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MEETING MINUTES FOR THE.
LOUISIANA MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
HELD AT
OLIVER POLLOCK ROOM, GALVEZ CONFERENCE CENTER
602 NORTH FIFTH STREET
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802
ON THE 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2014
COMMENCING AT 9:15 A.M.

REPORTED BY: ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, CCR



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LMAC MEETING

- 1 **Appearances:**
- 2 David LaCerte
- 3 Paul Sawyer
- 4 LtGen. Jack Bergman
- 5 Lo Walker
- 6 Andy Thomson
- 7 Ben Russo
- 8 MG. Glenn Curtis
- 9 Col. Bill Davis, USMC
- 10 Murray Viser
- 11 Stan Mathes
- 12 Deborah Randolph
- 13 Bennett Landreneau
- 14 John Pugh

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SECRETARY LECERTE:

Good morning. I think we'll go ahead and call the meeting to order. If Mr. John Pugh would like to lead us in the pledge this morning.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

SECRETARY LECERTE:

Please be seated.

Mr. Sawyer, please conduct the roll.

MR. SAWYER:

General Curtis.

GENERAL CURTIS:

Here.

MR. SAWYER:

Secretary LeCerte.

SECRETARY LECERTE:

Here.

MR. SAWYER:

Mr. Pugh.

MR. PUGH:

Here.

MR. SAWYER:

Mr. Viser.

MR. VISER:

Here.



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LMAC MEETING

1 MR. SAWYER:
2 Mr. Mathes.
3 MR. MATHES:
4 Here.
5 MR. SAWYER:
6 Mr. Davis.
7 MR. DAVIS:
8 Here.
9 MR. SAWYER:
10 General Bergman.
11 GENERAL BERGMAN:
12 Here.
13 MR. SAWYER:
14 General Landreneau.
15 GENERAL LANDRENEAU:
16 Here.
17 MR. SAWYER:
18 General Walker.
19 GENERAL WALKER:
20 Here.
21 MR. SAWYER:
22 Ms. Randolph.
23 MS. RANDOLPH:
24 Here.
25 MR. SAWYER:



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1 Mr. Russo.

2 MR. RUSSO:

3 Here.

4 MR. SAWYER:

5 General Thompson.

6 GENERAL THOMPSON:

7 Here.

8 MR. SAWYER:

9 All present and accounted for, sir.

10 MR. LECERTE:

11 We have a quorum?

12 MR. SAWYER:

13 We have a quorum.

14 MR. LECERTE:

15 Thank you. I'd like to give you all a
16 moment to review the agenda. Upon review, we need to
17 have a motion to approve.

18 MR. SAWYER:

19 Mr. Chairman, if I may, one of our
20 presenters, Mr. Goode, is actually flexing with Fort
21 Polk and with Barksdale, so the Fort Polk and Barksdale
22 portions of the agenda might meet up with each other
23 with him. I'll just make that note in case there's any
24 confusion.

25 MR. LECERTE:



1 Sure. All right.

2 MR. PUGH:

3 I so move.

4 SECRETARY LECERTE:

5 So moved by Mr. Pugh, second by Glenn.

6 Any opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 SECRETARY LECERTE:

9 Motion carries.

10 Opening remarks: I want to thank you
11 all for joining us here again today back in Baton Rouge.
12 We like to do that because we've got military
13 installations, but it's also a good, central location
14 here in Baton Rouge, and, actually, one of the
15 departments is housed in this building essentially, so
16 it's a lot easier. It's close to the capitol and we
17 live and breathe and eat Baton Rouge day-to-day.

18 I think there's a lot going on today, so
19 I'm going to be very brief. We're excited to hear
20 about, you know, the happenings in our installations
21 with our local governments across the spectrum, and I
22 want to get on with it. I want to give Benny a chance
23 to speak. I know he's back in -- he's a great advocate
24 for our state, obviously, and we're happy to have him as
25 Vice Chair of the Board.



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1 MR. LANDRENEAU:

2 Thank you very much. I'll be very
3 brief. I just -- we appreciate the great work our
4 Chairman is doing in bringing a lot of visibility to the
5 need for treatment, medical treatment, and issues
6 regarding our veterans in the state. We certainly want
7 to thank him for that leadership and that effort, and
8 with that, I would like to move on into the agenda.

9 SECRETARY LECERTE:

10 Thank you. And I think we're good to go
11 for Deborah and Chris. Y'all want to kick it off with
12 the Fort Polk discussion?

13 MR. SAWYER:

14 Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry to interrupt
15 again. Couple of housekeeping items. In your folder,
16 please note two items on your left-hand side. Some of
17 you or any of those who seek reimbursement for mileage
18 to this event, there is a form in here. It should be
19 pre-filled out for some of you. If it's not, it's
20 because you either in the past not elected to take
21 advantage of it or you're new to the Board. I can help
22 you fill that out and sign it and return it back to me
23 if you desire. This is optional.

24 Secondly, there's another sheet that's
25 for parking validation. Just put your name on there,



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1 and it should have been stamped already. And I think
2 that's it.

3 SECRETARY LECERTE:

4 All right. Deborah, you want to go
5 ahead and kick it off?

6 MS. RANDOLPH:

7 Hi. Mike Reese sends his regrets that
8 he's not attending today.

9 The primary focus of Fort Polk Progress
10 right now is engaging the Army during the current full
11 structure cuts. Although we don't have the final
12 numbers, we're very pleased with the high level of
13 participation we have around Louisiana with the Comment
14 Campaign, letter writing campaign. Last year, the
15 response from Fort Polk was 3,300, which there were
16 8,000 total letters sent in from all of the
17 installations, so Fort Polk had over half of those,
18 which we are proud to say. This year, Mike is very
19 confident that we'll have over 18,000 letters from
20 communities surrounding Folk Polk.

21 SECRETARY LECERTE:

22 Deborah, you want to back it up for some
23 of the people who might not have the background on what
24 the purpose and the scope of what the issues are and
25 what the need for the letters are?



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MS. RANDOLPH:

Sure. Yes.

Last year, the letter writing campaign was in response to the environmental assessment that was put out by the Army that could have resulted in possible cut of troops at Fort Polk, and, ultimately, as I said, 3,300 letters were sent from the communities surrounding Fort Polk for show of support. On these communities, also a huge listening session was held. When those Army decisionmakers came into Leesville, people lined the streets all of the way from Fort Polk to the church, which was the venue where the hearing was held. It lasted several hours to give each person an opportunity to speak in support of Fort Polk, so, now, of course, there are the looming cuts again with the supplemental environmental assessment that has been sent out in 2014, and that could result in a cut of Fort Polk of up to 6,500 and -- it will add in some details on our efforts. And so we, once again, ask the community. We have until August 25th to get those letters postmarked, and Fort Polk Progress had an online venue where we can go online and make several clicks and send a letter signed petition in support of Fort Polk. And each of the surrounding communities held letter signing days where we did a big splash like in Alexandria and Rapides



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1 Parish. We also had banks in the area that allowed
2 letters to be signed for people that wanted to sign a
3 hard-copy letter, and they were able to send them back
4 to the Chamber. We mailed of these in packets from
5 them. We got resolutions from our governmental bodies
6 as well where we packaged those separately. And
7 counting the letters from each of the communities from
8 Lake Charles up to Bossier Parish and around the state,
9 we feel that there would be at least 18,000. There are
10 some that we never counted that sent the letters,
11 without us being able to count, straight to the Army
12 e-mail, for example. We do know that we're one of the
13 top three. There are three installations who currently,
14 out of the 30 being considered, that it's already been
15 reported by the Army officials that that is over 10,000
16 letters, so we're happy to report to you about that
17 wonderful support that we have with that installation.

18 And, now, Fort Polk Progress is working
19 with its partners at Fort Polk to collect the data on
20 the 15 military value members that would be used in the
21 next phase of decision-making.

22 And then, finally, as we're all
23 preparing for the listening session that will occur
24 Leesville for this round on the week of March 2nd, is
25 what we're told. As soon as we have an exact date,



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1 we'll update this group through LMAC, and it will be
2 another one of the steps in that process and we'll want
3 that statewide representation, both from our surrounding
4 communities as well as elected leaders statewide.

5 There was a Fort Polk Progress trip to
6 DC in July, along with the Barksdale team, to receive
7 recognition in the work being done in education from the
8 Military Child Education Coalition as the Military
9 Education Partnership of the Year, which was a great
10 honor for Vernon. There was also groundbreaking on the
11 new \$21.5-million elementary school that would primarily
12 educate military children in Fort Polk. There was a
13 ribbon cutting on the new Leesville High School. That's
14 a 48-percent military enrollment, and that's at a cost
15 of 21-million, so exciting, and, of course, one of the
16 measures that the education will be key in they want to
17 continue. That would be one of the measures that they
18 use in providing excellent education for the military
19 families at each installation.

20 The Army's completed their school
21 assessment, and Fort Polk schools ranked in the top four
22 tiles of Army schools, so that's great news for Fort
23 Polk. However, there are areas of measure that need
24 improvement, and Fort Polk Progress is moving forward
25 with the education initiative that it launched. And the



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1 action committees are meeting this month to continue
2 that effort to make sure that all of those measures are
3 met.

4 And there is a recognition, obviously,
5 by Fort Polk Progress and it's partners and the threat
6 to the Fort Polk's community to develop a resolution
7 through its co-efforts that we want to build a coalition
8 of congressional members of other communities to support
9 the Armies with a more reasonable funding solution that
10 presents a drop to a low 415,000 soldiers. So those
11 efforts will continue as well, so there's a lot of work
12 to be done.

13 We're also continuing with the hiring at
14 parish job fairs both at Fort Polk and surrounding
15 communities, Lake Charles Chamber and Southwest Economic
16 Development Alliance, which was held at Fort Polk on
17 September 5th, which I understand is very successful.
18 We held a big hiring at our commerce job fair last year
19 in Alexandria. We are working with the US Chamber to
20 plan another one, and we will hold that one at Fort
21 Polk, so we'll let you know details on that.

22 Last count at England Airpark, we had
23 100 employers in place, 300 jobs of military committed,
24 so we were pleased with that turnout and pleased with
25 the quality of companies we were able to pull in, not



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1 only from our area of Central Louisiana, but even
2 outside the State we had some employers that came and
3 participate.

4 Currently I'm pleased to report that we
5 had a visit from the -- I think all six of the USS
6 Alexandria, the nuclear-powered, Los Angeles-class sub
7 that was named after Alexandria, Louisiana and
8 Alexandria, Virginia, and they visited us. It was a
9 seven-day visit, so we've had great fun entertaining
10 them and that continues. They'll be here through
11 Thursday. Yesterday, I accompanied them, we set out to
12 visit Alexandria, Louisiana, and they had an opportunity
13 to give out about 30 caps from USS Alexandria and
14 visited with veterans there who were thrilled to see
15 them and we were so pleased to meet a gentleman that
16 just turned 100 here, served in World War II and he was
17 able to share with the USS Alexandria where he served,
18 which was Africa and Italy, and they were quite thrilled
19 to meet him. That was a great visit, and the next stop
20 for them is, once the sub docks in San Diego in a couple
21 years, they're going to invite us to come. And we've
22 done that in the past. That nuclear sub was
23 commissioned in 1991, so we continue to have that
24 relationship with those guys and want to continue to do
25 so.



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1 SECRETARY LECERTE:

2 Great. Chris, do you have anything to
3 add to that?

4 MR. GOODE:

5 I'm going to provide some updates on
6 slides.

7 MR. LECERTE:

8 Okay. Great.

9 I know one of things that Louisiana is
10 trying to do out of Fort Polk is increase the number of
11 retained soldiers here in Louisiana to make sure we keep
12 them home, especially with people who have transferrable
13 skills. You know, Louisiana has a real big shortage on
14 paramedics and EMTs. One of the things we are partners
15 with is LED FastStart, Garrison Commander and Post
16 Commander at Fort Polk is kind of having a jobs corps
17 program. We're bringing in additional trained soldiers
18 while they're still on active service to where they're
19 prepared day one in their active service to get a job
20 and stand employees to receive a job offer to stay here
21 in the state during that important crossroads in their
22 life. It's economic development progress, but it's also
23 a military and veteran-related project. Just because we
24 know how hard it is to bring new blood to the state.
25 Anytime we can capitalize on the amount of soldiers that



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1 we have and their families at Fort Polk, we want to do
2 so. So we'll probably have more to announce on that
3 later in the year, but that's one of the things that
4 kind of goes hand-in-hand with some of the initiatives
5 and some of the measures that Fort Polk Progress,
6 Alexandria Chamber and really the local governments as a
7 whole and Central and Southwest Louisiana are pushing
8 these days. So I want to thank you for your report.

9 Do we have any other comments or
10 questions about Fort Polk or any comments for Deborah?

11 MR. SAWYER:

12 I have a question. So we're currently
13 in the Supplemental Programmatic Environmental
14 Assessment, what I call Phase 2 of 2020. When we were
15 in Phase 1, Fort Polk lost a net of, I believe, 250,
16 I'll round off, of soldiers, but that also included a
17 new battalion. Do you know if we have seen any evidence
18 of that new battalion arriving at Fort Polk?

19 MS. RANDOLPH:

20 I don't know the information on that.
21 I'm sure Mike does. We can certainly find out and pass
22 that out.

23 MR. GOODE:

24 The battalion is scheduled still for the
25 calendar year '15.



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1 MS. RANDOLPH:
2 Calendar year '15, Chris?

3 MR. GOODE:
4 If anything else, it's Senator
5 (inaudible) got that verbally from General UNO and
6 appropriate staff.

7 MR. LECERTE:
8 Great.

9 MR. SAWYER:
10 Deborah, you-all have been instrumental
11 in trying to find employment for us soldiers, but also
12 for spouses. Could you describe how that's progressing?
13 If I remember, it was two years ago we announced a
14 project with new corporations, which was, you know,
15 advertised to be a bonus to military spouses.

16 MS. RANDOLPH:
17 Well, one is there is that special
18 target program, and then there are specific job fairs
19 for the military spouses that are being held, so these
20 are being interspersed and held at Fort Polk. And
21 they're having some in our surrounding communities as
22 well as some virtual job fairs for the military spouses.
23 And what we've done, too, in that regard is some
24 companies that have come in that we've had certain
25 companies that are back office or call-center types, and



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1 there are even jobs that we've been able to identify and
2 advertise among the spouses that can be done at home, so
3 it fits very well if they still have small children
4 because some of the this is virtually able to be done
5 from computers and phones at their homes. And then, of
6 course, other jobs located at the businesses, so that's
7 definitely a target and focus that will continue is the
8 military spouse issue.

9 MR. LECERTE:

10 And I think a couple years ago when I
11 think we sent a state bill that requires professional
12 licensing boards to recognize military training and
13 experience. We also have a spousal component that
14 requires reciprocity for spousal licensing in the event
15 that they're married to an active-duty service member.
16 To date, I think the spouses have taken more advantage
17 of that than military members. The number one issued
18 Louisiana occupational license under that bill is
19 cosmetology, so it just goes to show, you know, the
20 efforts there have really been a quality of life
21 indicator for the active-duty soldiers to see how great
22 we have it in this State. But in that, it's a good idea
23 to get our finger on the full set. We aren't efficient
24 in some areas to that regard, that can be addressed, but
25 it can't be unless you identify it.



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1 MS. RANDOLPH:
2 Right. Absolutely.

3 SECRETARY LECERTE:
4 Thank you.

5 MS. RANDOLPH:
6 Thank you.

7 SECRETARY LECERTE:
8 Any questions for Deborah? Comments?
9 (No response.)

10 SECRETARY LECERTE:
11 Thank you, Deborah. I appreciate it.
12 Murray, are you ready to kick things off
13 here?

14 MR. VISER:
15 Yes, sir. Thank you.
16 I'm going to talk about some current
17 issues and some long-term issues that we've been working
18 on at Barksdale Air Force Base. Some of you may know
19 that Barksdale is the Air Force Global Strike Command
20 and has been recommended by the Secretary of the Air
21 Force to have a command elevation from 3-Star command to
22 4-Star command. We're working that issue pretty hard.
23 Obviously very important on the long-term future to
24 Barksdale Air Force Base and receiving the funding for
25 funding the advocacies, which are the -- appreciate



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1 that -- enterprises. Obviously not a done deal, but
2 because there's a limited number of 4-Star positions by
3 statute, by law, and so we're going to have to -- the
4 Air Force is going to have to come up with a creative
5 issue to reprogram for 4-Star, if that's the right way
6 to put that.

7 Two other things that are very important
8 to the Barksdale Air Force Base is the weapons storage
9 area. About five years ago now, the initial storage
10 area at Barksdale was dubbed as the weapons storage area
11 where nuclear weapons were maintained and kept in the
12 initial storage area. It's very important, we believe,
13 that we see that storage area come back to Barksdale.
14 Previously we were number nine on the list of nine to
15 have the weapons momentarily reconstituted. We are now
16 number two, so while it's not a done deal and it's going
17 to cost a lot of money, and as we all know, money is
18 tight in this day and age, but that will be something
19 that's very important going in and run with that.

20 The procurement of the new law and the
21 strike law, we feel like, in a sense, it will be nuclear
22 capable. We are immediately introducing it into the
23 inventory or shortly thereafter, that it just makes
24 sense that it will be positioned at an area that has a
25 nuclear capability and nuclear weapons storage area.



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1 FY '16 budget, that's a concern for us,
2 because right now it looks like sequestration is not
3 seriously being taken, and if the budget process goes
4 through without taking into effect sequestration, it is
5 going to be extremely detrimental to not just to Air
6 Force, but the entire department. So if you have an
7 opportunity to talk to folks, ask them to please at
8 least enter into discussion of maybe not having
9 sequestration. That's probably not a great idea for the
10 future.

