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LOUISIANA MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING,
TAKEN AT THE FORT POLK BASE, LEESVILLE, LOUISIANA
BEGINNING AT 10:02 A.M.

REPORTED BY:
RACHEL TORRES-REGIS, CCR, RPR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT :

2 WILLIE BANKS

3 RAYMOND CREWS

4 BOB ELDER

5 ROBERT GATTI

6 BRIAN JAKES

7 DON PIERSON

8 DEBORAH RANDOLPH

9 MIKE REESE

10 GARY SILBERT

11 RONNIE SLONE

12 MURRAY VISER

13 JOEL WHITEHEAD

14

15 NON-BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDANCE :

16 DAVID CARTER

17 CHRIS GOODE

18 KATHLEEN FERGUSON

19 BRUCE KELLER

20 ROY CARRUBA

21

22

23

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1 MR. PIERSON:

2 Ladies and Gentlemen, thank
3 you for joining us today. It's
4 10:12. Sorry to get started just
5 a few minutes past. We would
6 like to call this meeting of the
7 Louisiana Military Advisory
8 Council together to order, and we
9 would like to begin with a Pledge
10 of Allegiance to our flag.

11 If you please stand and face
12 the visual and repeat after me.

13 (Whereupon the Pledge of
14 Allegiance was stated by all
15 members.)

16 MR. PIERSON:

17 Thank you. Again, welcome to
18 -- everyone. Thank you for
19 traveling to Fort Polk. As you
20 know, one of the directives from
21 the Governor was that we try to
22 conduct a number of our meetings
23 on our facility, so we're very
24 pleased to be here and we are
25 appreciative of Specialist Jean



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1 Graves helping us this morning.
2 And also Chief Scott Stearns for
3 providing logistics support here
4 at the training center command
5 Sergeant Major Berry Missing
6 Training Complex on the Fort Polk
7 campus.

8 You have received
9 electronically the minutes from
10 our meeting, which was conducted
11 on April 26th. I don't know if
12 anybody had any changes or
13 notations that need to be entered
14 into the register, but I would
15 entertain any of those at this
16 time.

17 MR. REESE:

18 Move to approve the minutes.

19 MR. SILBERT:

20 Second.

21 MR. PIERSON:

22 Motion made by Michael Reese,
23 and seconded by Gary Silbert for
24 the motion is to adopt the
25 minutes as published.



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1 All in support please
2 significant by saying aye.

3 ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

4 Aye.

5 MR. PIERSON:

6 Thank you for that adoption.

7 Remarks and introductions here
8 today.

9 Again, we have a full agenda
10 with some excellent regional
11 presentations. We'll be calling
12 on the Southeast first here in a
13 few minutes with Gary Silbert
14 leading the Southeast Military
15 Alliance. And then to Murray
16 Viser's report on Barksdale. And
17 General Elders follow on
18 Barksdale support presentation to
19 be followed by the Roosevelt
20 Group presentation with Chris
21 Goode.

22 I don't know if there is any
23 agenda items that anyone would
24 like to add to the agenda at this
25 time. Please make that known to



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LMAC MEETING

1 me. Hearing none, we'll continue
2 shortly, and please note that
3 this is our official LMAC meeting
4 but it is to be followed by a
5 rather impressive array of
6 information that is going to be
7 presented by the leadership here
8 at Fort Polk, so a lot more to
9 learn about and experience today,
10 and you'll see that on page 2 of
11 the agenda that's been provided
12 for you.

13 There are one or two of us
14 that may have to depart shortly
15 after the working lunch, but,
16 again, there's a great day ahead
17 for all of those that can
18 participate, and I strongly
19 encourage you to do that.

20 Other remarks from the Chair
21 are really just that you'll
22 notice Sherri McConnell is no
23 longer with us. Sherri did a
24 great job of managing the
25 Louisiana Military Advisory



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1 Council for me at LED, and she'll
2 be missed. She is gone on to do
3 some other things and serve very,
4 very well, very amicable parting,
5 but understanding that there were
6 just some new frontiers that she
7 wanted to explore. So have not
8 yet found her replacement. I'm
9 still in that process of
10 evaluating, and so at some point
11 not in the distant future you
12 should be hearing some notice
13 from us regarding our new project
14 manager and executive officer to
15 help us with all of things
16 related to the Military Advisory
17 Council.

18 We'll be in the process at
19 the state level of the formation
20 of the next budget cycle. The
21 2019 does include the same level
22 of funding for our organizations,
23 which are very pleased to have
24 the support of the legislature in
25 that regard. As you know from



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1 our economic impact document, the
2 study that we had and released
3 demonstrating that 77,000 jobs in
4 Louisiana and \$7.7 billion of
5 economic impact are associated
6 with our Department of Defense
7 activities. It remains a very
8 important element of what is a
9 set fate we seek to manage, and
10 that's done primarily through
11 this organization in concert with
12 Louisiana Economic Development,
13 and, of course, the leadership
14 from the Governor's office.

15 So with that, I will yield to
16 Gary Silbert, and we'll take a
17 look at the activities in
18 southeast Louisiana as
19 represented through the Southeast
20 Louisiana Military Alliance.

21 Thank you for managing this
22 and providing this report today,
23 Gary.

24 MR. SILBERT:

25 Thank you, Don. And before I



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1 begin, good morning everyone. I
2 think we need to recognize our
3 Chairman. Big deal down in
4 southeast Louisiana. Don was
5 awarded just this past week with
6 the Eugene Shriver award for the
7 World Trade Center for his
8 leadership in international
9 trade. So, Don, congratulations.

10 MR. PIERSON:

11 Thank you.

12 MR. SILBERT:

13 I would like to also
14 recognize some representatives of
15 calendar of the commitment, Mr.
16 Carruba, Mr. Keller from the
17 Belle Chasse Community
18 Orientation who are here today,
19 along with Ronnie Slone and
20 others from our region.

21 If you can go on to the next
22 slide, please.

23 Before I jump into Belle
24 Chasse, I just wanted to make a
25 quick update on Ron Perez, the



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1 Marine Forces Reserve. I was
2 able to meet with Colonel Miller
3 recently. He is just a few
4 months on board as base commander
5 for the Marine Forces Reserve.
6 Things are going very well. The
7 facility is in excellent shape.
8 It's relatively new compared to
9 other installations around the
10 country. He has no headaches
11 that he was willing to share with
12 me, so things are going well.

13 He did mention, Don, that
14 they were able to -- they are
15 doing so well that they have
16 attracted a small enterprise data
17 center from Kansas City in order
18 to shore up activities and
19 provide the necessary support
20 there, so that was nice. I don't
21 know how many jobs that was,
22 maybe a dozen to 15, but I was
23 happy to hear that.

24 Additionally, I learned that
25 unlike the National Guard where



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1 many of the troops live and work
2 in the area and are from the
3 region, the Marines tend to
4 turnover about 100 a year, so
5 we're trying to get ahead of this
6 processing process so that, you
7 know, these folks with wonderful
8 skills and perhaps cybersecurity
9 and other things can be kind of
10 fed into the system. They may
11 very well want to return back to,
12 you know, Oklahoma or some other
13 part of the country, but we would
14 like to be able to acquaint them
15 with job availability in
16 southeast Louisiana to try to
17 keep them.

