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MEETING MINUTES FOR THE  
LOUISIANA MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
HELD AT  
CAPITOL PARK WELCOME CENTER  
702 NORTH RIVER ROAD  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
ON THE 19TH DAY OF MAY, 2016  
COMMENCING AT 10:18 A.M.

REPORTED BY: ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, CCR



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**Appearances:**

Secretary Donald Pierson, LED  
Murray Viser, Barksdale Forward  
Michael Reese, Fort Polk Progress  
Leonardo (Ben) Russo, Jr., Cleco Power, Inc.  
Sherri McConnell, LED  
Gary Silbert, GNO, Inc.  
Chris Goode, Roosevelt Group  
Bruce Keller, Community Planner, Naval Air Station  
Homer Rodgers, Department of Veterans Affairs  
Mark Sucato, Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station  
Joint Reserve Base New Orleans  
Danny Ford, Louisiana Lobbying Solutions



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1                   SECRETARY PIERSON:

2                   Well, this is my worst nightmare to be  
3 15 minutes late to a military meeting. The only thing I  
4 can tell you is it was another military guy that held me  
5 up, which is our Governor, and so pretty good.

6                   So thank you for traveling, for carving  
7 out some time to be with us today. Really, our strategy  
8 is that Joey Strickland will be our chairman and I'd be  
9 the vice chair and Sherri McConnell will now be our  
10 executive director. Joey was unable to join us today.  
11 We tried to get a date out there far enough in advance  
12 where people can save it and shield it, so I know that  
13 we have a -- but these things happen, so we do  
14 understand, so we'll work towards having our next  
15 meeting, we'll get a date calendared, maybe even today,  
16 and put it out so everybody can rejoin. We do have a  
17 requirement to meet twice a year.

18                   And you're representing Joey today?

19                   MR. RODGERS:

20                   I am.

21                   SECRETARY PIERCE:

22                   Thank you.

23                   MR. RODGERS:

24                   My name is Homer Rodgers. I'm his  
25 undersecretary/assistant deputy director.



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SECRETARY PIERSON:

Beautiful. Thank you for joining us.

Also of note, Chris Goode sends his apologies. He had intended to be here with us today, but the airline gods did not allow that to happen. He was not pleased with that outcome, I can tell you, but certainly he's provided a report that we'll move through at a later period of time.

And there are a few new faces at the table, if you would go back and just introduce around here.

MR. RODGERS:

Homer Rogers, Undersecretary for Department of Veterans Affairs.

MR. REESE:

Michael Reese, Fort Polk Progress.

MR. SILBERT:

Gary Silbert, Southeast Louisiana Military Alliance.

MS. MCCONNELL:

Sherri McConnell, LED.

SECRETARY PIERSON:

Don Pierson, LED.

MR. VISER:

Murray Viser, Barksdale Forward.



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MR. MATHES:

Stan Mathes, Calendar Commitment and  
Plaquemines Parish Development.

MR. RUSSO:

Ben Russo, Cleco Power.

MR. SUCATO:

Mark Sucato, Commanding Officer of the  
Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans.

MR. KELLER:

Bruce Keller, Community Planner at the  
Naval Air Station.

SECRETARY PIERSON:

Thank you for carving out some time to  
be with us today.

Sherri, any additional remarks before we go  
into our reports?

MS. MCCONNELL:

No. I'm looking forward to working with  
y'all. It's new territory, so bear with me as I learn,  
but I'm excited to be a part of this. It's very  
interesting work, so I look forward to working with you.  
Please feel free to give me guidance any time and  
understand that it's a new language entirely. I've had  
to learn economic development acronyms, and now I'm  
having to learn the military acronyms, so I'm constantly



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1 asking Secretary to explain those things, so I  
2 appreciate your patience with me.

3 I would also ask that since it is a  
4 small community and many of you know each other and know  
5 those who are not here, I've included a list of the  
6 members that we believe are still on the committee.  
7 We're working through that transition with the new  
8 administration. If you would look at that list, make  
9 sure that your contact information is correct, and if  
10 you know something I don't, that one of these people no  
11 longer are in the state or elsewhere, I appreciate you  
12 sharing that information with me. And if you could  
13 just, you know, either mark on this and give it back to  
14 me or let me know through e-mail or whatever, that would  
15 be very helpful.

16 I've also included in your packet the  
17 copy of the statute for your benefit.

18 SECRETARY PIERSON:

19 Thank you for that.

20 And just to also add, Sherri does a lot  
21 more than just help us manage these meetings. She's  
22 also the contracting monitor, so she's very integral in  
23 processing in which the State enters into a contract  
24 with some of our organizations, which are represented  
25 here, and provides funding. And there's a mechanism and



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1 a set of legal documents that go through that. Then  
2 there's follow-up documentation of those files such that  
3 there're in good order when the State's audited by their  
4 state auditor. So she helps us maintain compliance with  
5 that. She helps us disburse funds that are associated  
6 with important works around the military installations,  
7 and so the job that she has, she talked a little bit  
8 about it, has significantly more elements to it.

9 So thank you for that assistance,  
10 Sherri.

11 All right. Well, I'll move then to  
12 Barksdale Forward. Murray.

13 MR. VISER:

14 Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

15 I don't think I'm smart enough to  
16 operate this. I don't have real a long brief. I'm  
17 going to touch on three different areas: Current status  
18 of Barksdale Air Force Base, support that Barksdale  
19 Forward provides to Barksdale Air Force Base by  
20 extension through Northwest Louisiana and the State as a  
21 whole, and as Don mentioned, the financial support. We  
22 do get some funding from the State and what we've done  
23 with that funding and what we will pledge to continue to  
24 do.