11 Next week, the Bossier Parish Chamber of
12 Commerce has their annual legislative fly-in to DC.
13 They'll go out there to present information to the
14 legislative delegation about the important issues of
15 Barksdale. As you might know from the meeting I just
16 talked about, we're going to talk with them about it.
17 Also, the passage of the National Defense Authorization
18 Act. Not only does that impact the funding for the
19 military, but it has an impact on STARBASE. Now,
20 there's a STARBASE at Fort Polk, there's a STARBASE at
21 Barksdale, \$27-million for the whole program for all,
22 what is it, like 25 STARBASEs, something like that. So
23 we really, in the grand scheme of things, it is not a
24 lot of money, but if the STARBASE program is not funded,
25 it does not move forward, then a lot of fifth graders



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1 are not going to have the opportunity to experience the
2 fun side of science, technology, engineering and math
3 skills, and that's what STARBASE is about. It's helping
4 those young people understand that science, technology,
5 engineering and math is fun so that we can, as a
6 country, move forward and be competitive on a global
7 scale in those fields.

8 Long-term issues, as Ms. Randolph said,
9 we, in Shreveport, Bossier, Barksdale Community, had an
10 opportunity to go to DC and accept an award for the
11 Military Child Education Coalition. The young lady,
12 Georgette Price, that works with the kids at Barksdale
13 to make sure they're embedded properly within the
14 Bossier school system is a wonderful person to have.
15 She does a wonderful, incredibly outstanding job, and we
16 would be much more soft without Georgette and her
17 expertise. Unfortunately, it looks like the Military
18 Child Education Coalition is going through some
19 restructuring right now, and long-term funding for
20 Military Child Education Coalition and the military
21 Student Transition Coordinator is extremely important to
22 not only our school communities, but to military
23 communities, where this sits in place, so we're trying
24 to work towards that end.

25 Education is still an issue for us. In



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1 fact, we were talking about that on the way down here.
2 There are still people on base that transition in, the
3 first thing they do, of course, is going online and see
4 how the schools measure up around the state, you know,
5 where are the schools around the State, how they measure
6 up in Bossier, and some of them, quite frankly, some of
7 the schools closest to Barksdale, because this we've
8 seen, transition from, I won't call it the inner city
9 because Bossier really doesn't have much of an inner
10 city, but the whole core of Bossier City transferred out
11 to the north of the parish and that's where the good
12 schools and the higher-rated schools are. And the
13 Barksdale kids go to the neighborhood schools that are
14 closest to base, and, unfortunately, some of those don't
15 measure up, so it's still a challenge for us and we're
16 doing our best to address the issue with Mayor Walker,
17 and he's the Mayor of Bossier, and the Bossier Parish
18 School Board Administrator.

19 Another base closure. That's a bad word
20 right now. Nobody wants to talk about it, but it's the
21 800-pound gorilla in the room, because if something is
22 done about the excess inventory across the department,
23 we're going to continue to see procurement programs
24 pilfer, if you will, for funding to keep the excess
25 inventory lower. So I have to believe that in the next



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1 five years, we're going to see some type of base closure
2 action, and I would much rather see it in the early
3 process, like the Base Realignment Closure Action, where
4 the process is normally transparent, than to just have
5 the military branch say, "Well, okay, we're going take
6 this on ourselves to get rid of some of our excess
7 inventory that we've had in the past."

8 I mentioned long-range bomber. Again,
9 something that's going to be critical for the
10 continuation of the Barksdale Air Force Base.

11 And, finally, Green Flag East. I don't
12 know how many of you are familiar with Green Flag East,
13 but that is a partnership between Fort Polk and
14 Barksdale Air Force Base, and up until the 8/10ths of
15 Barksdale went away, they provided the majority of the
16 air support for Green Flag East. Now, there's still an
17 office at Barksdale for Green Flag East, but that air
18 support comes through Air Combat Command and their
19 F15-Es and their F16s. Unfortunately, Air Combat
20 Command is only able to staff to support approximately
21 50 percent of the rotation to Fort Polk. The remaining
22 50 percent winds up being supported by B52s -- or B1s
23 out of Dyess Air Force Base. Now, it's great that
24 they're being supportive, but it may or may not be how
25 the rotation will be supported for that, so we are



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1 working hard to come up with a solution whether we get
2 F16 space to go in reserve out of aircraft we be hired
3 by the airport or some other air contract to support
4 Green Flag East. We think that's critically important
5 to continue that partnership between Barksdale Air Force
6 Base and Fort Polk.

7 Having said that, I will hush because
8 you didn't come here to hear me talk, but if you have
9 questions, I'll do my best to answer them.

10 SECRETARY LECERTE:

11 And I want to give Lo, since we are on
12 the topic of Northwest Louisiana Barksdale Air Force
13 Base, I want to give him a chance to speak.

14 MR. WALKER:

15 I don't really have anything today. He
16 did a good job.

17 MR. LECERTE:

18 He says you can keep it, Murray.

19 MR. VISER:

20 That's dangerous.

21 MR. LECERTE:

22 Questions or comments for Murray?

23 MR. THOMSON:

24 If I may make a comment, please.

25 MR. LECERTE:



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1 Please.

2 MR. THOMSON:

3 Although I'm a very proud member of the
4 local community, I am the sector lead at Northrop
5 Grumman and I'm here on the Board as an industry
6 representative of National Defense and Homeland
7 Security.

8 Murray mentioned sequester. We're about
9 to go into the second cycle within a 10-year run of
10 sequester. It's just started. To add to that, we're in
11 the midterm election cycle, and on a questionable
12 presidential election cycle. It's not going to resolve
13 right now, and it's really, really painful. We see the
14 effects of military decisions based on this sequestered
15 budget in the form of two things, and Murray alluded to
16 those. When you can't touch the funding, savings
17 measures that could come from elimination of
18 infrastructure, and long-term programming, you have to
19 go out for what you can get your hands on in the
20 short-term. Unfortunately, for many of those programs,
21 they become heated programs, and many of the leaders in
22 this room see that right now and most of the speculators
23 of Fort Polk. So the question to ask is that if we did
24 not have a sequestered budget where the current office
25 is carrying such and heavy load of meeting the national



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1 budget challenges, would the Army be making different
2 decisions, or would that -- as a representative of major
3 defense administrating, what the services have to do is
4 they're affecting major acquisition programs and
5 modernizations, and I'll just share this. These are
6 communications at Barksdale Air Force Base, you may have
7 read the language, where "General Wilson and the Air
8 Force Global Strike staff are very proud of bringing a
9 modernization aspect of the B52. The program is
10 basically a mass digital communications back on the
11 internal airplane, which allows that airplane now to
12 connect and communicate with other aspects much newer
13 attributes, which has been referred to as kind of a
14 high-globalization of the B52." The problem is is it's
15 being built in short order, so in the fleet of
16 70-something B52s, not all of them are programed to get
17 that upgrade. It's a small number right now, and not
18 all of them make it.

19 In the case of B3 bomber, we're
20 experiencing up to and sometimes more then 10 percent
21 cuts in our modernization programs. What that does is
22 it slows it down by years, which means the next
23 important thing gets delayed more, and -- so those are
24 the two things that the military could not have to
25 weather if sequester were. I just wanted to bring that



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1 up.

2 MR. LECERTE:

3 Thank you.

4 MR. SAWYER:

5 Murray, I have a question. Global
6 strike being -- the MAJCOM, the Air Force MAJCOM
7 experience, the headquarters cuts that all of the major
8 commands received in the Air Force, have you seen those
9 headquarters cuts taking place already at Barksdale,
10 and, if so, how many, I guess, airmen and civilians have
11 been cut?

12 MR. VISER:

13 Paul, I believe that the cuts are being
14 implemented and are being -- I'm trying to think of the
15 correct word -- being implemented in a couple ways. One
16 is normal intrusion. Some folks are being relocated,
17 but I believe the total number is around 170, 180.

18 Is that correct, Andy?

19 MR. THOMSON:

20 In toto, the approximate number of
21 reducing initiatives, yes, you're correct. The good
22 news is, speaking from having been on the staff just
23 recently, the Global Strike Command, being a new staff,
24 did not have a lot to begin with. That combined with
25 the fact that they're a new global command, they're



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1 actually bringing a lot less production to the rest of
2 the Air Force. There was another initiative that Air
3 Force made to consolidate some of the con installation
4 funnels, engineering contracts and support. And, once
5 again, we'll strike them because they're the nuclear
6 command and that they pay a lot less for that. And then
7 I'll also add that you've been reading that General
8 Wilson, with the nuclear focus over the last six to nine
9 months, that the demand that came out of 1,100 manpower
10 positions that's been in the news, it's not all headed
11 to Barksdale. However, that's spread across the five
12 installations, and, quite honestly, those individuals
13 are not the headquarters. They're for in the field, on
14 the frontline forces.

15 MR. LECERTE:

16 That's good to know.

17 Questions or comments?

18 (No response.)

19 SECRETARY LECERTE:

20 Thank you all for contributing today.
21 Thank you all for the drive. I know it's a long trek
22 we've got here. I know how it is. Thank you.

23 Major Glenn Curtis.

24 MAJOR CURTIS:

25 All right. I'm going to do a sound



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1 check first. Do I need a mic? Can y'all hear me?

2 All right. I'll stand up.

3 Thank you for allowing me to speak this
4 morning about the Louisiana National Guard. There are a
5 couple topics I want to talk about. First off, just to
6 give you a status on our localizations, as we speak
7 today, we have 207 guardsmen that are deployed primarily
8 to Kuwait and Afghanistan, and, also, we have some
9 people in Kosovo, a small -- that's probably our
10 smallest number of deployments in, now, 13 years or more
11 we've been involved, which is a good thing. We're
12 starting to ramp down a little bit. Most of these units
13 are engineering units, but they're going forward in
14 Afghanistan and also into Jordan to try to get -- in
15 Afghanistan cutting down support-operating bases and
16 getting equipment out that sort of thing. In Jordan,
17 they're going to try to set conditions in case we can do
18 something over there.

19 Coming up next year, we have about 200
20 more guardsmen that we mobilized and deployed, again, to
21 Kuwait, but they will go forward from there into
22 Afghanistan.

23 Hurricane season, thank you, God, knock
24 on wood, nothing yet that we've been involved in, but we
25 are prepared. We've done numerous exercises this year,



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1 both as a National Guard, but also with our federal,
2 state and local partners just to make sure and
3 understand who's doing what and establish what the gaps
4 are so that we could bring in that to support other
5 National Guards around the country or offer any type of
6 capabilities that we made need.

7 One of the big pushes as far as the
8 getting to the storms is modernization, is we get into
9 some of these storms where an electrical grid is taken
10 down and, of course, the whole population is down with
11 no electricity and floodwater becomes a major issue, so
12 we've done a lot of work with a couple of compounds, one
13 over in Lake Charles and one is a place called Roseland
14 just above Hammond, where FEMA can bring in large
15 numbers of trailers loaded with commodities to allow us
16 to push much easier into the affected zones. It just
17 kind of sets the conditions when we need them to be
18 ready to help our citizens out.

19 One of things we continue to struggle
20 with, or Landreneau and I struggled with previously in
21 the past is air medical evacuation. It's really an
22 active-duty mission. However, we are key components to
23 that, and so the big rocks on this thing are there's
24 about 10,000 patients in the Greater New Orleans area,
25 Florida Parish area that have to be evacuated. The



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1 State of Louisiana and FEMA have worked through that
2 where ground ambulances can move about 9,000, and 3,063
3 patients or beds are attended to. We have had some
4 pretty contentious conversations with Transcom to commit
5 trailers with medical capabilities to bring forward some
6 type of operation for the next order so we can be
7 sure -- we're as close now as we've ever been to kind of
8 sealing the deal on that, but it's still -- you know, if
9 you ask me the one thing that keeps me awake at night,
10 that's it. I tell Norcom and Transcom all of the time,
11 "We either fix this on the front end, or we're going to
12 do search and rescue and more -- affairs on the back
13 end." And so, you know, I've got some help. I mean,
14 the governor's office is helping and both of our US
15 senators are helping to force them to really commit
16 their resources. We are not talking about a lot. We're
17 talking about four aircraft and about 30 personnel.
18 We'll take care of the rest of it. So we'll continue to
19 work that out. Hopefully we'll get that before the next
20 storm hits us.

21 One initiative we're working on is a
22 cyber warfare-type department. We've worked with both
23 Cyber Innovations Center in Bossier and with the Stephen
24 Disaster Management here in Baton Rouge. We've taken
25 some people out of hiding to start building these cyber



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1 teams, and both of those entities have helped us train
2 our soldiers and airmen in bringing them to the highest
3 levels you can get in different types of cyber warfare.
4 And what we're trying to do is set conditions. Both the
5 Air Force and the Army are looking at to put together
6 these different types of cyber teams. There's a
7 proactive and reactive type, and the names change all of
8 the time, so I'm not even going to try to remember it,
9 but we're trying to receive some of those teams. At
10 least one of each is what we hope for. We can put them
11 probably at Cyber Innovation and at Stephenson Institute
12 as well, so we'll continue to work with that.

13 Our F15s that fly to Belle Chasse. You
14 know, for those of you who may not know, we keep a few
15 F15s that are armed and polished and ready to go flying
16 in the air to intercept missions. Basically we short
17 square any unidentified aircraft, we scramble those F15s
18 and they have protocols to go all of the way up to
19 shooting them down.

20 So we're here because of the budget cuts
21 that are coming at us. We're currently at 18 TAF, which
22 is 18 aircraft, but we actually have 24 on the ground.
23 Okay? They're about to take us -- if things hold,
24 they're taking us down to 15 aircraft on the ground,
25 probably 18 total aircraft. That will impact our



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1 ability to run -- we will continue to do their soft
2 missions, but it impacts our ability to stay trained
3 with our pilots, maintain the ability to fly effectively
4 if there's been some movement lately.

5 There's been some news lately where
6 General Welsh, Chief of Staff, Air Force, really within
7 the last month, realized that the F35 production is not
8 fast enough, and so he's looking at doing some upgrades
9 in our F15s that will take them out to almost 2040 to
10 keep the ability to fly. So what we're hoping is is
11 that we'll maintain our 18 TAF and our 24 on-the-ramp
12 capability for the F15. If we lose them, essentially
13 about 73 positions within our manning, most of them
14 being commons, to maintain work on those aircraft.

15 We're running a challenge program, the
16 STARBASE program, that Murray talked about a few minutes
17 ago. Youth challenge is for at-risk youth that have
18 dropped out of high school. We continue to graduate
19 about 1,400 to 1,500 a year, which we're funded for
20 1,400, and we try to get as many out as we can. It's a
21 phenomenal program. These kids are headed in the wrong
22 direction. Like I said, they dropped out of high
23 school. A lot of times they come from tough
24 backgrounds. We put them through a five-and-a-half
25 month program, kind of a boot camp environment, and they



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1 get their GED, they get life coping skills. But in the
2 past couple of years, we've taken it to the next step.
3 When we graduate these kids and we send them back to
4 their environment, it's kind of like they surrender, so
5 we've worked with Bossier Parish Community College the
6 last few years where if the child scores high enough on
7 the aptitude test while they're with us, they can earn
8 up to 15 or 18 hours college credits, which really
9 changes the world for them because now they're college
10 freshman. They're normally people who have military
11 experience and training to get them into a lot of our
12 four-year institutions. So that's one avenue.

13 Another avenue we've been working on is
14 with the Association of Builders and Contractors and
15 vo-tech schools where we take these kids that want to
16 be, you know, plumbers and electricians, pipefitters,
17 you name it, even culinary arts, and we put them through
18 their program in the evening time and on Saturdays. We
19 have instructors come in and we get them OSHA
20 certifications where we now have employers that are
21 signing up that are giving us internships with these
22 kids. So we take them in, get them a GED, give them
23 some life skills, teach them a trade or start teaching
24 them a trade, and then we've got employers that are
25 picking them up and really taking them the rest of the



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1 journey, which is good. We really only want to take
2 this negative situation and turn it into something
3 positive and give them a trip inside of our society.

4 STARBASE program, Murray mentioned, you
5 know, the funding issues is a concern. I've seen a
6 little bit of relief on it. We are opening our second
7 STARBASE at Jackson Barracks in Orleans. Originally
8 they were training there and moving up to Camp
9 Beauregard, but what they're letting us do is keep the
10 one in Camp Beauregard and put one back in Jackson
11 Barracks, so that's a good thing.

12 We have an ongoing relationship with the
13 Countries of Belize and Haiti called the Partnership for
14 Peace Program. Belize, we've been with them for 20
15 years now, and, you know, I tell people we're training
16 with them, they're training with us every month and it
17 could be with one or two people or it could be, you
18 know, companies who are of Italian-sized formation,
19 depends on what we have going on, but it's a great
20 relationship. We have democracies and that sort of
21 thing where a lot of that sort of thing goes through.

22 Haiti, same thing, we've been with them
23 for -- I know we got us signed up after the earthquake
24 of 2010. We went in with a couple task forces in 2010
25 and '11, but then we formalized our relationship. We



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1 work with them in a lot of emergency-preparedness type
2 operations, communications for emergencies within their
3 country. We're working with our state police with their
4 national police to professionalize the federal
5 organization to make them more effective.

6 Some of you probably are aware of the
7 explosives situation in Minden. I know if you're from
8 Northwest Louisiana, you are. About two years ago, we
9 had a contract on site that -- well, long story short,
10 we went in with about 19-million pounds of explosives on
11 the compound in Minden, and we've worked through that in
12 two years now to where three-million pounds are
13 currently being removed by subcontractors, but we are
14 very close with the Army signing an agreement with the
15 State of Louisiana and the Army to start removing that
16 stuff. My hope is that we can get that to start removal
17 process probably in the next 60 to maybe 90 days, and
18 then from there, years forward, hopefully have it gone.
19 So, like I said, we're really close on making that
20 happen. And as far as from a safety issue, it's all in
21 bunkers, so if anything blew up, unless you're driving
22 by it, you'll be okay, but it concerns me because
23 there's a lot of travel, people travel through there and
24 that could put you in harm's way.