18 Additionally, before I jump
19 in, I just wanted to mention for
20 Spayward and support facility at
21 the lakefront that we have a new
22 commander. I have yet to meet
23 him, but I look forward to that
24 early in the first quarter of
25 next year.



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1 With respect to Belle Chasse,
2 we have a new commander on board,
3 Captain Tony Scarpino. He is a
4 really wonderful breath of fresh
5 air. He is very impressive, very
6 energetic gentleman, and so far
7 so good for us. We met recently
8 with him. There was, first of
9 all, a 911 memorial event on the
10 base, which was very nice. It was
11 my first opportunity to meet with
12 him, and then privately we met
13 with the Roosevelt Group to talk
14 about all things kind of more
15 separately about what's happening
16 at Belle Chasse.

17 It was a very informative
18 meeting. We were able to confirm
19 that the F-18 C/D aircraft has
20 been coming in slowly and it's
21 something that, you know, it's
22 been a work in progress for years
23 to get the new airframes there
24 would have been just a terrible
25 loss if the Navy removed that



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1 some 200 jobs and millions in
2 economic impact, so just quite a
3 relief there.

4 One thing Captain Scarpino
5 said is that when he arrived at
6 the base, unlike other
7 installations, to him what was
8 noticeably -- what really kind of
9 hit him between the eyes was how
10 quiet it is. It's not like other
11 bases with all of the aircraft
12 flying and all of the noise you
13 would typically hear, and it's a
14 little disconcerting to him
15 because the fact of the matter
16 is, for example, the air traffic
17 control is probably only about 20
18 to 25 percent utilized, so the
19 folks aren't getting the training
20 they need and you are not flying
21 the number of missions that I'm
22 sure the pilots would like to
23 have under their belt, so to that
24 end he was telling us in our
25 separate meeting with the



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1 Roosevelt Group is that one of
2 his objectives is to try to
3 attract more missions, joint
4 missions to the base so there
5 will be more activity to short
6 things up, and one thing that
7 Chris Goode jumped on and perhaps
8 might be of interest to my
9 colleagues, Mike and Murray, is
10 the idea for some joint exercises
11 to try to increase some of that
12 activity in short term.

13 Another thing Captain
14 Scarpino mentioned was good news,
15 was that Belle Chasse is one of
16 five installations that was given
17 an opportunity to respond to an
18 RFI for a new MQ-25 unmanned air
19 vehicle, so we're very excited
20 about that. We -- there are
21 things that we can do with
22 Roosevelt Group to try to shore
23 up support, perhaps Don with the
24 state as well, to really tell our
25 story whether it's -- Scarpino



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1 suggested the idea of a video
2 about the base. I think he has
3 had communications with the
4 Lieutenant Governor about
5 supporting such an activity in
6 order to just really add some
7 sizzle to our -- our application.
8 So that would be great to get
9 that mission and add the jobs to
10 Belle Chasse.

11 I also want to mention that
12 we got good news. The Navy has
13 given it's approval to proceed
14 with the joint use agreement of
15 the runway. That's a work in
16 progress. We have information
17 that, I believe, Plaquemines
18 Parish support. Plaquemines is
19 working on to fill in data, and
20 at the same time, I've been
21 working to work out a performance
22 agreement with someone to help us
23 with the land use plan to add
24 some more specificity to what
25 we're trying to accomplish.



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1 Next slide, please.

2 While the Roosevelt Group was
3 in town, we were able to visit
4 with the International Guard.
5 Very impressive. Actually toured
6 the Fighter Wing. Good news
7 there, they were, I think, one of
8 the few -- I think maybe the only
9 installation in the state that
10 received some construction money,
11 some \$39 million in fiscal year
12 '19 for an apron and alert
13 facility. Also in the FY19
14 budget, military construction
15 project for additional resources.
16 We visited the 159th Wing. As I
17 mentioned, it's got the highest
18 readiness mission capability, 80
19 percent rate among ANG F-15C
20 units. There is also about
21 another \$1 million in smaller
22 projects slated.

23 And just can't mention what a
24 critical asset that is to the
25 base of 159th. While there, we



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1 also, with the Roosevelt Group on
2 base, visited with Colonel
3 Swanson the Commander of the
4 377th Theater Sustainment
5 Command. It's the largest
6 headquarters unit in the Army.
7 100 full time positions. The
8 Commander is very happy with the
9 base, and just very, very pleased
10 and didn't have anything
11 significant to report just in
12 terms of any problems or issues.

13 Next slide. Just in terms of
14 next steps, as I mentioned, we
15 want to double down and do
16 whatever we can to try to put our
17 best foot forward with the MQ-25
18 mission for Belle Chasse. We
19 want to see what we can do about
20 getting the coordinates involved
21 with more possible Green Flag
22 exercises within the state and
23 continue to follow up with our
24 various commands in the region,
25 pursue construction projects.



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1 And I think that's pretty much
2 it. Comments or questions? Yes,
3 sir.

4 MR. JAKES:

5 Sir, you mentioned Colonel
6 Miller was the new Commander of
7 Mark Perez?

8 MR. SILBERT:

9 He is Base Commander. I
10 believe Whitman is the new next
11 general that was appointed.
12 Colonel Miller is Base Commander.

13 MR. JAKES:

14 Base Commander. Okay. And
15 you mentioned that 377 is a -- is
16 that an 06 slot. I thought that
17 was a two star, 377 Theater
18 Support Command.

19 MR. SILBERT:

20 That I'm not certain. Chris,
21 do you know?

22 MR. GOODE:

23 It's a two star. We met with
24 the -- I think he is a deputy.

25 MR. JAKES:



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LMAC MEETING

1 Okay. All right. Thank you.

2 MR. PIERSON:

3 Gary, we would be very
4 interested in continuing
5 discussions around that last
6 point on slide No. 4 relative to
7 the capture of departing soldiers
8 that may be willing to join the
9 local workforce. There is a lot
10 of skill sets that are highly
11 sought after by a number of our
12 major employers, so, you know, to
13 the degree that we can not impact
14 readiness by trying to take
15 career soldiers away, but those
16 that are signed up to tailor out
17 of the military, we'd be very
18 interested in -- we can do that
19 with FastStart and a couple of
20 other vehicles, so we'll go
21 offline and chat some more about
22 that, but --

23 MR. SILBERT:

24 Those marines depart through
25 Belle Chasse through the Navy



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1 there, so we have been in touch
2 with them and we can talk offline
3 about that.

