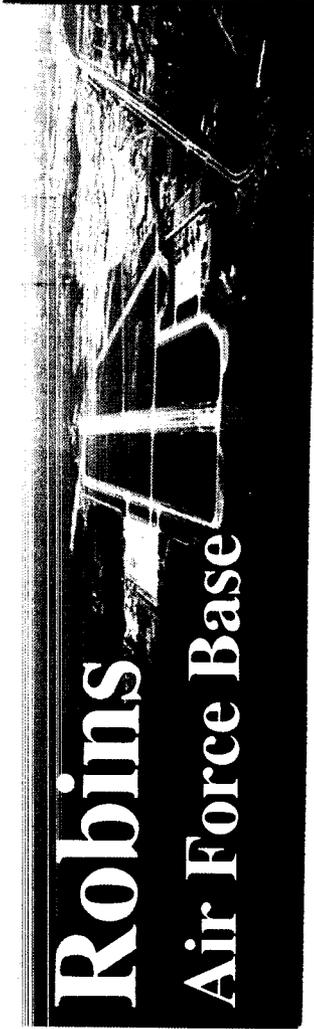
SAVES DOD MILLIONS

Cost of Living Index



Robins: Saves the Military Families and DoD \$\$

Robins Air Force Base



MIDDLE GEORGIA IS A
VIBRANT, FOCUSED PARTNER



Robins & Middle Georgia: Partners for 60+ Years

Robins

Air Force Base

SUPERB QUALITY OF LIFE

• Well-founded reputation for benchmark quality of life

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Medical Care
- ✓ Affordable & Suitable Housing
- ✓ Child Care
- ✓ Employment Opportunity
- ✓ Recreation

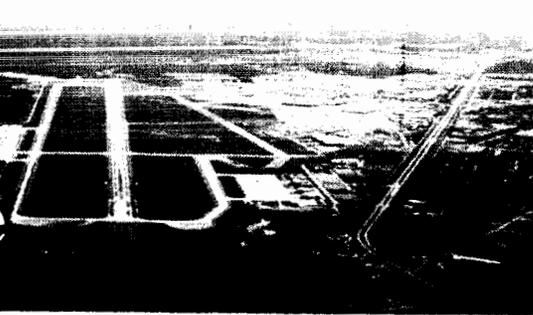
• Middle Georgia remains an attractive and affordable duty assignment

- For all ages and career-paths



A Great Place To Serve And Live

Robins Air Force Base



MIDDLE GEORGIA IS A
VIBRANT, FOCUSED
PARTNER

Robins AFB Requirements

Army
Depot

Software
Growth

Runway
Clear Zones

B-1&JSTARS
Missions

Avionics &
Electronics
Skills

Aging Systems
Skills

Privatized
Housing

Private-Public
Partnerships

1939

Today

Land &
Houses
Provided

Mercer School
of Engineering
Started

Acquired
Land/Relocated
Families

200+ New
Affordable
Houses

Tech
Schools
Built

Educational
Co-Op Programs
Started

City Land
Swap

Adjacent
Land
Acquired

Middle Georgia Response

Robins Air Force Base

MIDDLE GEORGIA ENSURES:

ACCESS

- Reasonable free parking
- Environmental friendliness
- Environmental freedom
- Transportation

Quality of Life

- Education
- Affordable housing
- Health care
- Child care
- Recreation
- Cost of living

Resources

- Public-private partnerships
- Community-Base partnerships

Capacity
to
Grow

The Military Value of Middle Georgia

Robins

Air Force Base

ROBINS & MIDDLE GEORGIA

ROBINS

MIDDLE GEORGIA

A Large Multi-Mission, Multi-Service Installation Providing

- New mission capability
- Unique joint basing and training opportunities
- Rapid deployment capabilities
- Vast interservicing opportunities

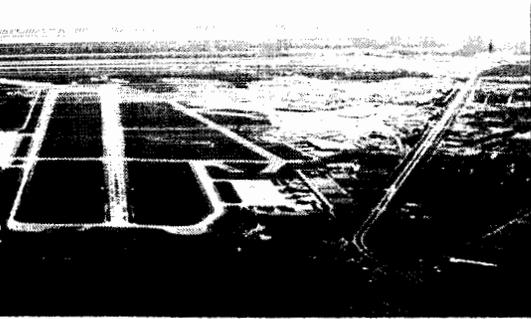
A Vibrant, Focused Community Partner Providing

- Access: unrestricted operations
- Resources: personnel, aerospace capability, partnerships
- Quality of life
- Capacity to grow

A 60+ Year Partnership Jointly Providing Unique Value...and Postured to Continue

Great Investment for the American Taxpayer ...and Warrior

Robins
Air Force Base



THE BOTTOM LINE

EDINGLAFAD

**Every Day in Middle Georgia is Armed
Forces Appreciation Day**

Best Value For The Defense Dollar