25 You've heard about sequestration. You



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1 know, we're in a big disagreement with the Army and
2 where the Department of Defense is trying to take the
3 Army National Guard right now. We don't agree with
4 where they're trying to take the Army, but has the
5 general authority over the National Guard. So, you
6 know, some big numbers, but nationwide, we currently
7 stand about 352,000, and if the presidential budget
8 that's in place now stays there, we'll go to 335,000.
9 For Louisiana, it equates to 306 positions, additional
10 positions, but it also includes two battalion flags, 65
11 full-time people, three helicopters and 340 vehicles and
12 the list goes on. So it's dramatic for us as to what
13 may be coming at us. If the sequestration stays in
14 place, the Army Guard will be down to 315,000, but for
15 Louisiana, that's 1,050 positions out of about 11,000
16 members. That's six company formations, plus those two
17 battalion headquarters, 115 full-time personnel and 509
18 pieces of equipment, plus we will have to close --
19 across the State.

20 I will tell you that, you know, we have
21 tried to work with current Chief of Staff of the Army
22 and the Army staff to the point where we can't work with
23 them anymore, so our two senators on the congressional
24 delegation and our governor, they have headed this at
25 our request to try to stop this thing. So where it sits



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1 at, the NDAA currently, House and Senate both are asking
2 for a commission for the structure of the Army. In
3 total, I think that what they're about to do to our
4 Army, all three components, is it puts our nation at
5 risk. You're talking about taking the Army down to
6 potentially 420,000, which is below pre-World War II
7 numbers. They're talking about cutting our Army Guard
8 from 350 to 315, and in that process, you get rid of a
9 lot of experience and, you know, proven leadership.
10 That's one of the things that I would -- like to get
11 private rate, it gets you about six months from basic
12 training -- I've told our congressional leadership that
13 I worry about battalion members and the majors and I
14 think we should have probably 18 years ago, that now
15 that person that leads the general rites is aware of our
16 nation and is going to pursue -- I think we're about to
17 make a big mistake, so any help you can give us on that,
18 I would appreciate it.

19 But, you know, not to throw the Army
20 under the bus when it comes to Army National Guard, but
21 I will tell you that there's this thing called CAPE. I
22 don't know what the acronym CAPE stands for. It's
23 C-A-P-E. I can tell you that there's a vice chairman
24 and there's four other people on it. Their guidance to
25 the Army was to size our Army, all three components, to



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1 stop combat operations that interface with Phase III
2 operations with major combat and then pull out and come
3 home. Well, we've never done that as a nation, and I
4 doubt we're going to do it in the future. So CAPE is a
5 restricted budget is what I think. So CAPE's guidance
6 to the Army I think is small, so that's where we finally
7 realized, myself -- there's 53 acting generals across
8 the country, or 54 of us. Me and the other 53 have kind
9 of weighed in on this thing and asked for great support
10 from our senate and congressional delegation and from
11 our governor to try to stop it because it's, in Glenn
12 Curtis' opinion, however, that the Army, to date,
13 probably still employ the capabilities that you saw in
14 Iraq and Afghanistan, that the rate we're going to have
15 to slim down to starting in 2016, we are not going to
16 just trample down. We are going to fall off the edge of
17 a cliff, and so 2016 forward, beyond 2020, we're going
18 to be pretty affected. So the risks are too great for
19 guys like me who just prefer to stay quiet to stay
20 quiet, so any help you can give us on that, I'd really
21 appreciate it.

22 I think that the commission will be
23 approved. We're trying to get ourself up to provide
24 facts to the commission so that when they report back to
25 the congress and the president to that they can take



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1 this -- I think that it's well-grounded details. We can
2 try to see ourselves forward.

3 With that, I've probably said enough. I
4 may have said too much, but I will say in the capacity
5 as we're speaking to state officials, I'm very
6 concerned. I'm very concerned about Fort Polk and where
7 it's headed. I'm very concerned about the Army National
8 Guard and where it's headed.

9 So with that, I'll be glad to field any
10 questions.

11 (No response.)

12 MR. LECERTE:

13 No one still thinks it's a UFO that
14 attacked us at Fort Benning; right?

15 MR. BERGMAN:

16 No.

17 MR. CURTIS:

18 October two years ago, the Army -- I
19 wish it was.

20 SECRETARY LECERTE:

21 Yes, sir.

22 MR. THOMSON:

23 I'm very proud of our total force
24 operations. I think given the time to answer some
25 questions, given the nature of our country right now,



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1 the world is not getting any friendlier, and I think the
2 time is ideal to take advantage of our force options.

3 So two questions, when you talk about
4 Fort Polk and some of the risks that are there, do you
5 see any growth in the Guard in the annual enrollment to
6 partner with Fort Polk on some of their missions?

7 MR. CURTIS:

8 You know, we see opportunities for the
9 market growth just because of the affordability of it.
10 You've got to be careful if you're going to cut the Army
11 from that component too much. Even from 415, you're
12 probably taking on some pretty substantial risks, and I
13 think one of the things the commissions is going to look
14 at is what's a proper mix between active components and
15 reserves, if you will, a lot of it being with regards to
16 combat formations in the reserve, so I could see where
17 the commission may come back and say, "We don't want you
18 at 350. We want you at 370," or something like that.
19 If they did, certainly we would decide to play in Fort
20 Polk all we could because of the capabilities that Fort
21 Polk brings to us.

22 MR. THOMSON:

23 So that commission sounds like it's --

24 SECRETARY LECERTE:

25 It is.



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1 MAJOR CURTIS:

2 It is, you know, and I will tell you
3 that the Army fought us pretty hard on the commission at
4 first, but we kind of reworded the wording for us, and
5 the NDAA is now looking at the total Army. I mean, if
6 you ask Army leadership, they'll tell you we're
7 accepting tremendous risks. We are going to go down to
8 20-something brigade combats. That's the lowest number
9 of brigade combat we've had in a long time, I mean, back
10 to World War II, pre-World War II.

11 MR. THOMSON:

12 Thank you. And I'll just share with the
13 Board that the Air Force is undergoing one of those,
14 too. It's called the National Study of Structural Air
15 Force, really meaning guard reserves. There was a
16 schedule to visit to Barksdale last Fall or Winter. The
17 travel funds just weren't available, so they did not
18 visit. That's still out there as well.

19 Question number two -- and thank you
20 very much. I think we were pleased you mentioned the
21 word "cyber," and I think you're exactly right. The
22 State has the right to bring in IT cyber
23 networking-related issues, and if you do that, it's
24 ideal for the total force. I'd like to challenge having
25 a skilled pilot in front of a B2 or having an officer



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1 running an electronic warfares B52, but the IT com,
2 cyber niche is a focus that's already out there in the
3 industry and what our workforce has started developing.
4 And I know that at least the Cyber Innovation Center has
5 a standup of 800 jobs in the cyber corporation
6 infrastructure already and the coverage on that. And I
7 will also share that at Barksdale, we have a STRATCOM
8 Austere operations center there. They have an austere
9 challenge center up in Massachusetts with the 102nd
10 Intelligence Wing there that provides manning and
11 communication respects that reports to Barksdale, and in
12 Massachusetts, the Guard, they're wanting to shed that
13 responsibility, so it's sort of the STRATCOM AFB that's
14 owned by the Air Force right now that's kind of wanting
15 for a quote/unquote partner, so there's a lot of
16 opportunity up in north Louisiana.

17 MR. CURTIS:

18 I guess just to brag on Cyber
19 Innovations Center a little more, they have put aside
20 and have been given 7,500 square foot of space. If we
21 can secure one of those units and don't have to do any
22 military construction, that's a big deal. And they've
23 gone out of their way and at great expense for training.
24 Right now, we've got 10 of them trained. Soon we'll
25 have about 40 of them trained in these upper levels of



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1 cyber warfare-type web technology.

2 AUDIENCE:

3 The AFC, if you remember, that was on
4 the chopping block and was put back in after
5 negotiations to Representative Walsh -- I'm sorry,
6 Representative Keating, that the Chief of Staff in his
7 office that deals with that deals with cutback in
8 Louisiana, so knowing Massachusetts wants to shed the
9 commission, the issue was it's these set issues -- but
10 you're right. And I just -- that is something that we
11 need to clarify is still a relevant issue.

12 MR. CURTIS:

13 Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. SAWYER:

15 Oh, sir, I guess I can't help myself.

16 MR. CURTIS:

17 Sure.

18 MR. SAWYER:

19 Considering the, I guess the events --
20 well, first of all, regarding Louisiana Economic
21 Development partnering over the years to develop the
22 economic possibilities, considering the pattern of
23 events that led up to explode, do you consider Minden to
24 still remain a pliable, economic opportunity area, or is
25 it more challenged?



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1 MR. CURTIS:

2 No. My opinion, I think it's very
3 pliable because you have I-20 -- US80; right, Highway
4 80? I10 is coming right off the corner of it, and Red
5 River is there.

6 One of the things that I'm asking lately
7 is can we look at other initiative-type businesses where
8 we can bring in something that's probably maybe a little
9 less faulty, but I don't know. You have to be
10 determined. We have great water resources there. The
11 water up there is -- yes, it's still very pliable.

12 General, I know you know that place as
13 well as I do. It's very...

14 MR. LECERTE:

15 I should add that maybe the National
16 Guard posters are kind of diversified. It functions
17 well with Colonel Landreneau and Baton Rouge Air Force,
18 and I think it's just a testament to how you've been
19 able to adapt and kind of bring in multipurpose
20 internship for a number of reasons. Thank you.

21 MR. CURTIS:

22 Thank you.

23 SECRETARY LECERTE:

24 Thank you.

25 I think we'll go ahead and divert a



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1 little bit from the agenda. Chris wants to come up and
2 do his portion.

3 MR. GOODE:

4 Morning. Chris Goode. I've met most
5 everybody in the room.

6 I want to first pass this around. This
7 is our response to the Army's SPEA, the Supplemental
8 Programmatic Environmental Assessment. That's the
9 actual legal and economic data that we've provided to
10 the Army on August 25th.

11 I want to move through these really
12 quickly because I have quite a few slides and I know
13 limited time, if I can figure out how to do this. All
14 right.

15 Paul asked me provide a very quick
16 overview, just our perspectives of what we're seeing up
17 on Capitol Hill, the DoD Budget, that sequestration and
18 BRAC, again, our feelings on this, as well as some quick
19 updates on Barksdale and Fort Polk. It's been a very
20 busy year.

21 Again, it's great -- Josh Hodges is
22 here. We worked very closely with Josh. I've got to
23 tell you, he is a huge advocate of Fort Polk, Barksdale
24 and the state, and he's been a great partner to work
25 with.



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1 In terms of the Congress going forward
2 between now and the end of the year, I don't anticipate
3 a whole lot. They're focused on the elections,
4 obviously. By the 19th, I think both the House and
5 Senate will vote and go home. You're looking probably
6 at continuing resolution, maybe reauthorizations of the
7 export/input backing. That's probably about it.

8 In terms of the election, you know, when
9 you look at the map, the House still looks pretty safe
10 in terms of the Republicans retaining control of the
11 House. The Senate, you of all states know how tight
12 this case is in terms of capturing six seats in order
13 for the Senate to switch, so we'll watch that,
14 obviously.

15 Appropriations, that's important to us;
16 right? You know there's been a lot of action really at
17 the subcommittee level, but there's been no real bills
18 passed, you know, all of the way to the President's
19 desk, so, consequently, you're going to look at a
20 continuing resolution to keep the government funded.
21 You know, there's not going to be a lot of drama this
22 time. We're not going to shut down the government
23 because people want to get out in time and get to the
24 election. If the Senate does flip, most observers
25 anticipate omnibus appropriations bill. Again,



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1 obviously, those new senators aren't in their suitable
2 chairs until January of next year.

3 The other big bill that we track,
4 obviously, is National Defense Authorization Act, you
5 know, all indications point to this thing being passed
6 probably in a similar process that was used last time
7 where they avoid going to the Senate floor because you
8 end up with 145 amendments that Harry Reid has to figure
9 out how to do.

10 So, right now, we are in these
11 pre-conference talks. We were just on the phone with
12 Rep Fleming's staff on the hospital amendment we've been
13 working on just last week.

14 Sequestration: Sure. You know,
15 everybody knows it. We may see some relief in FY '16.
16 There is a lot of sequestration in terms of
17 sequestration. You know, keep in mind you have the BCA,
18 the Budget Control Act, and then you had the Bipartisan
19 Budget Agreement, but even the BPA, that agreement, you
20 know, DoD still took a \$30-billion hit, you know, in FY
21 '15, so FY '16 is going to be -- would be, as most
22 people here understand, much worse.

23 When we look at BRAC, again, everybody
24 know's it's not authorized this year to execute BRAC
25 until 2017. I would just point out, you know, obscure a



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1 little piece of legislative requirement that HASC
2 perform this capacity analysis. Now, everybody says I'm
3 crazy when I say this, but it would not be impossible to
4 parachute a BRAC provision into, you know, that
5 placeholder at the end of the year after the elections
6 if it was someway to use this as a negotiating tool.
7 You know, who knows, Guantanamo Bay, sequestration,
8 something to give up, it could happen, and I know
9 Thornberry, I know everybody says, "Over my dead body,"
10 but it's much harder at the House as well, but I'm just
11 saying, stranger things have happened.

12 All right. So let me just spend two
13 minutes on the defense budget. Just a couple of slides
14 to put here. What we see, you know, from our side in
15 terms of the defense budget, key point is, there are a
16 lot of people out there, and John and I were down in
17 Hampton Roads a couple months ago and the reporter asked
18 me, she says, "You know, the defense budget sure looks
19 to me like it's going up" -- the defense budget is
20 declining. Trust me. Believe it. You know,
21 \$495-billion base budget this year. Inflation-adjusted
22 went down 1.7 percent. Personnel costs are killing us.
23 You know, you look at how personnel costs have jumped
24 just between '98 and '14. Medical costs, completely out
25 of control. So where does it take it? They take it out



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1 of O&M, they takes it out of readiness. Acquisitions
2 are going down.

3 The last bullet is really key here. The
4 DoD itself, if you look, is 200 to 300-billion short
5 over to execute Defense Strategic Guidance. Some of
6 that is obviously rhetoric, because you do the math and
7 that analyzes up to sequestration. That's a really
8 dangerous statement there.

9 So this is a great chart; right?
10 Because everything's great in the actual; right? PBA
11 comes up and everything looks pretty good. We're on the
12 black line, and that's a result of the Budget Control
13 Act going down. And then, you know, you have a bump in
14 the PBA, so that's why we can -- this really points out
15 how we got pounded in FY '13. That was a real big
16 decline in the defense budget.

17 So another key interesting slide here,
18 OCO, General -- and how important that is. You know,
19 you remember when we were in Iraq and Afghanistan, those
20 budgets are not authorized. Over 100-billion a year;
21 right? Well, they're still around, but today, for the
22 first time, we're spending more in overseas contingency
23 on operations outside of Afghanistan than inside. So
24 when we drop bombs on an ISIS target on a bridge in Iraq
25 or we give a couple hundred million dollars to Paris to



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1 incentivize them to stay in our -- that's all OCO money.
2 The incentives are so -- to this budget, they're asking
3 for more. They want a completely new fund this year for
4 Counter Terrorism Partnership Fund and European
5 Reassurance Initiative for \$5-million, and Congress,
6 they're pushing back. So, you know, this is a dangerous
7 thing because if it ain't in OCO, it's coming out of the
8 base budget, but we can't operate right now without the
9 OCO.

10 Again, Healthcare and Retirement, that's
11 not really at issue.

12 And there's just two more slides on
13 this.

14 You would think, you know, as we mature
15 and the country gets bigger and gets wealthier, you
16 know, gets more responsibility, you know, the DoD
17 outlays, you know, line up a little bit more consistent
18 with GDP, but we're way below four percent, and I don't
19 see any indication that it's going to go up. You know,
20 most defense journals that you read in the United States
21 issues are well below six percent. Well, that's where
22 we were at in the Reagan years. Well, we're well below
23 four percent.

24 You know, last week NATO stepped up and
25 said, "We're going to get to two percent." You know,



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1 they've been saying that for years. My last job as
2 Captain of the Navy, I was down in Navailles talking
3 about the Naval Response Force, so, you know, we're
4 going to add 4,000 (sic) to a Naval Response Force that
5 really doesn't exist, you know.

6 Okay. So last slide, so DoD in
7 Perspective, you know, over time, since 1976, defense
8 spending has averaged about 21 percent of federal
9 funding. Today, it's down to 16 percent. Put that in
10 perspective, Social Security is 23 percent of the
11 budget, Medicare 14 percent, interest on the debt is six
12 percent. By Fiscal Year '19, OMB's net interest on the
13 debt will exceed around base funding for the first time
14 ever in history. It's sad, but...

15 So let me turn to Louisiana. So that
16 just gives you a perspective on the defense budget. I'm
17 going through these very quickly because they've been
18 touched on by Deborah and Murray. When we look here --
19 let's do the Air Force first. The Air Force, as you
20 know -- Colonel is in the room now -- just announced
21 that Call to the Future, new strategy, 2014, you know,
22 what's in. We're going to modernize nuclear,
23 conventional, space and cyber capabilities. We're going
24 to stick with the F35 despite the fact that it's
25 bankrupted the Air Force. We're going to definitely do



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1 the bomber and kill the tanker, and we're going to be
2 prepared to fight China and take on new threats. What's
3 out, big programs like the F35. And, people, you saw
4 those slides on personnel. Air Force is not backing
5 away from eliminating 23,000 servicemen over the next
6 five years. So we want to do away with the A10 because
7 that costs a lot of money, and, you know, that's good
8 for Barksdale and Nuclear enterprises. Again,
9 prioritizing.