4 MR. PIERSON:

5 Yeah. DXE and other companies
6 like that would highly value
7 their security clearances.

8 MR. SILBERT:

9 Anything to add from the
10 calendar? Bruce.

11 MR. KELLER:

12 For the Green Flag exercises,
13 it would be nice to have a point
14 of contact. I don't know --

15 MR. REESE:

16 We'll facilitate that.

17 MR. KELLER:

18 Good. That would be great.
19 That was we can pass that along
20 to our operations officer.

21 MR. REESE:

22 We'll get it done before you
23 leave here today.

24 MR. KELLER:

25 Thank you, sir.



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1 MR. ELDER:

2 A part of that, you are aware
3 that actually perhaps leaving
4 Barksdale, which is Green Flag
5 exercises are high intensity use
6 of the Fighter Aircraft with the
7 ground forces, but it goes on
8 every day which would use the
9 highway for Belle Chasse because
10 not just when doing the
11 exercises, but folks for the Fort
12 Polk needs training and training
13 all of the time, they would
14 welcome it, and it's possible to
15 look even broader than that and
16 we'll get you the Green Flag out,
17 which is up in Barksdale, and get
18 you their point of contact for
19 the exercise itself and the
20 day-to-day itself they have a
21 coordinator here that would be
22 all over it.

23 MR. SILBERT:

24 That would be great. Thank
25 you. Thank you, everyone.



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LMAC MEETING

1 MR. PIERSON:
2 All right. Thank you, Gary.
3 Next up, Murray Viser
4 reporting from Barksdale Forward.

5 MR. VISER:
6 Good morning. Great to be
7 back. I have a friend that I
8 have known for years and I saw
9 him a couple of weeks ago. He
10 was stationed here during the
11 Vietnam era and wanted to know
12 how things were in Leesville and
13 Fort Polk so I can report back to
14 him that things are great.
15 Walking right along.

16 First slide. Thank you.
17 So we discussed this at the
18 last meeting and going to give
19 you a quick update on the
20 Interstate 220 extension into
21 Barksdale. As you may recall,
22 it's important for the security
23 of the folks that live on the
24 east side of the base as well as
25 it solves -- this ingress solves



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1 some security forces issues at
2 Barksdale, and so it's -- it's a
3 big deal, a huge deal for us, and
4 the state was kind enough to pass
5 in the legislature sale of some
6 \$90 million in GARVEE bonds.
7 With that commitment, we were
8 able to go back to the Air Force
9 and say, okay, the state has
10 bitten off a big chunk of this
11 rabbit, now it's y'all's turn, and
12 they stepped up to the plate and
13 pulled forward the -- pulled
14 forward the gate, actual gate
15 that this road is going to
16 connect with, which is about a
17 \$15 million project, so there's a
18 lot of goodness into this
19 extension into Barksdale and the
20 new gate, and looking for the
21 contract to be awarded next year
22 in '19, and then the design build
23 part of it will take place 2020
24 to 2022. Look at it -- looking
25 at, again, a design build and



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1 that's going to facilitate the
2 progress of that.

3 They are estimating that the
4 completion of 220 extension is
5 going to be no later -- it says
6 -- on the next side it says 2021,
7 but I suspect it will run into
8 2022. So that goes nicely with
9 another project that we have
10 going on right now, which is a
11 new weapons generation facility,
12 and I might add, as it says
13 there, through the commitment
14 that the state made, the priority
15 of the gate was pulled forward in
16 the Air Force bases, so a lot of
17 good help from the Roosevelt
18 Group and the state for help us
19 get that project on track.

20 Next slide. Okay. Licensing
21 certification still remains a big
22 deal for the military. In fact,
23 the service secretaries have all
24 come out and said that in any
25 future base closure or



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LMAC MEETING

1 realignment activity, two things
2 that are going to be looked at
3 locally, spousal licensing within
4 the states as well as education,
5 and under secretary of the Air
6 Force, I believe it was, came out
7 just recently and said the bases
8 that are -- that are in the
9 communities are not a birthright
10 and it's going to be up to the
11 communities to work real hard to
12 help the -- to help keep their
13 bases there, so license
14 portability is huge. We were
15 able through Senator Peacock's
16 hard work in support of our
17 deligation up in northwest,
18 Louisiana and elsewhere, we were
19 able to have two licensing issues
20 compact ask for recognition of
21 nursing licenses coming in from
22 out of state and also physical
23 therapists, but there is plenty,
24 plenty more low hanging crude out
25 there, so we're going to be



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1 coming back to the well, I guess
2 if you want to put it that way,
3 for help in trying to get some of
4 those -- some of those licenses
5 taken care of, so that it is
6 truly transparent when the people
7 come in.

8 And, again, if we want to
9 encourage folks to come and live
10 in Louisiana after their military
11 tour is finished, I think this is
12 -- that's certainly a long way to
13 showing that Louisiana cares and
14 is going to be user friendly to
15 these folks.

16 Yesterday we -- Ms. Ferguson
17 and Mr. Goode and I met with
18 leadership to discuss this
19 weapons generation storage
20 facility, weapons storage
21 facility, weapons generation
22 facility. We met with wing
23 leadership and also leadership
24 from Airforce Global Strike
25 Command to talk about this



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1 project.

2 It is a huge project both as
3 far as cost goes and it will mean
4 about 600 or so personnel that
5 are going to come in once this
6 project is finished. It will be
7 used for maintenance and storage
8 of air-launched cruise missiles
9 and so that's why it changed from
10 a weapons storage facility to a
11 weapons generation facility. It
12 will be a facility where the
13 weapons are actually put together
14 there in Barksdale.

15 Two additional military
16 construction projects that are
17 associated with this, new 200
18 person security forces dormitory
19 and a 35 lane indoor firing
20 range. If you are like me, you
21 say, well, why do they need an
22 indoor firing range? Well, these
23 ranges facilities will fire -- be
24 able to fire everything up to 50
25 caliber machine guns, and is --



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1 you are familiar with Barksdale
2 and situated in the middle of the
3 community and they probably are
4 not going to be real happy about
5 somebody lighting off a 50 cal at
6 2 a.m. in the morning or whatever
7 time they have to do that.

8 Future projects coming in
9 Barksdale. An expansion of the
10 West Gate, which was the main
11 gate into Barksdale. It's going
12 to provide larger visitor center
13 parking area because the facility
14 that is there was built back in
15 the '30s and parking area was
16 back in -- it since expanded but
17 still needs to be larger. That's
18 going to facilitate the ingress
19 traffic as well as solve some
20 security forces issues there.
21 There's a lot of discussion right
22 now, and as Roosevelt Group
23 people, and I found out
24 yesterday, it's very difficult to
25 get into the West Gate when there



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1 is a two mile train full of
2 container cars coming across that
3 railroad track. I'm going to be
4 terrible and say it's about 200
5 yards off of where the gate is,
6 so it will probably be some other
7 things to look at there, I hope,
8 in the future.

9 Modernization and Budget.

10 This is a big thing for the B-52.
11 As you may be aware, the B-52 is
12 extended to continue flying out
13 to 2050. The last airplanes that
14 came off the line at Barksdale
15 were built in '61 and '62. And
16 I'm not going to try and do math
17 in public, but that looks to me
18 to be about a 90 year old
19 airplane.

20 The structural integrity of
21 the airplane is good but they
22 need new engines, they need a new
23 radar. They need new avionics.
24 This is -- can be dicey in an
25 unsecure or unknown budget



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1 environment, which looks like
2 we're getting ready to go through
3 right now.

4 Bomber Vector is saying the
5 Air Force needs to maintain the
6 B-52 at 76 and at least 100
7 B-s21, the new bomber that's
8 being built.