10 What that means, you know, as we
11 mentioned, Air Force Global Strike Command, 4-Star, A10
12 to 3-Star, and, you know, a bunch of other stuff. 1,100
13 people. As Andy mentioned, not all of them with
14 Barksdale, but most of these MAJCOMs are losing people.
15 We may actual be stabilized over the next few years.

16 Cyber, I think the Air Force is a great
17 approach to cyber. They're saying, "Hey, for us, it's
18 going to be integrating into the air and space
19 operations, you know, during all defensive operations.
20 What you may not see in reading a bunch of policy
21 documents and talking to folks is what's really going on
22 organizationally, and the big role, as General Curtis
23 said, on the National Guard, John has been working with
24 General Wagner, if you want to elaborate on that at all.

25 MR. PUGH:



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1 There's only four more opportunities
2 that ends in FY '17. We've already named, I believe,
3 Massachusetts, and then there will be four more left.
4 It's going to be through the strategic base process, so
5 there is an opportunity to engage over the next several
6 months.

7 MR. GOODE:

8 So let me wrap up on the 4-Star. We
9 have had a very positive feedback so far from Ms.
10 Kathleen Ferguson, who's the Assistant Secretary of the
11 Air Force for Installations and Environment. You know,
12 we've had persistent outreach working with folks like
13 Josh and the professional staff, with some mixed
14 signals. Some say, "Hey, this is a done deal at
15 Barksdale," and some say, "We had no indications that
16 this was going with Barksdale." What's key is the very
17 compelling and organized action from the delegation.

18 Senator Vitter really took ownership of
19 this thing, you know, way back, even, you know, the year
20 when he wrote a very powerful, good letter to Welsh
21 emphasizing the need for 4-Star at Barksdale. Senator
22 Vitter sat down with Welsh, you know, having a
23 one-on-one, you know, through discussions. You know,
24 Senator Landrieu got involved and then the Secretary of
25 the Air Force, Madelyn Creedon, and Principal Director



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1 of National Nuclear Security Administration, and Doc
2 Fleming immediately reached out to Senator Wilson upon
3 this announcement, and said, "This is coming here." You
4 may say, "You know what, if that's all true, why didn't
5 you just do that?" You do it because you take ownership
6 of it. Believe me, you want the DoD and you want the
7 rest of Capitol Hill to understand that, "Hey, Louisiana
8 is all over this. This is their issue. This something
9 going to Global Strike Command," because believe me,
10 other communities are watching this and want this
11 command. That's a fact.

12 So for the next steps, we want to ensure
13 we lock this in. As Murray mentioned, there's a lot of
14 unknowns out there. The 4-Star designation, in terms of
15 getting a 4-Star here means demoting from a 4-Star
16 elsewhere. There's a confirmation process with the
17 Senate on the Services Committee, who will be working
18 with Josh on this, which is going to be important. What
19 is that process? When does it happen?

20 And then the FY '16 Authorization, you
21 know, how do you ensure this 4-Star gets all of the
22 authorities necessary in terms of procurement and
23 personnel. And then another unknown is the Air Force
24 Strategic Basing Process. Believe me, they don't proces
25 that basing process -- I mean, they have to look at



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1 other places. They have to look at Arnold. They've got
2 to look at Minot. They've got to look at some other
3 places. So these are all things we have to nail down.

4 This is Title 10. This just explains a
5 lot in terms of how many 4-Stars there are and the
6 exceptions for joint commands and so forth.

7 Weapons storage area --

8 MR. SAWYER:

9 Chris, sorry to interrupt. Just to
10 understand clearly, you see these all as next year NDAA
11 fights? You said FY '16, so assuming that NDAA gets
12 passed this year, this Fall, when we take it up the next
13 time, that's when we're going to have to, I guess, have
14 big fights, offensive and defensive, on 4-Star, on
15 basing decisions and that thing?

16 MR. GOODE:

17 I think so. I think there's going to be
18 law enforcing functions who try to jump in there, you
19 know, and this -- FY '15 is done. You know, Beverly
20 James (sic) has said this is going to happen. The
21 question is is the delegation and perhaps the Congress.
22 Okay. When, and how do we make it happen?

23 MR. HODGES:

24 Chris, the Air Force has said that
25 they're eager to do this, they're happy to do it this



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1 year. It's more a matter of is there a least likely
2 or -- if there's not, I'm not sure what the mend process
3 is going to look at or if we are going to get into NDAA
4 by December. Last year, as we know, there's was no
5 real -- process. Yes, this is going to be an FY '16
6 issue. We're obviously trying to make it happen, but
7 that being said, you know, we're still pushing for the
8 stars. Hopefully that happens over the next 30 to 60
9 days.

10 MR. GOODE:

11 Murray mentioned the weapons storage
12 area. I just want to add one thing here. You know,
13 this is another example of the delegation being united.
14 You know, this year, Senator Landrieu added the language
15 basically requiring the Air Force to explain it's
16 recapitalization plan on these WSAs. Rep Fleming
17 following up on language requiring a Business Case.
18 This is all based on Senator Vitter's language from last
19 year. So for three years, at least three years, there
20 has been Louisiana influence and a voice on these WSAs.
21 And, believe me, talking A10 just month ago, we were --
22 I think it's six total, whatever. We were last, and
23 that has changed dramatically. And I think, you know,
24 that outreach from the delegation has been very helpful.
25 Again, you know, when you talk to professional staffers



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1 like Ryan Crumpler on the House, they know, "Hey, this
2 is a Louisiana priority."

3 We mentioned that backfill mission. You
4 know what, we're talking to some folks, some forecast
5 guys, guys like General John Mott, Bruce Miller, who
6 just recently left, but there's no plan right now for a
7 backfill mission at Barksdale, and, you know, we're not
8 giving up. There's a lot of reasons behind this. You
9 know, the A10 Investment Timeline, a lot of that -- a
10 lot of those aircraft, the backflow mentions are going
11 to the Guard. I think this is something that still is
12 out there that can work that may be a result of future
13 BRAC decision that we may have an opportunity to see a
14 new mission here.

15 On the B52, we are not lobbying for the
16 Boeing. When it comes to the B52 modernization
17 accounts, we're very careful, but the Air Force does a
18 good job squeezing that rock in terms of modernization,
19 and the delegation and the lobbyist, you know, made a
20 big stink over putting more money in one account. Well,
21 the Air Force just gets forced to pull it out of a
22 different B52 modernization account, so you've got to be
23 realistic. You've got to be careful and realistic
24 because, you know, they're working in very constrained
25 budgets, doing the best they can. And, you know, in



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1 this case, we did take one issue with the Strategic
2 Radar Report that was the requirement based on what the
3 Louisiana delegation put in the previous year, and the
4 Air Force basically honestly said, "You know what, it
5 would be cheaper to replace the Strategic Radar on the
6 B52 versus trying to fix the Legacy Radar" in a depo
7 down in Georgia, but we don't have the upfront line.
8 Senator Landrieu put language into this year's bill and
9 basically said "Hey, you've got to rethink this. I want
10 to see some action in FY '16." We'll see what happens.
11 So, again, "We'll just close down Barksdale."

12 You know, a lot of good wins and
13 visibility. You get the Air Force to put a 4-Star down
14 at Barksdale, Barksdale is going to be around for a long
15 time. The WSA moving up is great. You need to lock
16 that in. As Andy mentioned, the Long-Range Strike
17 Bomber, the RFP is already on the street. That's good
18 for the enterprise. You know, the Green Flag Hanger at
19 Barksdale is still there. They're still rotating forces
20 that come in that support Green Flag East, but certainly
21 we want a real mission down there.

22 And concerns: As far as BRAC is a
23 concern, remember Dyess was on the list in 2005. It was
24 a pretty compelling concern. And Ellsworth was on the
25 list in 2005, and it was a pretty compelling case as far



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1 as Ellsworth. In 2005, the realm was extremely
2 political. Ellsworth came off the list. We still think
3 there's a potential for consolidation. At a minimum, it
4 would be one mission. And, again, the Air Force Global
5 Strike location, that's not a given. It's something
6 that has to be done.

7 So that's it do. I have five minutes to
8 talk about Polk.

9 On Polk -- I'll move through these
10 quickly -- it was a busy Spring down at -- you know,
11 working on Fort Polk. The beginning of year, we were
12 focused on three things: Getting ready for the
13 Supplemental PEA, you know, developing our FY '15
14 Congressional Requests and working to try to secure that
15 3rd Battalion. Senator Vitter and Senator Landrieu both
16 met on the same day with General Odierno specifically on
17 the 3rd Battalion. We met with John McLaurin around the
18 same time and General Clautier's entire team, and over
19 time, we got more and more assurances. I think, you
20 know, honestly, the 3rd Battalion is going to come to
21 Fort Polk in 2015. But at the same time -- and Josh
22 will remember this -- you know, we learned that OSB was
23 completing a study to basically eminently downgrade
24 Bayne Jones Hospital from a hospital to a clinic. They
25 were basically done, and we worked, you know, pretty



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1 quickly with the professional staff, you know, of the
2 HAC-MILCON Committee, you know, as they gave us the
3 playbook and said, "Hey, this is stated on Throughput."
4 Josh got involved and Senator Landrieu's staff got
5 involved and we backed them off of that. We quickly got
6 General Horoho, the Army Medical Chief, in front of the
7 senators and the delegation and they backed off of it
8 and that led to what Josh said and Matthew with working
9 on this new amendment in the NDAA to really reexamine
10 how OSB is looking at hospitals. We learned very
11 quickly that there was no consideration of how Bayne
12 Jones works with the Joint Readiness and Training
13 Center. They didn't consider that, "Hey, this is a CTC
14 that has some of the most, you know, realistic training,
15 real potential for a mass casualty drill, and they
16 really didn't look at the local community in terms of
17 handling a mass casualty drill compared to Bayne Jones,
18 so that got turned off and was important.

19 This is just a draft hospital amendment.
20 I won't go through that. I will say, you know, Fort
21 Polk, like Barksdale, they do have a pretty organized
22 congressional process each year. They work with the
23 staff to look at requests. You know, Josh and Senator
24 Vitter immediately, in the beginning of the year, got
25 thankfully a placeholder on Army 2020 to say the



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1 original language, which had been modified very
2 significantly, was, "Hey, before you march down and
3 start going from 490,000 to 425,000 to dismantle the
4 Army, why don't you first finish Army 2020 and ensure
5 that battalions are placed where the explosives are at
6 Fort Polk?" Senator Landrieu offered an amendment that
7 focused more on the SPEA and the alternate SPEA. And
8 I'm going to talk to you about this slide and the
9 Hospital Amendment, which very important.

10 So let me just spend two seconds on
11 education. All I can say is this is really seasoning
12 the initiative. Again, General Odierno said, "I want to
13 study it. I want to look at every military community
14 and see how they do in terms of educating our soldiers,
15 families, children, and if they don't meet the mark,
16 we're leaving." Okay. Fort Polk immediately said, "We
17 need to go down to Army Education Command." Flew down
18 to Fort Sam Houston, explained what the Fort Polk
19 Education Initiative is. Army called it a model. We
20 actually got briefing slides in to Odierno to daily
21 brief and talk about Fort Polk specifically. Fort Polk
22 recently just won this Military Education Partnership of
23 the year. Again, just very dotted, persistent lobbying
24 that I think has paid off.

25 So just two minutes on the Supplemental



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1 EPA. Again, there's further studies done on 420,000. I
2 thought our response was great. I thought it was better
3 than last year. Very good legal and economic analysis.
4 The delegations got very much involved. We probably got
5 26 or so FedEx packages with that package, as well as
6 the thousands of other environmental communities, such
7 as Fort Polk, Jackson and Knox provided 24 percent of
8 all comments compared to the 30 other installations. So
9 that tells you the level of organization.

10 So real quick, the two problems, just
11 so, you know, the SPEA, you know, it's supposed to allow
12 federal agencies to make informed decisions. Well, the
13 Army as a no-action alternative that uses completely
14 wrong baselines. It uses a 562,000-soldier baseline
15 from, you know, two years ago, which basically ignores
16 all of the ongoing downsizing. Remember, there are 10
17 communities out there just like yours that are losing
18 BCTs. Five this year, five next year. We didn't have
19 to deal with that because we won. So the Army said,
20 "We're just going to ignore that," which basely shows
21 that's this alternative is pure fantasy.

22 The second one is there's only one
23 alternation. I mean, that breaks every NEPA rule in the
24 book. You're supposed to be able to have, you know, a
25 number of alternatives for rational decision-making.



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1 The Army should have had an alternative that kept it at
2 490 or brought it to 450, which is consistent with our
3 Quadrennial Defense Review, who said they took the worst
4 case and just said, "All or nothing." It was pure a
5 pure political move. The Army basically admitted to us
6 and said, "We just want to get everybody riled up";
7 right? All of the congressmen pushed back, and guess
8 what, nobody's saying anything except for Louisiana.
9 So, you know, all he could say is, "Okay. Good job
10 studying the 420. Make it happen." Bad move by the
11 Army.

12 So, anyway, I've gone through all of
13 this. I want to get to the end.

14 We did a lot of economic modeling this
15 time, more so than last year, and one of the key things,
16 if you remember our briefing last time, Mike Reese
17 specifically said, you know, "We have no idea that the
18 Army uses an ROI, a Region of Influence." In the case
19 of Fort Polk, it uses the five-parish region, but it
20 completely ignores the real impacts to force reduction
21 in Vernon and Beauregard as we point out here. So we
22 basically -- and I'm just going to fly through here, but
23 I'm just going to point out this one.

24 We basically compared the Army ROI to a
25 RRIOI compared to a two-parish and then state-wide. You



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1 can see that third column how impactful it is. So, for
2 example, we're -- real quick -- in the case of regional
3 GDP and employment, 36 percent and 60 percent employment
4 for the two key parishes, but you can see how that drops
5 down 13 percent, 20 percent and disbursed to the Army's
6 ROI. And then obviously it's further disbursed.

7 So, you know -- just one last thing.
8 You know, the analysis really does explain this Boom &
9 Bust Phase. Really, they articulated very well in the
10 response in how they -- you know, Fort Polk has been
11 closed, you know, and how does that impact small
12 businesses. How does that give any confidence to
13 developers? You want an Applebee's, an Olive Garden,
14 well, you know, stop killing us and keep a stable force
15 that the BCT provides. And, in fact -- that was some
16 charts.

17 So two more slides.

18 Next steps, you know, we need, in terms
19 of Fort Polk, really to continue the advocacy. We had a
20 great meeting with General Halverson, Paul, Mike and I
21 just two months ago. We have not met with General
22 Cloutier. He's the new General Murray, the guy that's
23 really involved in any of the decisionmakers. He's the
24 new Undersecretary of the Army, Brad Carson. He's a
25 former congressman from Oklahoma. Bob Wyatt, General



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1 Wyatt, who works with us knows him personally. We
2 continue on the FY '15 with requests to look at FY '16,
3 get prepared for listening sessions, remember from last
4 year.

5 Now we get into that military-valued
6 piece. By the way, getting a listening session in
7 March, that's great. That will probably be the last
8 one, which I think is beneficial. And then what General
9 Curtis said, we should be mindful of that National
10 Commission on the Future of the Army. It's in both
11 bills. It's going to happen. It will be great to have
12 a retired general from Louisiana sitting, somebody
13 prominent. Now is the time to think about that because
14 you have also Senators Vitter and Landrieu that can push
15 that. It would be great to have somebody on the inside.

16 Okay. And then finally, you know, the
17 real ball is let's get congress more involved in this I
18 mean, everybody is tired of sequestration. I think
19 there will be some more additional flexibility after the
20 election. The Army -- this needs to be become a more
21 visible matter inside Congress, and so far it's been a
22 weak effort. General Halverson said to Paul and I, he
23 said, "Louisianians are the only people that we are
24 really hearing from. They said they are our
25 components," so that's good, but we need to leverage



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1 that. There's 30 other installations out there that
2 would get involved so that we can stop this mindless,
3 you know, dismantling.

4 So the last slide, I put this in the
5 hands of General Halverson, and really liked it. It's
6 just the one-pager on Louisiana, but, you know, the
7 future piece I think is pretty good. You know, we're
8 the only military base expanding in size, no
9 encroachment, no complaints, quality of life is great
10 and if 4/10 gives us that level of stability to, you
11 know, keep this place viable.

12 So that's it. I know I went through
13 these quickly. I appreciate your patience. If you have
14 any question. Thanks.

15 MR. SAWYER:

16 I've got a question. You mentioned the
17 Green Flag and some issues, rather, at Barksdale, and,
18 of course, our efforts are focusing on getting new
19 quadrants in Fort Polk and the folks at Barksdale to
20 support that Green Flag mission. One concern that I
21 asked you to speak to, if it's even relevant, is that
22 could the Air Force be doing this Green Flag exercise as
23 an opportunity for their reserve being cleared for F15
24 and F16 units from around the country to get their
25 training as opposed to having an embedded quadrant at



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1 Barksdale?

2 MR. GOODE:

3 Well, I would point out Murray's
4 conversation with General Jackson who said to Murray, he
5 said, "You know, I have this problem, you know, among a
6 lot of my units, you know, that are just
7 under-resourced," and the colonels here know that, you
8 know, these units coming from across the country come in
9 and set up shop and provide support as best they can.
10 So I don't -- you know, I don't think it's an Air Force
11 issue that, you know, they understand the value of Green
12 Flag East and support it. I think it's a pure numbers
13 issue, which, to me, always equals additional advocacy.
14 So you're absolutely right, but I think it's more of a
15 budget, numbers-driven exercise.

16 In Barksdale, you know, I remember, you
17 know, during FY '13 that whole downsizing and, you know,
18 he looked at me like I was crazy. He said, "How many
19 B52s are at Barksdale?" You know, so that's -- you
20 know, sometimes you've just got to give out your fair
21 share. You know, I think it's a numbers issue.

22 COLONEL DAVIS:

23 I think it's important, also, to
24 understand that even when the A10 was there in the
25 fighter group, they were not 100 percent dedicated to



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1 Green Flag East, and so the safe bombing and the action
2 at Barksdale and Baldwin, the reserve component, the
3 B52s there did share a little bit of the load for Green
4 Flag East with the A10 and the F15 fighter group, though
5 the rest of them was done with the crew they have right
6 now. I mean, all the way -- the Air Force, sometimes
7 you have aeriels there, but it's been a while since the
8 F15s. Sometimes you have foreign naval partners for
9 everyone, so it almost seems like maybe if it's a dead
10 issue to bring another fighter-type unit here in
11 Garrison may be the right approach to a stronger
12 marketing campaign and direct funding streams that will
13 allow these other fighter units to have greater
14 flexibility to come to Barksdale.

15 MR. GOODE:

16 I have nothing else to add.

17 MR. LECERTE:

18 Thank you, Chris. I know the last time
19 we spoke, you really weren't as optimistic on the
20 weapons storage area at Barksdale. What kind of changed
21 to get you more positive outcome?

22 MR. GOODE:

23 Well, first of all, you have one of the
24 best advocates possible, I think, in the Air Force. I
25 think Colonel Wilson was really into the National Guard



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1 listening, and I think the change has been great to
2 Louisiana. You know, I do think, you know, having --
3 you know, you look at your delegation and you have two
4 members on the opposition issue, appropriation also as
5 well, so energy appropriation, which has a pretty, you
6 know good hook into the enterprise. So, you know, I
7 think the combination of those things, you know, as well
8 as Global Strike have all focused -- you know, Barksdale
9 needs to be prepared. FD1, I think, is already in the
10 FY '15 funding and for probably for good reason because
11 there's some issues there. You know, if you look at the
12 Maelstrom, there's been real significant issues as well,
13 but that submission is a totally different conversation.
14 So I think there's a number of factors, but certainly
15 you have to advocate on behalf of the delegation, and
16 the folks you just happened to have down here at the
17 time, I think, were really helpful.

18 Murray, I don't know if you agree with
19 that or not.

20 MR. MURRAY:

21 Yes.

22 MR. LECERTE:

23 Any other questions for Chris?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. LECERTE:



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1 Thank you.

2 I think we're going to have Lieutenant
3 General Bob Elder give some comments now.

4 MR. SAWYER:

5 General Elder, are you with us?

6 GENERA ELDER:

7 I'm with you. Can you hear me?

8 MR. SAWYER:

9 Yes, sir, we can hear you.

10 GENERAL ELDER:

11 Great. Well, I'm sorry I'm not with all
12 of you right now. I'm on a flight to Jordan, but I am
13 glad you guys are able to talk about this stuff.

14 Just a couple of things that I thought
15 might be worth bringing to your attention, one goes back
16 to the discretion of the fighters at Barksdale and their
17 availability. It's actually one of the differential
18 characteristics between what goes on at the National
19 Training Center and what happens at the GRTC and the way
20 that those fighters are available, and it's actually a
21 positive thing for the Air Force, but I'm not sure they
22 all recognize it, but it's effective thing, I think,
23 which makes Fort Polk a great place for training. So
24 the fact that there's a very close embryonic
25 relationship between those two, so hopefully we'll be



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1 able to continue to work to move those forward.

2 On the other discussion on the 4-Star,
3 Global Strike Command 3-Star, in the Air Force, there's
4 a lot of support from the Undersecretary and the
5 Secretary of Defense, both are very much in favor of the
6 4-Star, and Global Strike Command and the 3-Star in the
7 Air Force is a little bit of a different problem, but
8 the Secretary of the Air Force is supporting them both.
9 There's huge antibodies at a number different places and
10 there's big history behind that. The Air Force was
11 involved was back in 1947 where it is now there's early
12 days, you know, the Strategic Command and Air Defense
13 Command together were probably about 75 percent of the
14 Air Force, but that's not -- the Air Force Global Strike
15 Command is nowhere near that. There is no defense
16 command, per se, except for those few fighters, like the
17 ones we have down in Belle Chasse, so there's a lot of
18 people who would not like to see it go back to the way
19 it was. They look at this and they -- and, then, also,
20 from the congressional standpoint -- Chris was talking
21 about this, that there's a number of states who would
22 perceive that the Air Force Global Strike Command going
23 to 4-Star might actually cause programs to move from
24 their state. Their perception is probably a good one,
25 so that probably would occur so that we can expect to



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1 get quite a confused state that would be concerned that
2 this would lead to a loss of some power, or jobs, even,
3 for that matter.

4 And then there's one other discussion
5 that you had, and I think in regards about some of the
6 things that are going on with the Cyber Innovation
7 Center, but there's a lot of good things going on at
8 Barksdale, particularly with the Air Force Global Strike
9 Command and their relationship with what's going on with
10 the Cyber Innovation Center. And one of the big things
11 that's happening at Barksdale in particular is that
12 there is also the relationship with the folks at the Air
13 Force Research Lab in Rome, New York. And when we talk
14 about cyber, cyber is really a big thing, and a niche
15 that's particularly used at Barksdale is what is -- they
16 call it C4I, which is the Command, Control,
17 Communications, Computers and Intelligence, which is
18 what it is responsible for, the types of things that
19 they're working on are how to run these operations best,
20 how you increase decisions, being able to react to a
21 moving target. I think the participatory planning and
22 course of action involved in that, particularly for
23 operations, are a strategic alternative to offer to a
24 joint force commander and present that. So strategize,
25 you know, I think someone else mentioned strategize and



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1 looking to establish a lab there outside the base, maybe
2 even a contractor, to get in and out to deal with high
3 security, to try to deal with those kinds of situations.
4 And I know there is some concerns at places that there
5 could be some competition between various different
6 parts of the state, but the reality here is there's a
7 lot of work to go around and a lot of opportunities for
8 the State of Louisiana by encouraging it.

9 So there's some challenges ahead, but
10 there's also some opportunities. I thought you might be
11 willing to bring them to your attention today, so that's
12 just a quick rundown on a couple of things for you.

13 MR. SAWYER:

14 Thank you, sir.

15 Are there any questions or comments for
16 General Elder?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. LECERTE:

19 Thank you, General.

20 MR. SAWYER:

21 Thank you, General.

22 GENERAL ELDER:

23 Thanks.

24 SECRETARY LECERTE:

25 Right now, I want to give our guests and



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1 visitors a chance to go around the room and introduce
2 themselves, if you want to pass the mic around.

3 MR. DOSS:

4 I'm David Doss. I'm Senator David
5 Vitter's State Director.

6 MR. PARKS:

7 I'm Bobby Paks. I'm Garrison Executive
8 Officer for Fort Polk.

9 COMMANDER RAFFERTY:

10 Commander Tim Rafferty. I'm the SPAWAR
11 Atlantic attachment in New Orleans.

12 MR. WOMACK:

13 I'm George Womack. I am the Corporate
14 Operations Manager at Systems Center Atlantic.

15 COLONEL GODINHO:

16 I'm Colonel Steve Godinho, the
17 Commanding Officer of Headquarters Battalion, Marine
18 Forces Reserve.

19 MR. MCNABB:

20 Good morning. I'm Brian McNabb with
21 Congressman Bill Cassidy's office.

22 MR. MCNEELY:

23 Chance McNeely with Governor Jindal's
24 office and liaison to LANS (sic).

25 COLONEL KRISTIN GOODWIN:



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1 Kristen Goodwin, I'm the Commander of
2 2BW, Barksdale Air Force Base.

3 MR. MORRIS:
4 Trey Morris, I'm Advice and Career
5 (inaudible).

6 MR. HODGES:
7 Josh Hodges with the office of Senator
8 David Vitter.

9 MR. GOODE:
10 Chris Goode with The Roosevelt Group.

11 MR. HENSGENS:
12 Adam Hensgens with Congressman Charles
13 Boustany.

14 MR. SILBERT:
15 Garry Silbert, Greater New Orleans, Inc.

16 MR. HERBERT:
17 Mark Herbert, Senator Landrieu's office.

18 MR. PRITCHARD:
19 Rob Pritchard, Deputy Commander Air
20 Station, Belle Chasse.

21 MR. KELLER:
22 Bruce Keller, I'm Community Planning
23 Officer at NAS New Orleans.

24 MR. NUNGESSER:
25 Billy Nungesser, I'm President of



1 Plaquemines Parish.

2 MR. CROSSIE:

3 Justin Crossie with Congressman
4 Scalise's office.

5 MR. LECERTE:

6 Thank you. We're going to ask Colonel
7 Bill Davis to give a brief update on New Orleans and all
8 that it entails.

9 MR. DAVIS:

10 New Orleans is always a very unique
11 city, and the military infrastructure reflects that same
12 kind of philosophy in New Orleans, so what you have --
13 and you just stole my thunder because I was going to
14 introduce everybody. What you have is Colonel Steve
15 Godinho, which is the Commanding Officer of the Marine
16 Corps Support Facility, which is the newest installation
17 of the Marine Corps, based in the old Navy base in
18 Algiers. You have Commander Rob Pritchard down in NAS
19 JRB, and we have that base. And then you have Commander
20 Rafferty, who's right at the Lakefront in the technology
21 center, the SPAWAR, doing key support operations for the
22 Department of the Navy, and lot of people forget they're
23 there. It used to be bigger, and it's gotten smaller,
24 which is kind of a trend we see.

25 So you have a distribution of commands.



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1 Not only that, but you have the water system in the
2 Coast Guard district that's in charge there that runs
3 the whole central part of the United States with the
4 three affiliated Coast Guard commands. I say
5 "affiliated" because the Coast Guard base there is
6 actually run through Coast Guard Atlantic division in
7 Norfolk, but the air station and the sector command
8 there and sector command control and all other
9 operations from the entry of the mouth just north of New
10 Orleans is there. And then you have the air station,
11 which is doing that aeromedical rescue offshore
12 transport with John Curtis, complimentary capabilities.

13 There's been a fair amount of
14 stayability at the higher levels of command, but you did
15 have a little bit of a turnaround. On board the air
16 station, you have the 377th Theater Support Command, the
17 largest Army Reserve command, 22,000 people spread
18 across the country, not quite as big as Mark Ruiz, but
19 gives them a run for the money and size. Then you have
20 that command change over to its 2-Star general, and I
21 don't know is the new general.

22 The new general of 377 is going to
23 stand? Yeah. He's got about six sets of orders.
24 Great.

25 And that could change because the 377,



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1 General Lennon, he's a great guy. He's a fly-in, but
2 the new commander is to stay in the area working a
3 2-Star Army Reserve presence there at the corps. And
4 Mark Ruiz, over the Summer, three of the four general
5 officers commands changed over to 2-Star and 1-Star
6 level. One wing commander stayed in place, the other
7 three moved, but these are reserve generals. They come
8 in and drill over on occasion and drill around the
9 country as well, but all of the other commands have
10 stayed very stable, but you'll start seeing that turn.
11 So what you have, as I just described, is not only
12 joint, but inner-agency efforts as well, because the
13 Coast Guard and the Coast Guard friends are working with
14 all sorts of other -- DHS and all of the other
15 organizations in the area to secure those support
16 operations. But never forget that while they are part
17 of the Department of Homeland Security, they do have
18 that military support mission and interact with us quite
19 frequently, so there is this collection of groups.

20 On terms of issues, it's not as easy as
21 it is for Barksdale or Fort Polk to talk about
22 infrastructure. You have a single-source command that
23 takes care of the most of the efforts in the area, and
24 New Orleans is more distributing. However, in the areas
25 of education, education continues to be a challenge.



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1 Easy to read in the paper. Sometimes it's too -- you
2 get your orders, it's a little tough unless you're a
3 command-selected guy who gets your orders ahead of time.
4 Most of you get your orders in February or March, and
5 you say, "Hey, how are the schools?" "Too late. The
6 good ones are already closed, but here's what's left."
7 But two things that have come up, Belle Chasse Academy
8 has been open for over a decade. They continue to be an
9 "A" school down in Belle Chasse taking care of a lot of
10 the children in the area. Personal plug, New Orleans
11 Maritime Military Academy, which I head up now for the
12 last three years, we have went from a "B" school last
13 year, and this year, all numbers indicating that we will
14 be an "A" school as well. And we are the two schools
15 that actually have set aside for military dependents in
16 the area, similar to what you see in some of other parts
17 of the states. These are charter schools, and we
18 especially fall underneath the State of Louisiana
19 directly, which allows any long-term member of the
20 military who really want to see that their children come
21 here. So we have that going on the side, and we do
22 continue to see improvement in education for the
23 military in our area, but there are struggles. So we
24 have at least two examples of things that are really an
25 improvement in quality of life for military members, and



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1 I've seen my numbers with military dependents increase
2 every year now with 9th and 10th grade after only three
3 years of operations.

4 Belle Chasse Academy just completed a
5 major expansion of their school so that they can post
6 more effectively the number of children they have. You
7 know, they're almost 1,000 military dependents going to
8 that school in grades K through 8, and they have a wait
9 list as well because you just can't take everyone that's
10 trying to go through the door.

11 I do want to say, in terms of
12 programatically, one investment, the Marine Corps just
13 retired the last of Huey. The traditional UH-1N
14 November series just retired a couple weeks ago. The
15 last one was down here, big ceremony for the Marine
16 Corps, and a lot of -- six years, seven years, something
17 like that, we were working out there. It still lives,
18 it's just now has more blades. Now it's been refigured,
19 and the Marine Corps is now planning the first two.
20 It's a unique model. It's four-bladed. They were
21 two-bladed, went to four, twice the power. I don't
22 know. I'm not an aviator, but it's a great capability.
23 It is an investment. It shows the reserve forces are
24 transitioning the new aircraft. You're going to see in
25 Baton Rouge and then down to Belle Chasse and is going



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1 to transition to the Cobra newer series and replacing
2 the Sikorsky series over the next couple of years. A
3 lot of new improvement there and capability, but an
4 investment as well into new equipment.

5 Hiring fairs continue throughout that
6 area. Again, it's very good. You have the Chamber of
7 Commerce supports us there. They try to come down to
8 Belle Chasse and the New Orleans area and do a good job
9 of getting out there and putting that word out. I know
10 NOPD has an expedition each year as part of their hiring
11 process, and they've made an outreach as well to see if
12 we can get additional military members.

13 One of my roles in the academy is the
14 development of the STEM program, which is science,
15 technology, engineering and math. Great outreach. We
16 has support from SPAWAR, Department of the Navy. The
17 Cyber Innovation Center has been a partner of ours from
18 the very beginning, so they're not just up there in
19 Bossier City for the Air Force. We're the only school
20 south of the lake that does STEM. We have worked in
21 partner with the CIC to take what was a two-year high
22 school program and make it into a four-year program to
23 now being exported to a least five other states in the
24 nation as a model for STEM education in high school
25 students. And this is something that's also been



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1 developed on jobs, but also ties into are Army and
2 warfare. If you're looking at it the National Security
3 perspective, both from the military side, growing armed
4 forces, where young men and women have the capabilities
5 of learning this in high school and bringing this into
6 the military, that's a great piece, but also on the
7 broader aspect of National Security and economic aspect,
8 we are growing our own scientists and engineers because
9 a lot of the people that used to come here from other
10 countries and getting their degrees, now they're
11 reaching more economic parity on a global scale.
12 They're going back home. We've got to grow or own and
13 replace the ones that do go home.

14 One thing I would say, in terms of
15 personnel, and it's below the radar, we talked a lot
16 about, you know, the military cuts that are coming up
17 and I know that my friend Mr. Thomson over here from --
18 Governor Jindal will tell you the contractor cuts are
19 here. Mark Ruiz has been having to slowly let
20 contractors go. The reduction was originally counting
21 on 1,900 people to include reserves and 1,300 day in and
22 day out. They're starting to make these cuts, and those
23 will impact. Those job are in the global radar. They
24 don't count on the DoD numbers, but they are definitely
25 counting in terms of impact, and that's something we



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1 also have to look at is budget.

2 Last thing I'll comment on -- two other
3 things. One, Federal City, my home, our home, for Mark
4 Ruiz and the others, we've only completed the first
5 phase. It's supposed to be a three-phase project in 15
6 years. We're coming off of the end of first five-year
7 session. All of the things that were done to the
8 marines were done. We seem to have hit a valley of
9 stagnation, and we will show how that progresses over
10 the next few months as they clean up some of the
11 persistent legal issues -- persistent legal issues, as
12 well as some of the structural issues and try to bring
13 on board another developer and hopefully we'll see some
14 more progress.

15 And then, lastly, on the horizon for us,
16 the big event will be the end chapter of the War of 1812
17 Celebration. It started a few years ago, 1812. They
18 brought in a robust president. Other countries came
19 in -- and Rob's laughing because he's getting haggled
20 about this. We're going to try and end it. We're going
21 to end it, maybe not quite on time when the actual
22 battle took place, but at the end of April, the 20th to
23 25th, we will be having a celebration. The Planning
24 Committee will start to meet in about two weeks. We're
25 going to sit down and start planning for that last



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1 celebration of the war of 1812, and that will involve
2 ships, again, from the Navy around the country and other
3 places come in here to do the celebrations with visitors
4 and guests. But perfect timing because it's also going
5 to be the week of Zurich Classic, PGA, ends just before
6 Jazz Fest's first weekend and a couple of other events
7 in the New Orleans area. Those are kind of the things
8 that are going on in the New Orleans area with the
9 various commands. But as I laid out, it is a challenge.