9 The nuclear force needs to be
10 modernized. The weapons that we
11 have now are old. We're entering
12 into another big tower
13 competition era. Hopefully we're
14 not going to go back through the
15 cold war because I lived through
16 that but I don't want my
17 grandchildren to live through
18 that. The nuclear systems are
19 old and need to be rebuilt. The
20 new ICBM, new air-launched cruise
21 missiles and upgrade of the
22 warheads that fit all of those
23 things.

24 So those are some of the
25 things that are happening at



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1 Barksdale and around
2 Shreveport/Bossier community and
3 Air Force, and I'm sure you will
4 hear more from Chris and his team
5 on our conversation yesterday.
6 And that concludes my report,
7 sir.

8 MR. PIERSON:

9 Thank you for that report,
10 Murray.

11 I think we've got some follow
12 on reporting from General Elder.

13 MR. ELDER:

14 We have a hand out. A power
15 point slide, and a part of the
16 reason I do that that way I
17 wanted something to easily take
18 with you that talks a little bit
19 about what is going on in the
20 Barksdale Air Force Base because
21 it's very busy, quite frankly.
22 Hugely active installation and a
23 lot of things that they are doing
24 are not familiar to people, and
25 thought at least the people of



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1 the Louisiana Military Affairs
2 should be aware of some of these
3 things, so to start out with
4 there is some operational roles
5 listed there, and one of the
6 things that the bombers are being
7 used for and spend a lot of time
8 on the road is supporting things
9 in Europe, supporting things in
10 the Pacific, and they do two
11 types of things; one is they are
12 supporting some of the counter
13 ISIS fighting and some of the
14 stuff that you see in Syria in
15 the Pacific. They are doing a
16 lot that is considered like a
17 stability operation, they call it
18 bomber task force operation, but
19 basically what it's designed to
20 do is to show some of our
21 international activity there,
22 specifically China and North
23 Korea and have to get there
24 quickly and have quite a little
25 of power, so that's one of the



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1 reasons why bomber vector started
2 to realize they need more
3 airplanes. There is not enough
4 airplanes that they are -- they
5 are being asked to do including
6 when you bring in the B-1s and
7 the B-2s.

8 When you take a look at the
9 different organizations there, it
10 could be worth while to break
11 down what they do that's
12 different from one another.

13 First one is Air Force Global
14 Strike Command, consists of four
15 star command. The fact that we
16 have a four star there and as a
17 major advantage is a big deal
18 because they do organized
19 training. They set requirements.
20 It should be a way to attract
21 actually quite a bit of
22 businesses. This is defense
23 industry into the area in large
24 part because they would like to
25 be able to interact with the



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1 staff there in terms of what they
2 are thinking so when they bid
3 they can put in a good bid. The
4 other part they would like to be
5 able to influence the way they
6 are thinking on these.

7 Up until now, it's been
8 limited what we have been able to
9 attract, so a lot of the things
10 that you will hear me talk about
11 is not how we support the base,
12 but actually how we support the
13 base by attracting the industry
14 and have easy access to talk to
15 those people.

16 And the other piece of this
17 is that their main mission is
18 really the global strike, which
19 we think is the conventional bomb
20 or nuclear bomb or nuclear
21 missiles, and then the other
22 piece of this thing it has a big
23 command and control piece. They
24 are the executive agent for the
25 Air Force for all of the -- refer



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1 to it as NC-3, which most people
2 interpret as nuclear but it's
3 really a national command,
4 control and communication. So
5 senior leader communications with
6 the President, communications of
7 the warning from space, folks
8 there are trying to pull all of
9 these things together, which is
10 not an easy task because the Air
11 Force has it spread out over
12 multiple organizations. Their
13 challenge is to try to figure out
14 how to do that and that's what
15 those people are doing and
16 there's growth in that area as
17 well.

18 The Eighth Air Force rule has
19 changed over time. What the
20 previous Air Force Global strike
21 command commander did was he
22 wanted to be designated as the
23 component. Before that, the
24 Eighth Air Force actually was the
25 air component, if you will, Air



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1 Force component to distract the
2 new -- distract the command that
3 was trying to re-align not just
4 the Air Force but the Navy and
5 the Army there to where the most
6 senior officer involved in this
7 would be aligned, so they did
8 that.

9 To make this work, they had
10 basically be -- the Air Force
11 command still doing the biggest
12 part of the STRATCOM, so they
13 stood up an organization called
14 the Joint Global Strike Operation
15 Center which brings together
16 their air operations center, the
17 planning that they do with
18 STRATCOM. Also missile
19 application center, which does
20 cruise missile planning, and also
21 works with the Navy by way of
22 their cruise missile planning,
23 and then there is an operation
24 there that monitors all of the
25 Air Force nuclear weapon, so



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1 people there that moves from one
2 place on the base to another
3 place where they are doing
4 maintenance on it, they keep
5 track of all of that. So that
6 has become a big piece of what
7 they are doing there.

8 Of course you have the two
9 Bombers; one is active and one is
10 reserve. The active one is
11 primarily actually the one that
12 is doing the deploying to the
13 various different places. All of
14 those augment by reserve wing --
15 the reserve wing is responsible
16 not of the B-2 training, it's
17 also responsible for the B-1
18 training, so they have a
19 detachment of that wing that if
20 it dies and B-1 training. That's
21 something most people weren't
22 aware of.

23 The other thing that the
24 second bomb wing, this is
25 actually fairly recent, is part



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1 of the new national defense
2 strategy, they are trying to
3 become more agile in terms of how
4 our capability or not to respond.
5 In fact, they don't really want
6 to use the word "respond." They
7 want to be more proactive in
8 terms of their challenges and
9 testing activities around the
10 globe that are not favorable to
11 the U.S., and the second bombing
12 is one of these league units that
13 is experimenting with some of the
14 ways that they would change how
15 they manage their readiness, and
16 I think that's going to bring
17 some opportunities, also some
18 challenges for these guys, but
19 certainly some opportunities, and
20 I think over the next couple of
21 years, if the Secretary stays
22 around, and you will hear a lot
23 more about some of their efforts
24 to try to do that.

25 The -- I have a 608 Air



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1 Operations Center as part of the
2 global strike operations center.
3 It has become very busy because
4 any time they plan bomber
5 operations anywhere in the world
6 even if it's forward deploy, they
7 have do the planning here. It's
8 executed by the forward air
9 operations center and plan back
10 in Barksdale, which is something,
11 again, I don't think most people
12 realize, like, when they were
13 doing strikes in Syria and things
14 like that, all of that stuff was
15 planned back at Barksdale. You
16 don't hear a big deal about this.

17 And I actually called this
18 thing, I meant -- I thought I
19 fixed all of the references, but
20 it's no longer called bomber
21 assurance and deterrence
22 operations. They now refer to it
23 as bomber task force operations,
24 and that's because it's going to
25 do more than just assurance and



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1 deterrence, they are using this
2 as part of global integrated ops
3 strategy that they refer to.