10 And this is where I'm going to
11 transition to Paul because as you see, you have a
12 diverse military infrastructure with both DHS and DoD.
13 We also have Stan Mathes here from Callender Commitment
14 down in Belle Chasse talking about the support for the
15 base of Belle Chasse. You have the New Orleans Mayor's
16 Military Advisory Committee headed up with General Mize
17 and Mark Ruiz, who I worked for as a General Major.
18 That's another group that tries to coordinate and
19 organize, but there really isn't a broad organizational
20 type support mechanism similar to what you have at
21 Barksdale or Fort Polk that integrates or looks at the
22 impact of the military and serves as that same advocate
23 for the entirety of the military component, which is in
24 New Orleans Metro Area.

25 With that being said, I will pass the



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1 baton to Paul to discuss this in detail. I didn't want
2 to say I'd be brief because I couldn't promise that.

3 MR. SAWYER:

4 What I can promise is that I actually
5 don't have a PowerPoint, but I did want to get up to the
6 microphone.

7 So in addition to supporting the
8 Military Advisory Council, I'm also with the Louisiana
9 Department of Economic Development, and ironically
10 there's always this sort of subtle, unspoken dichotomy
11 in Louisiana of north of I-10 versus south of I-10.
12 There's always a tug and pull, "Hey, one side of the
13 state gets more attention than the other," and if you
14 were paying attention to this agenda today, it was all
15 north of I-10. Fort Polk, Barksdale. Those are the
16 two -- obviously those are the two most conspicuous
17 military installations in the state, and, so, therefore,
18 they command a lot of attention, a lot of premise. The
19 things that happen to them are very obvious, in which is
20 why they are mature, very active organizations that
21 aren't just in the parishes that host the installations,
22 but really the regions that support them. And as Bill
23 was saying, there's a lot of military activities in the
24 Greater New Orleans area. In fact, if you looked at it
25 on the balance, you can arguably say that there is as



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1 much happening below I-10 as there is above I-10.

2 How is that true? Well, so whereas
3 there's Fort Polk in Central Louisiana and Barksdale in
4 Northwest Louisiana, scattered around the Greater New
5 Orleans area are a variety of installation units
6 attachments, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, and
7 because they're scattered around in toto, they really
8 represent significant presence, but because they're
9 scattered around, they really don't belong to anybody in
10 particular in a manner of speaking. The same way that
11 you can say, "Hey, Barksdale is mine. I represent and
12 fight for Barksdale." "Fort Polk is mine. I represent
13 and fight for Fort Polk." And so because the military
14 presence in the Greater New Orleans area is everywhere,
15 the problem has been is it belongs to no one, and so
16 there are great organizations in the Greater New Orleans
17 area. Callender Commitments is headed up by Stan
18 Mathes. Callender Commitments represents the Naval Air
19 Station Joint Reserve Base. And, by the way, as I'm
20 describing these big installations in Central and North
21 Louisiana, keep in mind that five of the top -- or
22 three -- excuse me -- of the top five employers in
23 Louisiana are, Number 1, Barksdale; Number 1, Fort Polk;
24 Number 4, Barksdale; Number 5, NAS JRB, so it's actually
25 really big considering it's impact, not just on



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1 employment, but the other aspect of the Greater New
2 Orleans area. And this is what Bill and Andy had spoken
3 to as well is the contracting base. That is where the
4 vast majority of Louisiana's DoD spend occurs outside of
5 the fence. So Fort Polk gets a lot of DoD spend inside
6 the fence. The same is true with Barksdale. Outside
7 the fence, all of that money is being spent in the
8 Greater New Orleans area. Most obvious of which
9 occurred back in 2010 when the Navy reorganized its
10 shipbuilding program and created such an interruption in
11 the pipeline of work at Avondale Shipyard, that then
12 Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Systems decided it could
13 not maintain that yard. The spinoff of Northrop Grumman
14 Shipbuilding Systems into Huntington Ingles Industries
15 further validated that by the company stating publicly
16 now that they will put a fence around that yard and keep
17 it closed until another viable economic opportunity
18 emerges. That's more than 5,000 jobs lost at one
19 location, and, you know, we're fighting for our lives at
20 Fort Polk right now, you know, to offset a five to 6,500
21 soldier cut. So you can see that the DoD dynamics
22 impact directly and conspicuously at large
23 installations, but they occur equally impactful, but
24 maybe less conspicuous in other locations like the
25 Greater New Orleans area.

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1 Why is this so important? As I
2 mentioned, we learned a lot about the Greater New
3 Orleans area last year. If you remember, exactly on
4 this date, this time last year, Chris was here to give a
5 presentation of our State-wide Military Economic Impact
6 Analysis, and for those of you who do not have this, I
7 can provide you an electronic copy. It's thick. It's
8 got a lot of detail in it, but it reveals a lot of
9 interesting facts and it's what really made our ears
10 perk up when we realized that there is a lot at stake in
11 the Greater New Orleans area, but not at Fort Polk
12 Progress, Barksdale Forward regional, collaborative
13 effort to promote it and to defend it.

14 The legislature in this most recent
15 session, this Spring and Summer, passed a lined item of
16 \$525,000, and it's essentially designed to promote and
17 defend our installation communities in Louisiana. You
18 heard Fort Polk and Barksdale about their efforts, and
19 much of this is because there's much to lose and much to
20 gain and there's a heightened sense of urgency around
21 those two installations that much of these resources
22 will be applied to those installation communities. That
23 said, we're making a deliberate effort to carve out
24 resources specifically for the Greater New Orleans area,
25 because, as I state, there's not a regional ownership of



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1 the military presence in the Greater New Orleans area.

2 Callender Commitment has been doing a
3 great job in Plaquemines Parish, but NAS JRB actually
4 impacts Jefferson Parish and Orleans. In fact, it
5 impacts East Baton Rouge Parish and --

6 COLONEL DAVIS:

7 And that's not to say there's not
8 advocacy. I mean, most of us are familiar with
9 congressional staffs that have been on board for
10 individual issues, whether it's been something in Mark
11 Ruiz or something down at Belle Chasse. It's just that
12 lack of integrated effort to understand the interaction
13 and the impacts across the parish lines, but also the
14 aggregate impact that you have for all. And, you know
15 it's not just the individuals or the installations.
16 It's all the service members that are active at those
17 installations, all of the people that work on those
18 installations and there's no network or comprehensive
19 support plan for that that's similar to what you have at
20 Barksdale or at Fort Polk. I mean, it's almost like,
21 you know, they're going to grab you and set out such a
22 big installation in one spot it creates its own kind of
23 focus to it. Because they're scattered throughout, we
24 don't that same individual focus to support it. How do
25 we address it, and that is what we're trying to figure



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1 out.

2 MR. SAWYER:

3 That's a great point, Bill. It's an
4 important distinction. Thank you.

5 And so what we are conceptualizing
6 now -- and I need to make the point that plans have been
7 made. No course has been set, but what we're
8 conceptualizing now is the Greater New Orleans area is
9 to establish a membership-based, sustainable
10 organization that can represent the whole, but also
11 support the individual. So Callender Commitment, as a
12 great organization supporting the NAS JRB, does not have
13 the resources, time and availability to lend that
14 support to the Coast Guard, or even SPAWAR, for that
15 matter. The Mayor's Military Advisory Council in
16 Orleans Parish has insight into the activities and
17 issues facing units and commands inside that parish, but
18 probably doesn't have the resources or capability to
19 look outside that, and that's the problem. There's so
20 much at stake, there needs to be a coordinated effort
21 among the groups. So as I said, conceptually, we are
22 exploring. We're having discussions with partners to
23 establish a membership-based organization that is
24 sustainable, and sustainability is code for funding, and
25 an organization that can support the existing groups as



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1 well as promote military and defend our installations
2 and our commands and units as they are today.

3 So I just wanted to update the LMAC on
4 this endeavor, and I'll be glad to entertain any
5 questions or comments on that, and in anticipating none,
6 I would like to mention for the record that General
7 Elder has joined us and mention for the record that
8 Chance McNeely, who is a member of the LMAC, is
9 attending as well.

10 But, seriously, if there are any
11 questions about that effort, we will -- the collective
12 "we" will be reaching out to the collective "you" for
13 more input and insight on how to shape this very
14 important initiative in the Greater New Orleans area.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. LECERTE:

17 Thank you, Paul.

18 And the next lined item we have on the
19 agenda is the Military Listening Session. It is to kind
20 of go around and allow someone of a more uniform manner
21 from each installation to have the opportunity to speak
22 and address the LMAC and the guests, so if you want to
23 kind of guide that.

24 MR. SAWYER:

25 Absolutely. And, chairman, I'll mention



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1 this, also, in a previous iteration of this body called
2 the Governor's Military Advisory Board, the military
3 were members of the board and they put the military in
4 an awkward position because as members of the board,
5 whatever they stated in the record in the company of the
6 membership could be interpreted as lobbying, could be
7 interpreted as speaking outside of what they're normally
8 allowed to do, so this body, Louisiana Military Advisory
9 Council, was created specifically to remove those
10 members from the board, keep them off the board from the
11 organization sense, but to invite their participation.
12 We communicate with the military through Callender
13 Commitment, through Barksdale, through Fort Polk
14 Progress, but it's important as a statewide body that we
15 invite members or military partners to speak. We don't
16 want to put anybody on the spot, but it's important for
17 us to hear if there's an issue of encroachment, if
18 there's an issue of education, how can the State of
19 Louisiana, how can your regional or constituent partner
20 be a partner to you.

21 And to kick it off, Colonel Goodwin, if
22 you don't mind, I'll -- can I impose upon you to speak
23 first? And I'll load up your...

24 COLONEL GOODWIN:

25 Well, good morning, everybody. How are



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1 you guys doing today?

2 Good. Good. Well, I thought what I'd
3 do is I'd start out with a little video. I think it's
4 always good to do that. I can't bring my airmen here,
5 and so...

6 (Whereupon a video presentation was
7 presented.)

8 COLONEL GOODWIN:

9 Good morning, everybody. I think it's
10 important to put up a video like that because that's
11 exactly why we're here. We're for the airman and we're
12 here about the mission, and I appreciate the comments,
13 first, that you made about the strategic level about
14 what's going on at Capitol Hill and the major decisions
15 that are going on. I also appreciate the comments from
16 Murray and also Andy about what's going on in the
17 community.

18 So what I'm here to do today is just
19 take a few minutes and I'm going to introduce myself,
20 and I'm going to talk a little bit more about the
21 operation and tactical level of what's going on at
22 Barksdale Air Force Base.

23 I've been in position for all of five
24 weeks, and in that time, I jumped right in and we went
25 right into an exercise and then I kicked about 397



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1 troops out the door. They're in the Pacific right now.

2 So my background a little bit so you
3 know a little bit about me because you're going to be
4 stuck with me for two years unless I lose my job, and I
5 plan on being very involved with you and I think it's
6 important, not only the military members throughout
7 Louisiana, but also community partners and also our
8 members that are on Capitol Hill. It's very important.

9 So my background, I come from a
10 joint-service background in my family. Both my
11 grandfathers served in World War II in the Army. My
12 father served 30 years in the Coast Guard, and when I
13 was 10 years old, I wanted to join the Air Force and go
14 to Air Force Academy. And I was so sad that my mom,
15 when I was 13, joined the Air Force. I said, "You can't
16 do that. That's what I'm supposed to do, and that's
17 what I want to do." She said, "Well, we both can join,"
18 and that's exactly what happened. She was an Air Force
19 Reserves and retired four years ago, and I had the honor
20 of retiring her.

21 My step-father is currently in the Air
22 Force and serving down at Hurlburt Field, and so our
23 family is seeped in service to our country and out
24 nations. And so that's a little bit about my
25 background.



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1 I had the great privilege of going to
2 Air Force Academy, and that's what I wanted to do when I
3 came in that service. I wanted to go to academy, and I
4 wanted to fly planes. When I had the opportunity to go
5 to pilot training back when they were doing the drawdown
6 and not everybody had the opportunity to go, I wasn't
7 like many that wanted to go fly fighters. I actually
8 wanted to fly the "Four Fans of Freedom," as I call it,
9 the C130, and I wanted to fly special ops, roll my
10 sleeves up, work with a team, go behind the lines, get
11 the mission done, but in 1995, believe or not, women
12 couldn't fly the C130. Actually, we weren't even in
13 fighters at that time. That happened later that year,
14 but I got my 130 and I was very happy about that.
15 Indirectly, I got to do special ops all around the
16 world.

17 I spent four years of my life in the
18 Middle East in Bahrain and UAE. I also was in -- flew
19 missions in Bosnia, had a MiG-21 on my tail a couple
20 times, and did some exciting things and I loved every
21 bit that I had with the 130. From that, I had the
22 opportunity to get in the B2 community. It was
23 something that came up when I was in the Pentagon. I
24 decided to fly because the worse thing they can say was
25 no to me, and luckily they said yes. So I spent of



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1 eight years in Iraq at Knob Noster, Missouri supporting
2 the B2 mission, not only as a young aviator, but also as
3 the EO, as a Commander and Vice Commander, so I know
4 that mission very well, and the importance of that as it
5 plays into the strategic setting and also it's another
6 link to the Air Force Global Strike Command. And now
7 I'm at Barksdale flying the B52.

8 Some other things that I'll tell you
9 about my background, because it's not a typical
10 background, so I can relate to a lot of you on a lot of
11 different levels, and I wanted to share that with you.
12 When I was a Captain, I was picked up for an intern
13 program, and they don't have that program anymore,
14 unfortunately, but I got my masters at George Washington
15 University, and while I was there, 50 captains or 50 of
16 us, we got to work at different places in the DC, I'll
17 call it, AOR. I got to work on the Air Staff, which I
18 didn't know what that meant as a captain, but I learned,
19 for about six months. And then I got to work on the
20 joint staff and I got to work with General Myers. And
21 during that time, I got to work in his LA session,
22 legislative affairs, and I also spent a lot of time in
23 the Senate and also the House. And my first of many
24 call signs, almost was Vanna White, and I'll share that
25 with you, but I don't share it with a lot of people. It



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1 was because the readiness hearings were going on, we
2 were about to have a presidential election and they did
3 not feel the military was where they needed to be and so
4 that was my first introduction to the House and the
5 staff and I got to sit on the sidelines. It was before
6 PowerPoint, I guess, and they had these big billboards
7 and I got to point and turn the slides. And so people
8 that liked me knew I was coming down there. Some of
9 them were actually watching C-SPAN, I guess, and I
10 almost got that call sign. Thank goodness I didn't.
11 That would have been bad.

12 So I understand Capitol Hill, I
13 understand challenges and I understand that it's
14 important to have that working relationship, so I look
15 over at the group over there and I look forward to
16 meeting with all of you sometimes for tough decisions
17 that we have to collectively make.

18 And I, also, as a Major, had the
19 opportunity to go to DC, and I worked at the State
20 Department. I got to work for an ambassador and that
21 ambassador actually advised the Chief of Staff at the
22 Air Force and it was actually fantastic having that
23 opportunity and I got to focus on the Pacific at that
24 time. I had a boss, say, "You know what, you don't want
25 to focus on Central Command because everybody's over



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1 there and you're going to be a small fish in a big pond.
2 You need to focus on the Pacific," and that was some of
3 best advice I ever received and I learned a lot.

4 During that time, during that year, I
5 got to go to Thailand as a full state official writing
6 tables that are probably on WikiLeaks right now, but I
7 learned a lot. I worked with refugees. I worked with
8 port security, counter terrorism and things that a
9 normal Air Force pilot would work with, and so I worked
10 a lot of my counterparts in the Navy, Coast Guard and
11 security over there. It was very fascinating and opened
12 my eyes.

13 And then I get a job working with a
14 4-Star PCOM where I was pulled out, political advisor
15 and strategist as well, and so I spent a lot of time
16 understanding the joint world, which was very, very
17 important.

18 And last thing I'll say, I had the
19 opportunity to not only work for the Combat, General
20 Fraser, some of you might know him, and also General
21 Hostage as an exec for a year, but I also got to get my,
22 what they call, senior development education at a think
23 tank in Washington DC and learned alongside some of the
24 big thinkers, I guess I'll say, and people that are very
25 influential in the nuclear realm nuclear policy in



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1 Washington DC, and I did that two years ago and met a
2 lot people, like I said, Madelyn Creedon and others that
3 are on the troposphere and moving things forward and in
4 effecting Air Force Global Strike Command and where we
5 go as a nuclear force.

6 So I share that with you because I want
7 you to know a little bit about my background. I'm not
8 just a pilot. I come with a very diverse perspective
9 and open to a lot of different ideas.

10 So what I'm here today to share with you
11 is my vision at Barksdale Air Force Base is nuclear
12 deterrence, conventional fire power for combat
13 commanders and global strike operations anytime and
14 anywhere. And I think our national leadership would
15 need to respond with confidence in calls to Barksdale,
16 and if we need to go anywhere and drop bombs -- not like
17 FedEx. It's a little different. They're packaged a
18 little different, but we can drop our packages anywhere
19 with a surprise and reach our enemies, and we're very
20 big about deterrence and assurance and I'll talk about
21 that in just a second.

22 A lot of you are familiar with
23 Barksdale, but I'll give you just a recap. We have
24 22,000 acres. It's a very big base with a lot of
25 potential for growth and opportunity, but we're doing a



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1 lot right now. You already know we're the home of 8th
2 Air Force and also Air Force Global Strike Command and
3 many other units, such as weapons school, our tech
4 school, green drive (sic) and part of Air Combat
5 Command, so we host them at our base and we support them
6 in any way we can.

7 We have about 7,000 military members.
8 As you can see, family members, we have about 6,000,
9 with some civilians, about 1,700 contractors. And we
10 have over 25,000 reserve -- I'm sorry, not reserve,
11 retirees that are in the region that we support, and
12 that's important because they're a big part of our base.
13 They're a big part of our community, and we feel very
14 strongly about taking care of them. So that's a little
15 bit about the base, just as an overview.

16 But the things I just talked to Mike
17 Manor about are my bases. I have three priorities, and
18 I keep it really simple. It's people, it's the mission
19 and it's pride. And people I feel is the most important
20 because if we don't take care of our people, we can't
21 take care of the mission, and that's what you were
22 talking about here. If we don't take care of the troops
23 at Fort Polk, if we don't care about that, in the
24 future, as the General was alluding to, we're not going
25 to have a mission, we're not going to have that



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1 leadership that's going to be able to fully support it,
2 so taking care of our people is important. It's not
3 just the troops, it's their families. If I don't have a
4 troop that's happy, if their families aren't happy, if
5 the schools aren't good, if the childcare is not good
6 and we're not giving them the resources that they need,
7 then I am not going to be able to execute the mission,
8 and, unfortunately -- I'm just going to echo what's
9 already been said -- if you take away quality of life,
10 if you take away those things, you're hurting the
11 mission in the end. So what might look like a great
12 idea to slash those things, it's not the right thing.

13 And what you see up here is a picture of
14 a rorsarch on one of our aircraft, and I put that up
15 there because it symbolizes our close partnership with
16 our community. I heard about it before I came down here
17 to take command, but it's another thing when I got here
18 and I got to see it firsthand and experience it, it's
19 unbelievable the relationship that we have with the
20 community. It is a long-lasting relationship, and it's
21 something that is not just when we have these board
22 meetings, it's not just something that we do when it's
23 holidays, it's something that's done weekly, monthly,
24 quarterly, different events, like quarterly award
25 functions. The community has an outreach and they give



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1 our airmen amazing support and packages to go out to
2 dinner, monetary, or other incentives and that is
3 absolutely amazing and it just really affects our airmen
4 and their families and we're very thankful for the
5 partnerships that we have and we really will continue to
6 find ways to build and grow on that. And, like I said,
7 if we can't take care of our people, then we're not
8 going to take care of the mission, and our mission is
9 extremely important. I told our airmen that they are
10 relevant and they need to be ready.

11 Some people think the B52 is old. I
12 don't know why people say that. It has a lot of
13 heritage. It's very historic, but it's very, very
14 relevant, and I told my guys that if they don't feel
15 that they're relevant, then they can walk out that door
16 and they can find another place to work because I want
17 my troops to be ready when they get that call, to be
18 motivated to kick some butt and to go "there," which
19 means anywhere in the world, when we get called. And
20 I'll tell you what, I think some of them felt that they
21 were just old, flying their grandfather's airplane and
22 they'll never get the call. Well, I just kind of
23 motivating them a little bit. Okay?

24 So the mission is very important, and we
25 have been to all of these places just recently. Right



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1 now, we have, like I said, 397 troops in Guam for six
2 months and then when they return, the other squadron is
3 going to be going for six months. So Barksdale Air
4 Force Base will be supporting the constant bomb presence
5 in the Pacific this whole year, and that's going to have
6 an impact on our families, on them and our mission on
7 what can do at home, but it's important. I already told
8 you I believe in the Pacific and they need to be out
9 there and they need to be present. Otherwise, our
10 allies are not going to feel that we're going to live up
11 to our promise to support them. It's all going to be
12 rhetoric. They need to see us there. And then our
13 adversaries, they need to see that we're out there and
14 that we mean business, and we do that by flying flights
15 over South Korea. We send a message when we do that.
16 We mean business when we fly over the Shikoku Islands
17 and Japan -- not Japan. Japan sees us because we assure
18 them, but China sees us and they know we do business.
19 It's important that we get out there and do these
20 flights and we help our allies, and that's where why
21 we're out right now.

22 In June, we went to Fairford and we were
23 going to plan some operations a little bit more. That
24 might have been a little bit too close to Russia and
25 Ukraine, so we couldn't do that for political reasons,



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1 but we did support the seventh anniversary of the D-Day
2 events that went on with that. In the future here, in
3 October, we have a full fighter exercise, which is a big
4 exercise that is run by strategic command out of Offutt,
5 Nebraska, and during that time, we are going to have
6 B52s that are going to be flying over Europe and
7 Mediterranean to support some operations over there.

8 We just flew three weeks ago or two
9 weeks ago in Panamax in Southern Command, and that was
10 important, too. So what I'm trying to tell you is, we
11 are reaching out to every major commander and to
12 regional commanders saying, "Hey, we're ready. When you
13 need us, we'll come out and we'll exercise in your
14 area," and that's really important to know.

15 Then the last thing that I'll talk about
16 is pride. Pride, we have a global legacy. Barksdale
17 has been here since 1932, and that was mentioned
18 earlier. And although it wasn't always B52 flying out
19 that air field, we take great pride in our heritage and
20 where we came from and what that base means and the
21 mission that we continue to support. We had a 70-year
22 reenactment of a mission that was called "The Darkest
23 Day," if you will, and I won't get into it, but the 20th
24 and the 96th were part of the bombing group in
25 Czechoslovakia. And on that date, seven of the bombers



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1 were destroyed and we had a memorial service -- not
2 service, but reenactment of it where jets actually went
3 out and flew over the range. We had a pre-brief, and
4 then we had a debrief about it. It was pretty
5 remarkable. And that's the pride our airmen take in
6 their heritage. We have 9/11, of course, coming here
7 this week that we're going to have some events that we
8 are going to talk about to you about with community
9 partners, and we also -- there was something else --
10 celebrated the fifth year anniversary of Air Force
11 Global Strike Command standing up and that's important
12 because they're part of our new heritage now and we take
13 very seriously. So our airman are proud. I'll tell you
14 what, I haven't been more motivated than walking around
15 getting my emergence and meeting these airmen. And I
16 say that to you not just because they work on my base,
17 but because they're airmen out there loving what they're
18 doing, and it's our future and I'm excited about our
19 future because they're the ones that are going to be
20 leading when all of us move on. So it's very exciting
21 to see that innovation, that passion and the drive that
22 they have, and I feel like we're going to be in good
23 hands in the future.

24 So that's just a little bit about us,
25 where we are in our vision, and I'll open it to any



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1 questions if you have anything for me or any specifics
2 about Barksdale.

3 MR. SAWYER:

4 You know I have a question.

5 COLONEL GOODWIN:

6 Go ahead, please.

7 MR. SAWYER:

8 We, as a group, in the state government
9 we are working closely with Murray, Andy and Mayor
10 Walker and the community around Barksdale, but for the
11 sake of this forum, I'll ask, are there any
12 outside-of-the-fence issues that are going to affect
13 your traffic, education or encroachment, any issues
14 outside of the fence that affect the operational
15 readiness inside the fence?

16 COLONEL GOODWIN:

17 Yes, and I'll -- we were just talking
18 about it coming down here. I was very thoughtful coming
19 to the base on what commission or vision and priorities
20 are going to be and where we're going to go, and, now,
21 five weeks into it, what I've been doing is spending a
22 lot of time listening and observing and trying to get my
23 arms around meeting some of those issues. Two things
24 that I keep coming to is education and housing, and if I
25 want people to go, "Wow, I want to go to Barksdale Air



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1 Force Base and I'm excited about that," we're going to
2 bring the best and the brightest there and people are
3 going to move there and be excited about it, people get
4 on the website, as was mentioned, and I know this
5 because of the talking to many of the families and
6 knowing a lot of people that just transferred with me
7 down to Barksdale, they're concerned about the schools.
8 And sometimes in some instances some of the families
9 stayed where they were and the airmen moved down to
10 Barksdale. That's happened to a couple buddies of mine.
11 Others are starting home schooling for the first time.
12 They've never done it. And the other thing is they're
13 moving off base because they want to be able to choose
14 what schools they go to. So that is important and that
15 affects my mission and my ability for our airmen to
16 focus. If they're separated from their families or they
17 have to drive 10 hours to see their families every
18 single weekend, that impacts the mission, that impacts
19 their welfare and if they're going decide to stay in or
20 get out. And the other thing is housing right now is
21 the biggest challenge I have, and that's something that
22 I have to work internally, but if they're not happy with
23 the housing on base, what happens is you're not going to
24 live on base, and what I'm working with right now is our
25 numbers are so low that the base has been opened up -- I



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1 don't know if you knew that or not -- to civilians
2 living on base. And I don't see it as an issue right
3 now. We're going to maintain our security, but it's
4 part of the second or third-world affects that happens
5 when families are looking at schools and they feel they
6 need to have other options. So it does have an impact.

7 The other thing that I'd say is -- what
8 I've been briefed on, although I don't have a deep
9 understanding is the I10/220 interchange in that gate
10 right now. Because the gate that we have that's
11 supposed to be temporary is not temporary anymore. It's
12 now a standing gate. I have already directed my staff
13 to do something about that. We need to make it a more
14 permanent gate that's safe, safer and more professional
15 than what we have right now and it's not a mystery gate.
16 So until I find a resolution on that, I've directed my
17 troops to move out in making that a better gate.

18 Does that answer your questions?

19 MR. SAWYER:

20 Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

21 COLONEL GOODWIN:

22 Yes, sir.

23 MR. NUNGESSER:

24 Colonel, just as a followup to that,
25 just given your DC experience and other folks, how does



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1 the education and housing stack up compared to other
2 Army bases? I know you (inaudible) --

3 COLONEL GOODWIN:

4 I can talk to Whiteman very
5 specifically. Whiteman is considered sectional.
6 Whiteman has an elementary school on base and has a
7 great relationship with the outside community, and so
8 the families -- we can't kick people off base fast
9 enough. There's a waiting list, people are scrambling
10 to come in base and everybody loves to be on the base.
11 Now, mind you, let me tell you, this is, again, in Knob
12 Noster, Missouri, there is nothing around Knob Noster.
13 If you want to get a decent meal, you have to drive an
14 hour and 15 minutes. So I'm trying to tell you, people
15 want to move there, so I have to look at that and say,
16 "Why do they want to move there?" They want to move
17 there because the school on base is fantastic, the child
18 development center is fantastic, and I have an issue
19 with that as well, which I internally have to deal with.
20 And so when the kids are taken care of, the families are
21 taken care of, the wives and husbands are happy, then,
22 again, that helps out our mission.

23 Central, Missouri, the president there,
24 we have a fantastic relationship with him, and it is
25 like an extension of our base, and because of that, our



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1 young airmen that go to Central Missouri University and
2 those students interact because they where that same age
3 group doing fun, healthy, safe things instead of maybe
4 choosing things that will get them in trouble. So you
5 have a university there that also offers a lot of
6 education to young airmen at discount rates, but quality
7 education.

8 We also have high schools. We have
9 worked a lot with high schools right off base, and it's
10 fantastic. And so it wasn't always that way, but I'll
11 tell you that those things right there, when you come
12 from a model and you see how happy people are, getting a
13 good education and then you hear some of the struggles
14 that wreak havoc right now, I think we can get there.
15 It's just not -- I'm listening. I'm listening and
16 learning, and I'm very much about action, not just talk,
17 and so I want to move out with the community and find
18 solutions, not just talk about it. It would be easy for
19 me to stay two years and I'm not going to tackle that,
20 and that's now how I work. It's something that I'm open
21 to just hearing any solutions that anybody has.

22 Does that answer your question?

23 MR. NUNGESSER:

24 Yes, and I appreciate your frank
25 discussion and your desire to act on it. That's great.



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1 COLONEL GOODWIN:

2 Yes. And it's definitely something that
3 we need to work together, and it's got to be give and
4 take, I think, from different sides, so thank you.

5 What other questions? Yes, sir.

6 MR. GOODE:

7 Just real quick, you know, Section 331
8 of the Public/Private Partnership, you know, that's
9 really taking off as far as the process as well as
10 establishing a headquarters. That is something, you
11 know, you coming on the board new here that, you know,
12 you've seen Whiteman, you've seen these other
13 communities, you know, that may be an avenue to pursue,
14 you know, more aggressively in terms of if you want to
15 work better for shares services. You know, there's a
16 whole -- you know, I mean, I'm not talking about
17 replacing two libraries. That's where we could use your
18 help and assistance.

19 COLONEL GOODWIN:

20 Very much open to that. I'm very
21 familiar with that, and what I actually tell my troops,
22 too, "If you have an idea, bring it to me, and
23 anything's on the table." And I say that to the
24 community partners as well. If there's something that
25 we can work together and help the community, the base



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1 collectively, very open to any ideas. Again, what I
2 tell my troops is, "You can complain about stuff, but
3 you better have a solution with that complaint," but,
4 like I said, I'm about action, making things better, and
5 so they've been good for that. I see some of my young
6 18, 19, 20 year olds coming up already in just my short
7 time, coming up with very innovative solutions, and I
8 tell their bosses, "You better listen to them and let
9 them navigate it. Trust them, empower them. And, same
10 thing, if people have ideas for partnerships, I welcome
11 that very much so. So if you have any ideas, Chris,
12 please let me know. Thanks.

13 Anything else?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. LECERTE:

16 Thank you, ma'am.

17 COLONEL GOODWIN:

18 Thank you, sir.

19 MR. SAWYER:

20 So we really don't have individual
21 schedules to speak, but we'd like to invite any of our
22 parties. Colonel Elks, are you interested?

23 COLONEL MORRIS:

24 Yes, I'd like to speak.

25 MR. SAWYER:



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1 Okay. Great. Thank you. Please.

2 COLONEL MORRIS:

3 So I'm not Colonel Elks. I'm Colonel
4 Morris. That's fine. I have more hair than he does.
5 So are we adjourning at 12?

6 MR. SAWYER:

7 We'll try.

8 COLONEL MORRIS:

9 I'll talk fast if you listen fast.

10 I am a Flight Commander at the 307th
11 Wing Bomb Commander at Barksdale as a tenant unit, but
12 Kristen is my host, so a lot of the services that I need
13 to get from the base, she provides for me. Therefore,
14 my footprint is quite a bit smaller.

15 We have about 1,600 folks that work at
16 the bomb wing in the base, and so I want to tell you
17 about your reserve units. The reason I say that is
18 because out of 1,600 folks that work for us, we have
19 about 1,200 of those folks that live in the local area,
20 and have been living in the local area for some of them
21 upwards of around 30 years. So they are your citizen
22 airmen and work and breath, they own businesses in
23 Northwest Louisiana and Northeast Texas, but most of
24 them reside right at the region, teachers, lawyers,
25 doctors. We do have a couple of doctors that work for



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1 us that are flyers, so it's a wide demographic of folks
2 there.

3 And so I want to give you a real quick
4 snapshot of what our mission is. We provide like three
5 services for the Air Force and commanding -- so first we
6 provide pockets of expertise, security forces, medical
7 forces. They are ready at any moment's notice to go
8 support some kind of TOC operation around the world.
9 That's an easy one. I think that's easy to understand.

10 Secondly, we own the primary mission of
11 teaching all of the people how to fly B52s, so I'm
12 talking about reservist and active-duty folks. We do
13 that by providing about 25 percent of manpower out of
14 the reservist side, and Kristen provides the rest of the
15 manpower from the 2nd Bomb Wing side, from the 11th Bomb
16 Squadron. So we have a partnership there where the
17 reserve's mission is to get most of our manpower from
18 the second bomb wing. We call that an active
19 association. It's kind of unusual. It's relatively
20 new, and certainly an active realm in the reserves.
21 And, again, we kind of call that "Bomber town" because
22 everything that has to do with bomber training leads
23 back to ATU.

24 The third thing we supply is manpower
25 back to Kristen, so in that, what we call, there's



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1 nuclear, there's traditional and that expeditionary
2 mission that she performs under the Global Strike
3 Command, Navy Air Force 2nd Bomb Wing. We give her
4 about 35 to 40 airmen and about an additional 150
5 maintainers to support her mission to augment that
6 mission.

7 So when we saw the video up here that
8 she showed us, you couldn't see the reservist there.
9 You weren't able to pick them out. You weren't able to
10 pick them out, were you? Because that's how seamless it
11 is. We have a great relationship on the people side of
12 that mission, but more importantly, we have a great
13 relationship with the airmen. They understand their
14 place, they understand their mission, they understand,
15 again, they get their expeditionary part of what they're
16 called to do. And the integration with the reserve and
17 the active-duty component in Barksdale has been noted to
18 have one of the best relationships in the entire Air
19 Force, and that comes from General Wilson. Actually, it
20 comes from General Dempsey here for the Joint Chief of
21 Staff. I think that's part of the history here, that
22 that's been recognized as one of the best integration,
23 one of the best whole-force integrations in the entire
24 Air Force that rings the bell. So obviously we're doing
25 a lot on the reserve side.



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1 We do own 18 of our aircraft. We don't
2 borrow those for a second bombing. We have our own
3 aircraft. We also have two additional aircraft that
4 belong to other mission steps that are tenant students
5 that we provide their maintenance for them. There's the
6 four-year weapons school and the 49th Test and
7 Evaluation Squadron. So the 20 aircraft that we
8 provide, all of the square feet down at the reserve end
9 of the base.

10 If you'll allow me just a minute, I kind
11 of want to brag a little bit about our guys. Glenn,
12 these are our folks, this is the reserve -- we are the
13 participatory reserve unit in the Air Force Reserve
14 Command. Back there in OAF and OIF, people in aircraft
15 from that reserve wing were first to drop weapons in OAF
16 and OIF, first to taken to the enemy. First time we've
17 ever had nuclear-type certified folks with the bomb
18 squad that I mentioned earlier, the maintenance folks.
19 First time we've had any kind of nuclear component
20 certified folks headed towards the -- and as they were
21 coming up through the certifications and doing their
22 Operational Readiness session, the first one that they
23 did in partnership with the 2nd Bomb Wing. It was the
24 first time an outstanding had ever been awarded since
25 Global Strike has been around and is the first



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1 outstanding -- which, by the way, is the highest grade
2 ever. First outstanding to be awarded to any unit in
3 the last 13 years. So, again -- in the reserves 2nd
4 Bomb Wing, we're the first unit to put a jet on the
5 airfield in Berlin, first unit to put a jet on the
6 airfield in -- three years running, first unit to put a
7 jet on the ground in Slovakia. All of those are
8 important international engagement opportunities we have
9 taken advantage of over the years.