4 And then I mentioned Standoff
5 Munitions Application Center.
6 They are linked in to be able to
7 basically set up for cruise
8 missiles strikes, but not just
9 cruise missiles but these long
10 range standoff missiles, all of
11 those have to be programmed at
12 Barksdale.

13 So I put down some themes we
14 have been trying to tell the
15 community in terms of what -- of
16 what happens at the base and
17 things they should be proud of,
18 so I won't read those to you, but
19 some of things that we have been
20 doing in terms of to support the
21 base besides obvious things that
22 Murray and Roosevelt Group are
23 doing in terms of legislative.
24 What we have been trying to do is
25 set up the enabler, so we stood



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1 up an NDIA chapter. It's a
2 reasonable chapter, by the way,
3 that includes Fort Polk, and they
4 Fort Polk members there that are
5 active, and we basically want to
6 expand that. It's very active
7 military affairs council which
8 primarily focus on trying to help
9 the people that are at the base
10 that's kind of their primary
11 focus. Trying to rebuild the Air
12 Force association, which had been
13 very active over time. There is
14 an opportunity for that.

15 Big thing with the NDIA
16 chapter. We are trying to use
17 that. That's our way to try to
18 invite industry to the area,
19 quite frankly.

20 And then there's two other
21 organizations again, but the
22 Armed Forces Communication and
23 Electronics Association. They
24 always refer themselves as AFCEA
25 as part of their rebranding.



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1 They are very active and useful
2 in terms of exposing some of the
3 capabilities in the area to
4 outside industry. We are working
5 to -- where we had the
6 cybermission, and very busy with
7 that, but all of the things that
8 are going with the NC-3 we are
9 trying to tie that thing.

10 And the Air Force Sergeant's
11 Association really does a great
12 job in terms of helping us
13 understand what the enlisting
14 issues are. One that recently
15 came to light which may be a
16 problem with some of the other
17 bases by the way where they have
18 the base housing, one of the
19 things that is kind of
20 interesting is that, like, you
21 have a spouse couple, you know,
22 they are both in the military,
23 the way that they manage that
24 money and how they take their
25 money is interesting. It was



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1 actually quite a bit different
2 than what I thought, and so even
3 though they may want to stay on
4 base, there is a problem with
5 that.

6 Second thing is that
7 Barksdale in particular has now
8 become a 24 hour operation
9 because of all of the things
10 going on much more than it was
11 before. Daycare is not set up to
12 be a 24 hour operation, and
13 that's turning out to be a
14 problem particularly for a
15 situation where you have both
16 members are in the military, so a
17 couple of things that -- examples
18 where the Air Force Sergeant's
19 Association was able to expose
20 some things to us, but a lot of
21 good things happening in
22 Barksdale, and hopefully the
23 handout shows what are they doing
24 in Barksdale. You have got a
25 quick readout to go to, so



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1 thanks. That's it for me unless
2 anybody has any questions.

3 MR. PIERSON:

4 Any questions for General
5 Elder? If not, we'll move to our
6 next report, Chris Goode with the
7 Roosevelt Group.

8 MR. GOODE:

9 All right. I think this is
10 the last one, so I will move
11 quick.

12 Next slide.

13 I do want to just give a
14 couple of highlights on the
15 midterm elections, I'm not going
16 to long, but just some
17 perspectives from national
18 internal affairs that I think are
19 interesting.

20 A couple of provisions from
21 the FY19 National Defense
22 Authorization Act, and there is
23 some goodness in there that I
24 want to be sure that the whole
25 group is aware of, and then sort



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1 of a first look at our potential
2 FY20 Legislative Priorities that
3 we have been working on.

4 Next slide.

5 Just real quick, you know, we
6 all know what happened in the
7 House of Representatives that has
8 been widely characterized as a
9 purple wave, not a blue wave for
10 good reason. You look at the
11 number of changes in the House,
12 not a big wave compared to over
13 the last 20 years going back to
14 the Clinton administration, so
15 impact on defense spending
16 probably marginal. I mean, the
17 administration itself is a
18 mandate to cut about two percent,
19 about \$33 billion. You know,
20 we'll see how that really shakes
21 out when you have a republican
22 senate, democratic house.
23 Especially when you combine these
24 appropriation bills with a big
25 defense bill with a Labor-HHS



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1 bill tends to be more money, not
2 less, but, you know, we'll see.
3 And as well on BRAC. It
4 certainly is not inevitable that
5 you are going to see a BRAC
6 background. Senator Inhofe took
7 over from Senator McCain. Inhofe
8 can't stand BRAC. There is a lot
9 of people in the senate, even
10 Peacock, that has not -- that has
11 been really turned off.

12 It could, however, be a last
13 minute negotiating tool. That's
14 always kind of the black swan,
15 you are trying to get the
16 National Defense Authorization
17 Act off the floor and have sticky
18 issues and you throw BRAC in
19 there to get it done, so, you
20 know, that's still a possibility.

21 Next slide.

22 Something we'll watch. So,
23 you know, this is a pretty
24 interesting slide. You know,
25 when national journal, they are



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1 pretty good. We pay for this
2 content and try to read it all,
3 but, you know, that second column
4 there, this does bring up some
5 big issues. You wonder about
6 things like space force, and, you
7 know, with a democratic house and
8 GOP senate what's the likelihood
9 they are going to authorize \$8
10 billion to really fulfill that
11 Trump request. You know,
12 obviously the question is how
13 does defense spending do compared
14 to non-defense spending. I think
15 they got it about right. You
16 know, quick passage in the NDAA
17 maybe not as quick as before.
18 Obviously confirm with the
19 defense department officials
20 doesn't really matter in this
21 case, and oversight defense
22 contracts.

23 But, anyway, next slide.
24 It's kind of interesting.

25 So now we're in a situation



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1 looking forward in terms of
2 committee chairs. The top three
3 in the right side, cover the
4 authorization, the appropriation
5 side, and the left three on the
6 bottom slide; Adam Smith, Nita
7 Lowery and Peter Visclosky, a big
8 three house democrats when it
9 comes to defense spending.

10 Next slide.

11 Louisiana, I know big nerves
12 were fraying and nailbiting, but,
13 you know, you kind of see the
14 popularity of the incumbent in
15 Louisiana. I mean, you know, very
16 high coming out of a couple of
17 Tuesdays ago.

18 Next slide.

19 So back to the FY19
20 appropriation. This was the
21 authorization bill that was just
22 signed in December. Couple of
23 programs and not necessarily
24 programs, but in addition to
25 that, I just want to touch on



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LMAC MEETING

1 real quick.

2 Next one.

3 You know, there's been a
4 certain amount of buzz over this
5 Defense Community Infrastructure
6 Program. We were in Leesville
7 just a few weeks ago talking to
8 LEDOT about the potential -- I am
9 sorry.

10 Yeah. Next slide. Next
11 slide. Yeah. There it is.

12 So this -- this is an
13 interesting provision that is now
14 INLA. It is unfunded, but it does
15 for the first time in a long time
16 allow for a community to get an
17 OEA grant funded up to 70 percent
18 by DOT, potentially one hundred
19 percent if you are within this
20 rural designation, for these
21 types of infrastructure programs,
22 and it is a wide range apertures
23 wide open, and if it does get
24 funding, our objective has been,
25 hey, let's have a project from



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1 Barksdale, from Fort Polk, from
2 Belle Chasse. If there is no
3 project, fine, there is no
4 project, but at least let's be
5 ready should this get funded in
6 FY20.

7 I think we made great strides
8 in Leesville with the potential
9 overpass project. We'll continue
10 to work with the Belle Chasse
11 folks and Barksdale.

12 MS. MITCHELL:

13 Chris, I wanted to say, the
14 Navy understands about this
15 program, and they have told all
16 of the local commanders to stand,
17 you know, stand down for the
18 moment until there is official
19 guidance.

20 MR. GOODE:

21 Yes. So that guidance should
22 be coming out shortly. We spoke
23 to Lucien C. Meyer who just up
24 until recently was in the post
25 handling this, and guidance is



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1 supposed to be -- it should be
2 ready this calendar year, so
3 we'll see, and I think that
4 guidance will give some clarity
5 to the DOT installations in terms
6 of how they interact with the
7 community. At the end of the day
8 we're probably going to have to
9 say yeah or nay, you know, we
10 agree with it or not. But it's
11 really -- this is outside of the
12 fence line stuff, so we'll see
13 how that plays out.

14 But, again, we are going to
15 watch this closely. The
16 association defense community,
17 this is kind of their baby, and
18 they are really pushing hard to
19 get some real money behind it.
20 If it happens, it happens.

21 Next slide.

22 The second one came out of
23 the bill. This actually came out
24 of an appropriations bill, the
25 DOT VA bill, and, again, it



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1 caught our eye because it is
2 essentially mandating that DoD
3 provide a priority list in FY20
4 for access points, parking
5 facilities and road construction.
6 Again, this catches our eye
7 because over the last five years
8 we've made a lot of money pushing
9 to get things on the priority
10 list that over, really, the last
11 three years the appropriators
12 have said, fine, we'll fund it,
13 which is great, so when now the
14 appropriators say, hey, DOD, we
15 want to know if there are parking
16 access points and road issues,
17 put it on the list.

18 Now, whether or not that
19 guidance has come down in the
20 Navy, I will be shocked if it
21 hasn't, I bet it hasn't, because
22 we're touching a lot of bases on
23 this, but, again, we're watching
24 this closely. We intend to talk
25 to the appropriators well before



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1 the request comes over in
2 February to determine, okay, how
3 is this really going to be racked
4 and stacked, and what, you know,
5 what are the prime rules on this.

6 So all I'm saying for now if
7 you have projects that fit this
8 criteria, we need to stay in
9 touch. Okay.

10 So BRAC -- you know, BRAC,
11 you know, we talk about --
12 actually don't talk about all of
13 this all of the time because it's
14 only been requested six years in
15 a row. You know, we'll see. Our
16 opinion today is if you are not
17 going to see a request in this
18 FY20 bill. It will be surprising
19 if they do so, but, again, we are
20 going to watch it and be ready
21 for it.

22 Next slide.

23 Murray talked about licensing
24 and education. He is right. You
25 know, this letter has been out



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1 there now since February. The
2 key point here is, you know, you
3 are not going to change your
4 school system overnight, right.
5 The licensing is probably
6 something that you can work on,
7 but the point is in writing these
8 three secretaries are basically
9 saying when it comes to future
10 stationing, be aware, we are
11 going to look at things like
12 licensing and schools. It's --
13 it's, you know, the new normal.

14 Next slide.

15 And then finally out of the
16 bill as -- out of the National
17 Defense Authorization Act, the
18 third bullet, installation energy
19 plans are now considered by DOD a
20 requirement for all installations
21 to have. Do they have them? No.
22 Are they working? Is the
23 situation awareness increasing
24 among installations across the
25 country, definitely. You know,



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1 my prediction is the
2 installations that have good
3 solid IEPs are going to be more
4 inclined to get money, like,
5 ERCIP and Milcon, ESPC/UESC,
6 Utility Privatization. If you
7 have a good plan, you are
8 probably going to be a better
9 candidate to receive DOD focus
10 energy resilience and money.
11 ERCIP is a great program. It's an
12 ECIP, the Energy Conservation
13 Investment Plan and Energy
14 Resilience Conservation
15 Investment Program. That's gone
16 from \$150 million up to \$200
17 million a year. That's real
18 money. So -- and resiliency,
19 again, that is part of DoD's
20 strategy and I am sure these
21 basis are awake in the event of,
22 you know, emergencies.

23 Next slide.

24 Okay. Let me just spend five
25 minutes on a couple of items of



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1 interest that we're following.
2 You know, some of these are
3 purely building blocks, some are
4 more strategic, you know,
5 strategy, and then some are just
6 potentially pure asks in FY20.

7 Let me start with the Air Force
8 we need.

9 So next slide.

10 So this is Heather Wilson's
11 -- this was her response to
12 secretary of the Air Force Navy.
13 That makes it -- the Navy makes
14 it very clear how many ships we
15 need and the Air Force has been
16 criticized for five years. Like,
17 tell us what do you need. What
18 is the Air Force strategy? What
19 do you really need to implement
20 the national defense strategy,
21 right? And she is saying okay,
22 congress, this is what we really
23 need. We have 312 operational
24 squadrons. And that doesn't mean
25 just by squadrons, that is all of



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1 those types of squadrons listed
2 in that upper right box, and we
3 need to get to 386, so we are 74
4 short. And, you know, the
5 importance of this, and you got
6 to give the Air Force credit,
7 they actually are doing what
8 congress is asking them to do,
9 but really, you know, this goes
10 back to a few years ago it was at
11 a luncheon during Mardi Gras, and
12 it was the LED luncheon, and
13 Walksi (ph) strides up to the
14 stage, and, you know, gives this
15 flamboyant speech, and he says,
16 you know, in all honesty, we
17 don't want to be to a place where
18 an Air Force General has to walk
19 into the White House and says, we
20 can't quite do that mission any
21 longer just so you know, and
22 that's where we are really
23 getting to the consequence of not
24 getting to 386 squadrons is
25 ultimately going to be that day

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1 when we say, well, we can't -- we
2 just can't kick the Chinese out
3 or we can't get them out of --
4 yeah, we can't do this in uniform
5 any longer because we can't get
6 access, so this is why this is
7 important, and we never talked
8 about that eventuality, right?
9 We never talk about the
10 consequences of not funding it.
11 In fact, Heather Wilson went up
12 there and she got pillory. It
13 was, like, oh, there is no money
14 for this. Well, you know, this
15 is what we need. If you can't do
16 it, okay.

17 So, anyway, bottom line, for
18 us, being selfish, we say, well,
19 how does this impact at a place
20 like Barksdale. So if you go to
21 the next slide.

22 MR. SILBERT:

23 Chris, sorry. Does that
24 include the International Guard?

25 MR. GOODE:



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1 It does. This is the total
2 force.