10 And then another plus that's about to
11 happen is the FY '15 is we are going to be the host unit
12 for the B1 unit. Still biased, but we will have two
13 bombers. We'll have the B52 and the B1, and people
14 begin to wonder, "Why is that sent to Louisiana?" Well,
15 it really solidifies the bomber's position in that
16 region, in that base, so it helps us to become better
17 positioned to keep our foothold there and also creates a
18 great position for bombing. We will be able to, how
19 should I say it, mimic the construction we did with the
20 F22 and the F35 programs. If you know anything about
21 those programs, the lead units for those programs were
22 the reserve units, so as the RSD comes on, we fully
23 expect we'll be one of the first units selected to have
24 the RSD and the crew for Louisiana.

25 So, again, I think that's a great thing



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1 given to 307. They could have given it to a brand new
2 units and hopefully the recognition it will bring for
3 Louisiana.

4 Let's see. What else did I have in my
5 notes here?

6 I think that's it. Again, thanks for
7 inviting us to the LMAC. I wanted to be able to share
8 with you guys what's going on with the reserve unit.

9 Any questions at this time?

10 MR. LECERTE:

11 Paul.

12 MR. SAWYER:

13 Not missing the big picture, which is
14 all a very important part of the question, the two
15 additional bombers, would that come with additional
16 support crews or is that just the asset? Is that just
17 the hardware?

18 COLONEL MORRIS:

19 As I mentioned about the F bomber?

20 MR. SAWYER:

21 Right.

22 COLONEL MORRIS:

23 Yes. Initially, by F15, that will be
24 just be an accruing classic association, so we'll have
25 folks, about 208 folks on the ground in Addis supporting



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1 classic association with the intent of about FY '17, '18
2 that there is the plan that probably will get us higher.
3 In the RSB, I don't think the Jury's out on that, but
4 every association that's been put into the F22 and F35
5 program in the reserves has been both players.
6 Obviously, just look at how those programs will be
7 rolled out. It would be more of what we call a classic
8 association by the 2nd Bomb Wing. And as more airplanes
9 come off the assembly lines, we'll probably -- you know,
10 that's just Trey Morris' opinion.

11 MR. SAWYER:

12 Thank you.

13 COLONEL MORRIS:

14 Any other questions?

15 (No response.)

16 COLONEL MORRIS:

17 Again, thank you.

18 MR. LECERTE:

19 Thank you, sir.

20 MR. SAWYER:

21 Commander Pritchard.

22 COMMANDER PRITCHARD:

23 Can everybody hear me?

24 All right. I'm cold, I'm hungry and I'm
25 tired. I spent three hours in traffic this morning. I



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1 drove all way from Jesuit to come up here, so thank you
2 very much for the invitation to speak.

3 I'm Commander Pritchard. I qualified as
4 "Sunshine." I can fill a room with sunshine quickly.
5 That's a little aviator inside joke. I like to yell at
6 my guys a lot. But Captain Gootie is the Commanding
7 Officer of the base. He sends his regards. He thanks
8 you for the opportunity to come up here and speak.
9 Unfortunately, he can't be here today. He's over in
10 Florida. But I would like to add that going from two
11 blades to four is more power, more efficient and more
12 importantly, it's more cool.

13 COLONEL DAVIS:

14 Way cooler.

15 COMMANDER PRITCHARD:

16 It is way cooler.

17 And Bill just stole a lot of my thunder.

18 Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

19 You hit the nail right on the head.

20 Same thing with Pail, the exact same comments. I think
21 we need to address, and that is when you look at NAS
22 JRB, just look at the title, Naval Air Station Joint
23 Reserve Base. There's only two of us. The Navy
24 Reserves for the last seven plus years reorganized and
25 frankly is drawing down. We've gone from over five



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1 Naval Air Reserve stations to two Naval Air Station
2 Joint Reserve Bases. There's us and there's Fort Worth,
3 and that's it. Five hundred squadrons to 100 squadrons,
4 seven helicopter squadrons to three. Something needs to
5 happen. And this is disbursed to the active duty. We
6 spent a lot of time cutting back. We are where we are
7 right now, and I know it's kind of a dummy statement,
8 but the fact is is that's where we're at. A base of
9 about 5,000 folks. We did lose a unit last year. We
10 lost VAW-77. Frankly, they were a victim to the Navy
11 doesn't want to do counter-drug operations in the
12 Caribbean anymore, so we lose the squadron. So we lost
13 the smaller battalion Marines, also. That was resourced
14 and housed back up north, but the fact is, we lost that
15 base. At the Joint Reserve Base, listening to comments
16 around the room, I think it's very safe to say that we
17 are affected by many other units, and there is no
18 singular voice for us. If the Air Force Reserve draws
19 down it's presence in one base, it affects us
20 effectively. If the Air National Guard itself were to
21 take away the F15, they move away from our air station.
22 The Army, they have 377 support commanders. 2-Star
23 command, it's the Army, it's going to be subject to Army
24 rules and regulations and Army policy.

25 We've got the Coast Guard Air Station,



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1 the busiest Guard station in the Continental United
2 States. We also have about 30 in command total, and
3 that basically is a whole mixed bag of folks down there.
4 I cannot emphasize that enough, for the Navy in
5 particular.

6 The Naval Air Station, they need MILCON
7 funds for the construction. We just finished a
8 \$17-million control tower. We just started a
9 \$20-million runway renovation. We've done a military
10 work -- we've probably built a couple hundred million
11 dollars worth of buildings on that base following BRAC,
12 following the realignment of the old Fokker F50.
13 There's a lot of investment by the Navy in that air
14 station.

15 Those of you that are on the line; okay,
16 you've heard a lot about strategic planning, folks
17 talking about they can't do this, big Army's going to do
18 that, how this is going to affect the State of
19 Louisiana. Let me tell you how the air base affects the
20 State of Louisiana, 5,000 plus workforce, millions of
21 dollars in public economy, the schools, 1,200 students,
22 900 housing units represented by 10 percent of the
23 Plaquemines Parish population just for the people who
24 live on the air station, but we've also been around for
25 little event called Hurricane Isaac and Katrina; okay,



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1 Deepwater Horizon. All events, all efforts supported
2 right out the air base in New Orleans, a critical,
3 critical frontline responder to disaster systems here in
4 the State of Louisiana. In addition, the strategic
5 location of Mouth of the Mississippi River, close
6 proximity to offshore training areas. Okay? At F15,
7 you take off you hang a right and three seconds, you're
8 out in the Gulf of Mexico. Very few air stations will
9 make that flight. And, in fact, deep, open water, not
10 just the Gulf of Mexico, makes us a very desirable
11 location for training. We host F22s, we host F18s. We
12 have our own F18 squadron. We host B38s, we host tons
13 of paratroopers. We host all kinds of folks, other
14 government agencies, FBI, other kinds of folks that fly
15 helicopters up and down Bourbon. We gets lots of phone
16 calls. They all like -- frankly, we put a new control
17 tower in, that's why we're redoing the runway. The
18 location simply cannot be. You won't find -- so sitting
19 in Plaquemines Parish is kind of an interesting
20 situation for us. Like I said, 10 percent of the
21 population, large, thousands and thousands of acres of
22 property sitting inside the federal levee system
23 downtown. As an old skydiving instructor, I get tickled
24 when he said, "What if my parachute doesn't work?"
25 "You'll come down like seven pounds in a three-pound



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1 sock." He said, "That provides a pretty good mental
2 picture, so I'll try not to let that happen."

3 We've got a lot going on down at the
4 base. We value our folks, we value the airmen, we value
5 the sailors, soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines. We're
6 all there, schools are there, the community service
7 there, organization. Callender Commitment, fantastic.
8 We want to see these relationships grow. That is our
9 goal here today, frankly, to provide the best services
10 we can, humanitarian support, disaster relief, real
11 world mission training.

12 One of these things -- I'll get you out
13 quick. Before we go, everybody uses the term "joint
14 land use study". Did I get that right, Bruce? I
15 brought a team to help me out with this.

16 A lot of talk with the parish. We have
17 a fantastic relationship with the parish starting way
18 back when I got there two years ago. I showed up the
19 day before we went to court for Hurricane Isaac, and the
20 skipper and I at the time, we went down to the
21 Plaquemines Parish DOT. We sat in there, and I said, "I
22 don't understand a thing that guy at the shrimp boat
23 just said." I think it was English, but I'm not too
24 sure. I was there with the Parish President, and he
25 looked and he said, "Don't worry. You'll get used to



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1 it. Different language down here," but the further
2 south you go, it starts to get a little bit difficult
3 down there. But that's the relationship we have. We
4 work with them, we walk hand-in-hand. When the parish
5 changes it's corps for that hurricane, we change, too.
6 If there's an evacuation ordered, we look at that, also.
7 We want to be good partners with the community. We want
8 to be good partners with the State. We love doing our
9 missions. Trust me, I'll stand here all day and talk
10 about flying, how great it is and whatnot, but what I
11 want to drive home to these folks here sitting in this
12 room is our relationship. We want to continue that. We
13 want to be an organization that supports and be able to
14 do so vibrantly and effectively.

15 We've got three, I guess, objects, we'll
16 call them, coming out of the Joint Land Use Study and
17 working with the parish -- they actually changed from
18 Parish Committee to Parish Council last week, so they're
19 deliberating and they're going to vote on it. First of
20 all, we want to establish zoning coordinates, which
21 basically allows us to do a military influence
22 development. If you've never been around air stations,
23 they're noisy, just happens. It's the sound of freedom.
24 Can't help it. The F15 is loud. Can't make them quiet.
25 Even the helicopters are kind of loud. We want to be



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1 able to just say, "Hey, look at this. It's a published
2 document that says this area around here is where we're
3 the noisiest." Pretty straightforward.

4 There's two resolutions that could
5 possibly happen. The second resolution would be a
6 Memorandum of Understanding. Really, what that's going
7 to do is just strengthen our community relationship.
8 Outreach programs are discussed. We're actively
9 involved in the Plaquemines Parish Association of
10 Business and Industry. We are going to continue to go
11 to that. We don't want to pass our seat if we want to
12 be good partners. Long-term strategic, local,
13 operational development is what we're looking at here.
14 If you do something short-term, you're really not being
15 good partners, then we could have a problem.

16 I kind of laughed after your comments
17 earlier when you said 200 years after the war of 1812,
18 but now we're wrapping it up. We still got to get on to
19 Phase 4 operations.

20 So the first resolution that we're
21 looking at here -- I just did the second one. The first
22 one is we have parish support in requesting the
23 Louisiana Real Estate Commission to effectively give
24 property disclosure to ask the seller if there's a
25 military installation located within approximately a



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1 mile of the property. And, also, basically having these
2 salesman saying that there's a military base here.
3 Those are critical things. If you live by the air
4 station, I can tell you, we did this last year, the
5 FA204 needed to go the boat. It's critical. You've got
6 to train to land on the back of the aircraft area. You
7 don't just go out there and say, "Hey, I'm here. I'm
8 going to land." It takes a long time to work that out.

9 We did some domestic training at the
10 base. We actually brought a system in from over in
11 Jacksonville, we set up the landing lights, we basically
12 light up the runways to look like an aircraft carrier,
13 and then we started sending jets up and down the runway
14 in a pattern to teach them to land. It's a lot, about
15 30 to 40, hopefully, maybe a little less -- folks say a
16 little bit more -- to learn to land properly. They come
17 off the runway, they make a left turn, they fly over a
18 local developments thousands of feet on up in the air,
19 on the throttles, making noise. We start getting phone
20 calls. I don't blame them at all. I lived next to the
21 airport in Jackson. I lived right next to the air
22 station I worked at in Jacksonville, and I'd call the
23 tower, "Hey, Curt, a dash 4 on that flight F18
24 (inaudible)." So I understand. The military, you live
25 behind a big wall and say, "Tough darts. I know that



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1 jet's loud, but deal with it." It's not the point.
2 It's not what we want to do. We want to be good
3 partners with the community effectively to do so.

4 Callender Commitment, your words today,
5 the actions of the community councils, everybody you're
6 involved with are really going to want to -- enjoy the
7 support. I thank you very much. Let's go to lunch.

8 Anybody, any questions?

9 (No response.)

10 COLONEL DAVIS:

11 I'm just going to add to what he said to
12 those, because they want a joint reserve base, they're
13 not masters of their own destiny. Unilateral decisions
14 by the individual services have pulled assets away, not
15 just from just the Navy, but the Navy, the Marine Corps
16 and other services, so they have no say in that, but
17 there's no -- and they can't really speak to it because
18 they can't be politicking or advocating in uniform to
19 keep the base open, but if you continue the depth of
20 thousands of cuts at Belle Chasse, you lose potentially
21 a strategic asset to the nation in terms of training
22 capabilities, but also for this state, you lose an asset
23 that provides a lot of emergency and homeland response
24 capability down on the lower end where it's really
25 necessary.



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1 That's a 10,000-foot runway. It can
2 handle anything in the inventory, anything. And if you
3 lose it -- you can't be using the New Orleans
4 International for anything when something bad happens.
5 That's the capability that -- President Nungesser knows
6 it. They use it for a lot of stuff, so that is a
7 concern that you need to keep that asset available down
8 the line.

9 In fact, earlier it was mentioned, you
10 know, the tanks and we talked about the new evacuation
11 plan. We're a player in that. We did a large-scale
12 exercise a few months ago in conjunction with the
13 Louisiana National Guard. We had a -- on the second
14 order the fact that the VAW-77 had left. We've got a
15 72,000-square-foot hanger that's been vacated for now,
16 so we were able to bring it in and use it as our staging
17 area for evacuation plans. In fact, we've got F15
18 modernization with the Air Guard going on there right
19 now. And we definitely want to remember that the Marine
20 Corps is about to get flown out to Beauregard.

21 COLONEL DAVIS:

22 But every bad thing that's happened
23 recently has been in Louisiana. Belle Chasse has been
24 key logistics lead for the response.

25 MR. MATHES:



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1 I relive that thought. Next Katrina,
2 next Isaac, next Deepwater, next major event, knowing
3 that NAS JRB is here in new Orleans.

4 MR. LECERTE:

5 Thank you, sir.

6 MR. SAWYER:

7 You know, Murray, maybe later on we can
8 link up and see if Barksdale has addressed any of these
9 ordinance issues around air draft noise.

10 Being mindful of time, but also mindful
11 of our guests, Colonel Godinho and Commander Rafferty
12 and possibly even Bobby, if you want to make any
13 remarks, I'd love to hear what you have to say, but I
14 don't want to put you on the spot. It's grateful that
15 you're here, but I do want to note, each of you has
16 received a disk and a book from Fort Polk. Bobby Parks,
17 Executive Officer of Garrison Fort Polk, provided those.
18 Thank you very much, Bobby. Appreciate it.

19 MR. PARKS:

20 Welcome.

21 MR. SAWYER:

22 And, so, Mr. Chairman, unless we have --

23 MR. LECERTE:

24 Do we have any other burning topics
25 anybody wants to share today?



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1 MR. WALKER:

2 I have one.

3 SECRETARY LECERTE:

4 Sure.

5 MR. WALKER:

6 Thirteen years ago at 8:46 a plane flew
7 into the North Tower of the Twin Towers. In 2008,
8 President Bush made a press release saying we should all
9 fly our flags at half-mast, and that I think that's
10 appropriate.

11 MR. LECERTE:

12 We work with the governor every year,
13 and he does proclaim the same. He does order a
14 half-mast declaration for those that lost their lives on
15 that day, and since, in the State of Louisiana, so thank
16 you, Mayor.

17 Yes, ma'am?

18 MS. RANDOLPH:

19 I just want to add a couple of thank
20 yous, also. I want to thank the members of our
21 congressional delegation and their staffers. It's
22 impossible to overstate how much support they're giving
23 us on our battles regarding Fort Polk and Barksdale and
24 to support our military throughout state, and as well as
25 our state-elected leaders. We're grateful to them as



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1 well. And I'm going to thank The Roosevelt Group. You
2 know, it's great that we generated so much community
3 support about Fort Polk, but they're official response
4 to the supplemental PEA is such an excellent piece of
5 work and we thank you for that, for being critical in
6 that process.

7 SECRETARY LECERTE:

8 Thank you.

9 Any final comments?

10 (No response.)

11 SECRETARY LECERTE:

12 Do we have a motion to adjourn?

13 GENERAL LANDRENEAU:

14 So moved.

15 SECRETARY LECERTE:

16 So moved by General Landreneau, seconded
17 by Mayor Walker.

18 Anybody opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 SECRETARY LECERTE:

21 We stand adjourned. Thank you.

22 (Meeting concludes at 12:15 p.m.)
23
24
25



1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE:

2

3 I, ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, Certified Court
4 Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the
5 officer before whom this meeting was taken, do hereby
6 certify that this meeting was reported by me in the
7 stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed
8 by me or under my personal direction and supervision,
9 and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my
10 ability and understanding;

11

12 That the transcript has been prepared in
13 compliance with transcript format required by statute or
14 by rules of the board, that I have acted in compliance
15 with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as
16 defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article
17 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions of the board;

18 That I am not related to counsel or to the
19 parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the
20 outcome of this matter.

21

22 Dated this 29th day of September, 2014.

23

24 _____
ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, CCR
25 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER



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