3 MR. SILBERT:

4 Okay.

5 MR. GOODE:

6 You know, When we talk to
7 Colonel Makros, the vice, that
8 second -- the second bomb wing,
9 he said, okay, when you look at
10 those big categories, you know,
11 you have nine bomber squadrons
12 today, you want five more.
13 Obviously your bomb squadrons are
14 in Barksdale, right? Okay, great,
15 more bombers.

16 You know, when we went down
17 this list, and we actually went
18 down the list with him yesterday,
19 there was not a whole lot of
20 enthusiasm until we got to
21 tankers, and he said, I got to
22 tell you, we don't have to give
23 the tankers support that we need
24 at Barksdale, so -- and obviously
25 tanker presence, as General Elder



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1 knows, this is focused on a
2 specific continuous bomber
3 presence, China, we all know
4 that, but of all of the
5 categories with the exception of
6 the ISR, that's a big number, 14,
7 so in Barksdale was up and was
8 looked at for KC-46 and we didn't
9 get it.

10 And we -- I mean, we -- you
11 know, does the leadership in
12 Barksdale want new mission or
13 not. You are up for the KC-46,
14 didn't get it. You are up for
15 the MQ-9, didn't get it. And,
16 you know, it was a very candid
17 conversation and we said, if the
18 Air Force is going to do anything
19 with tankers, we ought to go, so,
20 again, not going to happen
21 tomorrow, this is all dependent
22 on money, but what I'm saying, I
23 would like your opinion on this,
24 you know this could be all
25 fantasy, but more tankers are



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1 going to come into the fleet, why
2 not focus on Barksdale as a
3 message for the congressional
4 delegation, you know, they can
5 have two sound bites in their
6 head when it comes to this stuff,
7 right. Tankers maybe that's the
8 -- maybe that's an approach.

9 MR. PIERSON:

10 And we have got a history
11 with tankers at Barksdale.

12 MR. GOODE:

13 Absolutely.

14 MR. PIERSON:

15 We have the KC-135's and then
16 we had the KC-10s.

17 MR. GOODE:

18 Yep. All right. Let's keep
19 moving. Next slide. So --

20 MR. ELDER:

21 Real quick. Philosophically,
22 this is important for the group
23 here, the tank commission part,
24 for that to happen we have to
25 change the way the Air Force



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1 thinks about tankers, and if I
2 could get with some Navy people,
3 they understand that they really
4 need to keep some organic
5 capability, so all of the tankers
6 are air mobility command and they
7 are presented with TRANSCOM, so
8 when -- so when the Air Force --
9 Air Force strikes down a bomber,
10 gets access to a tanker, it goes
11 through the route. When they are
12 stationed there it was all part
13 of the same command, part of SAC.
14 That tanker part, the one on the
15 unmanned area of the vehicles,
16 the ability of Barksdale to get
17 an unmanned area of vehicles is
18 going to rest largely on how well
19 we build the relationship between
20 Barksdale and the JRTC, and Fort
21 Polk in general because that's
22 the mission that those things
23 would support, so that one in
24 particular it's crazy that they
25 don't have them there. I think



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1 it's an easy sell, but the sell
2 -- large part of the sale is
3 going to come from Fort Polk
4 rather than from Barksdale.
5 That's it. Sorry.

6 MR. GOODE:

7 Okay. So just real quick
8 again on weapons generation
9 facility. This is hugely
10 important for Barksdale
11 congressional delegation,
12 Governor, Don, everybody knows
13 about it. You know, WGF is
14 tattooed to my arm, I get it, you
15 know, but, you know, here is what
16 we know. The design is about 35
17 percent done, which is good. The
18 design in terms of hardening has
19 been de-scoped to bring down the
20 price, which is good. The
21 technical issues around the doors
22 is resolved, which is good. What
23 we don't know is this really as
24 Kathleen and Murray indicated, is
25 it going to be in '20 or not.



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1 It's not a lot of concern, per
2 se, of the base. You know, a
3 year is a year, right. You are
4 not going to be BRAC because you
5 didn't get in FY20. The black
6 swan obviously is if Adam Smith,
7 and, you know, congress really
8 tries to slow down the LRSO
9 design.

10 You know, if you don't have a
11 longer strike option then the
12 next question, well, we'll just
13 push these WGF's in the future
14 and you have BRAC. You know, I
15 mean, that's a little alarmist,
16 but, you know, I felt that the
17 temperature inside Barksdale was
18 pretty sanguine about where they
19 are at with the WGF, which is
20 great.

21 I would love to see a chunk
22 of money authorized in FY20 just
23 to get it going. Whether or not
24 that's executable or not is
25 something Kathleen and I are



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1 going to be focused on through
2 the remainder of the year and
3 whether or not we are going to
4 see, and the goodness, obviously,
5 is that that comes with an array
6 of new facilities.

7 And that gate, by the way,
8 that is done, that is
9 appropriated. That is a good
10 story.

11 Christmas tree ramp, just
12 real quick. So -- so it's
13 strapped where the strategic
14 commander built a strike commands
15 guidance, B-52's now have to be
16 able to stand alert, fully loaded
17 with nuclear weapons at
18 Barksdale. We can't actually do
19 that now because of the stability
20 with the apron where they --
21 where they sit on alert is not
22 stable enough, so that is another
23 big project probably around \$40
24 million. It is not MILCON. It's
25 not a new project. It's funded



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1 out of SRM. We are going to work
2 with the delegation and base on
3 that to insure that gets the
4 visibility it needs.

5 And then the micro -- Energy
6 Micro-Grid Pilot Program is under
7 way. It's a solar cogeneration
8 facility. It's a big win for
9 Barksdale. And we talked to Bill
10 Altimus and Patrick Jackson last
11 night and they are going to close
12 the loop with the new utility
13 management to make sure that that
14 is moving and progressing.

15 One last thing, I asked these
16 guys, I said, are there any
17 complaints that we should know at
18 Barksdale. And it was
19 interesting, they said, you know,
20 the one thing that we get peeved
21 off about is there are 256 wells
22 out there, there's drilling, as
23 you know, but the Air Force still
24 gets the bill for road
25 maintenance, for saltwater



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1 mitigation, etc., etc., and they
2 got to pay for that, so, you
3 know, big sky kind of thinking
4 strategy wise with Inhofe now as
5 the Senate Armed Services
6 Committee Chairman. This is a
7 problem not only in Louisiana but
8 a problem in Oklahoma as well,
9 and it was Inhofe that a few
10 years ago that tried to get a fee
11 off any petroleum, oil, gas
12 whatever that was drilled on a
13 military base and it failed at
14 the time, but this may be a good
15 year to re-look at that in terms
16 of even a report to understand
17 how big this project -- problem
18 is across DOD bases and
19 installations that have, you
20 know, energy companies that are
21 on them. They ought to get
22 compensated a least for the
23 maintenance that they contribute.

24 MR. PIERSON:

25 So you are saying the



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1 revenues go to the federal
2 government but not to the Air
3 Force and the Air Force is left
4 holding the overhead for --

5 MR. GOODE:

6 Yes. Yes. It's probably not
7 a lot, but it's enough.

8 MR. SLONE:

9 What's not a lot?

10 MR. GOODE:

11 I doubt -- I mean, you
12 probably know it better than that
13 I do, but I doubt it's less -- I
14 would be shocked if it's over
15 \$500,000 a year. It's probably
16 less than that. But, again,
17 these -- some of these bases they
18 can't cut the grass, you know,
19 it's so -- you know, this type of
20 money is precious, so --

21 MR. SLONE:

22 You are talking about heavy
23 vehicles crossing the roads and
24 that kind of thing?

25 MR. GOODE:



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1 Yes. Anyway, okay. Moving
2 on. Next slide.

3 All right. 159th. This is
4 interesting stuff that I just
5 want Don and group to realize.

6 These aircrafts are old
7 aircrafts. They are great. The
8 guys in Louisiana, I mean, they
9 have the highest mission
10 capability rate any F-15C unit in
11 the country, which is pretty
12 cool. You know, they have the
13 Air Sovereignty Alert Mission or
14 one of the corners that protects
15 the Gulf of Mexico. You know,
16 they mention, like, that, you
17 know, Venezuelans and fight the
18 Russians to fly fighters in.
19 That's a real issue for them, you
20 know.

21 So, but, the big thing is the
22 recapitalization of these
23 aircraft, and right now -- it's
24 funny how things work. Like this
25 storm in Tyndall, right, you



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1 know, they had to fly all of
2 those F22's out and some were
3 damaged. Well, that changed --
4 completely changed the thinking
5 inside the Air Force.

6 Bob, I'm not sure if you are
7 aware of this, but what we're
8 hearing now is all of those F-22s
9 in Tyndall are leaving, like,
10 permanently, and they are going
11 to plus up existing F-22
12 squadrons, right, so the next
13 three station actions for F-35s
14 that were supposed to replace
15 those are all going to go to the
16 Tyndall, so the fix that has been
17 discussed just recently at Corona
18 is to actually produce about 75
19 new F-15Xs. Yeah.

20 And these are the brand new
21 -- I mean, these are the ones
22 that go in the guitar, formal
23 fuel tanks, selfie like features,
24 brand new avionics. So it's kind
25 of exciting, and, of course these



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1 F15 guys are all, like, we would
2 rather fly a F-15X.

3 It's funny, the F-35 has four
4 missiles, four, that's it. F-15
5 is 8, and, you know, they say you
6 can refill the air but you can't
7 rearm the air, right, so this --
8 you know, we're going to watch
9 this very closely. Kathleen
10 developed this strategic basing
11 program, but, you know, obviously
12 this could be a very big deal for
13 New Orleans.

14 Next slide.

15 You know, we talked about the
16 Stingray. That is what the
17 Stingray is going to look like.
18 You know, we don't -- believe me,
19 we've been putting our feelers
20 out to get the details on this
21 station. You know, Belle Chasse
22 could just be, you know, like,
23 bid fodder, maybe one of the
24 names on the list, but it's going
25 to depend on how you actually get



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1 these things out to the boat,
2 right. The F-18s are stationed
3 at Lemoore and at Oceana. That's
4 where the boats are, you know,
5 how is this going to work, we'll
6 see. But it would be a game
7 changer for Belle Chasse. This
8 is a big, big program. This is
9 not dinky little -- that's an
10 aircraft filled with gas that is
11 going to allow F-18s the range
12 they need to fight in the
13 Pacific.

14 Next slide.

15 And then Army Readiness, you
16 know, we know where we're at with
17 the Army. You know, the focus
18 has been, hey, you know, recruit,
19 grow the Army, modernize
20 equipment, and, No. 1, increase
21 your readiness to have BCTs that
22 are ready to fight, so how has
23 that helped Fort Polk. You have
24 a fully manned brigade combat
25 team. You have more JRTC



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1 rotations. You are getting this
2 cyber build out.

3 Next slide.

4 You know, we are still, you
5 know, going forward. You know,
6 we still have many of the same
7 concerns we've had before. You
8 still have an orphan brigade that
9 is a problem, so, you know, what
10 do we want to do in FY20, we want
11 to do things that are realistic.
12 You know, go after this DCIP
13 program. That program exist. If
14 it's funded, you want to be
15 ready. You want to continue with
16 successes on things like shared
17 services. You know, you want to
18 accelerate potentially getting
19 that ground base radar to allow
20 UAB to go back and forth between
21 AEX and Fort Polk. Maybe some day
22 Barksdale.

23 You know, you have new
24 leadership. General Abrams, who
25 has supported Fort Polk, he is a



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1 tough guy, but, you know, he
2 claims he has been a vocal
3 supporter of keeping the brigade
4 at Folk Port. He is in Korea.
5 He is gone.

6 So, you know, that -- there
7 is an interim boss enforcement
8 command, somebody that we're
9 going to have to get to know and
10 I think the defense community
11 owes that future person a visit.

12 We talked yesterday about the
13 Claiborne and Murray and MOS, the
14 folks at the 307th and at the
15 bomb wing are very, very excited
16 about potentially opening up
17 those MOS to actually allow them
18 to drop their weapons and they
19 feel that, hey, if you get that
20 opened up, you are going to get a
21 lot of interest from other
22 fighters in utilizing Fort Polk.

23 And then obviously, you know,
24 the JOC would be great and we're
25 not going to give up on that



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LMAC MEETING

1 until it actually falls, I
2 suppose. That's all I got.

3 MR. PIERSON:

4 Thank you, Chris.

5 I know we're pushing the
6 clock a little bit, but at this
7 point if there is any new
8 business or any announcement, the
9 floor is open to the council
10 members.

11 MR. CREWS:

12 Mr. Secretary, I just heard
13 one thing, and I am trying to get
14 more details on, but apparently
15 the Workforce Development, they
16 had funds displaced worker
17 training that we can utilize as
18 soon as someone puts in their
19 papers to separate from the
20 military, so while they still got
21 a job they can start using the
22 displaced worker fund, and I just
23 thought that was interesting that
24 we ought to be able to actually
25 let the people in our communities



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know that.

MR. PIERSON:

Thank you for that addition.

Other comments for the good of the group? Hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. JAKES:

So move.

MR. GATTI:

Second.

MR. PIERSON:

Move and second. All in favor say aye.

ALL BOARD MEMBERS:

Aye.

MR. PIERSON:

All right. We're going to transition now to some more information and the leadership from Fort Polk, here.

(Whereupon the meeting ended at 11:15 a.m.)



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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, RACHEL TORRES-REGIS, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this meeting was taken, do hereby certify that, after having been duly sworn by me upon authority of R.S. 37:2554, did testify as hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing pages;

That this meeting was reported by me in the stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding;

That the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board, and that I am informed about the complete arrangement, financial or otherwise, with the person or entity making arrangements for deposition services;

That I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of



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1 Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and
2 advisory opinions of the board;

3 That I have no actual knowledge of
4 any prohibited employment or contractual
5 relationship, direct or indirect, between a court
6 reporting firm and any party litigant in this
7 matter nor is there any such relationship between
8 myself and a party litigant in this matter. I am
9 not related to counsel or to the parties herein,
10 nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of
11 this matter.

12

13 Dated this 6th day of December, 2018.

14

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RACHEL TORRES-REGIS, CCR, RPR
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