25 The mission at Barksdale has changed



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1 fairly dramatically in the last a couple years.  
2 Actually, in the last probably six or seven years. Air  
3 Force Global Strike Command was stood up in Barksdale in  
4 2009, August of 2009, as a Three-Star Command,  
5 Three-Star Major Command, and the first major command in  
6 something like 27 years at Barksdale. We now have a  
7 Four-Star general commanding Air Force Global Strike  
8 Command. The Air Force Global Strike Command is  
9 responsible for all of the B52 aircraft, B2 aircraft,  
10 which are nuclear-capable, long-range, strategic  
11 bombers, and B1, which was the traditional owners of the  
12 B model. They're also responsible for working the set  
13 requirements to develop a new, long-range strike bomber,  
14 the B2, which you have heard about, as well as the  
15 Nuclear Command Control for Nuclear Enterprise and the  
16 Nuclear Weapon Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

17 Getting a Four-Star for Barksdale,  
18 there's a difference between night and day, quite  
19 frankly, for Global Strike Command. General Rand is no  
20 newbie at being Four-Star. This is his second major  
21 command, and he has been a delight to work with and has  
22 a wonderful vision for where he would like to see the  
23 command go. Having said that, we can't rest and say,  
24 "Well, we've got a Four-Star in Barksdale and Air Force  
25 Global Strike Command is okay," because this an



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1 ever-changing world. We've got to make sure the  
2 community's infrastructure is kept up to date. We are  
3 hoping right now -- we've been working for a number of  
4 years to get an extension to Interstate 220, which is  
5 part of the loop around Shreveport/Bossier, have that  
6 terminate at the Barksdale Air Force Base and add a new  
7 east gate built with military construction dollars. We  
8 feel like we're moving forward on that, and we're very  
9 happy that we are seeing some movement and look forward  
10 to that project coming to fruition.

11 Workforce education, wonderful  
12 partnerships with Louisiana Tech University and Bossier  
13 Parish Community College to help get the workforce that  
14 not only Air Force Global Strike Command needs, but the  
15 defense contractors that are coming into the area. We  
16 have three or actually four defense contractors. CSRA,  
17 which is in the process of building a building, they  
18 started off with an initial 800 folks, and I believe  
19 they're talking about adding another 800 in the  
20 not-too-far-distant future. We have a presence at  
21 Northrop Grumman. It's an air global strike command.  
22 We expect to see that position expand a little bit.  
23 Lockheed Martin also had a one-man office there, as well  
24 as Boeing. So we have infrastructure on which to build,  
25 and we're looking forward to that. And we continue to



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1 work for assets to support Green Flag down at Fort Polk,  
2 and I'll talk a little bit more about that in a minute.

3 What Barksdale Forward does and has done  
4 for the last 20-something years is to develop the  
5 advocacy to ensure the congressional delegation in DC is  
6 up to speed on what the needs of Barksdale Air Force  
7 Base are as well as we also try to help them understand  
8 what the needs of the military in general within the  
9 State of Louisiana is for what they need.

10 We advocated for the recapitalization of  
11 our weapons storage area. We lost our nuclear weapon  
12 storage capability about seven or eight years ago  
13 because, frankly, the Air Force just allowed that  
14 facility to go down using, I'll be generous and say,  
15 mid-60's technology on security out there, consoles to  
16 vacuum tubes. When that got to where it didn't work,  
17 they would take -- you know, you've all seen the Jersey  
18 barriers that separate the interstate and highways,  
19 they'd pile a couple of those up in front of the weapons  
20 storage bases for security so bad folks couldn't get in.

21 It is a huge project, the weapons  
22 storage facility. It's going to be a \$350-million  
23 project. The program is currently for 2019, 2020 and  
24 2021, so that will go a long way to expanding the  
25 capability of Barksdale Air Force Base because, right



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1 now, if the B52s are needed, they'd have to go to Minot  
2 in North Dakota to the other B52 base to load up and go  
3 to war.

4           Again, I mentioned the Support Green  
5 Flag East, which we are looking at working to get the  
6 MQ-1, which is the Predator, an unmanned aerial system,  
7 either having command control at Barksdale with the  
8 aircraft loaded down in the Fort Polk area or possibly  
9 on the runway that Fort Polk has. So that's to be  
10 determined sometime this summer.

11           Outreach and advocacy, I talked a little  
12 bit about that. We spend a good deal of time at Capitol  
13 Hill. In fact, my wife, a year or so ago, said, "I  
14 think you have a girlfriend up there." I said, "I  
15 really wish I did. It would be a hell of a lot more  
16 fun." But we spent a great deal of time. We work very  
17 hard with Roosevelt Group, with Chris Goode and his  
18 folks, and we participate regularly with the Association  
19 of Defense Communities, which is a group that brings  
20 defense communities together, communities like all of  
21 ours in this room, to discuss common needs and common  
22 goals.

23           I mentioned the weapons storage facility  
24 recapitalization. It was Number 6 on the list. We've  
25 been able to get that moved up to Number 2.



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1 Additional MILCON projects, FY-17 budget  
2 includes a Consolidated Communications Facility, will  
3 replace eight buildings currently at Barksdale. Again,  
4 1950's technology. One of the several requirements  
5 would be an old dining facility with eight-foot  
6 ceilings, inadequate electric, power. You name it, it  
7 needs to go.

8 Then Green Flag backfill, we feel like  
9 that is the priority, and the reason we feel that way is  
10 Air Combat Command currently is responsible for  
11 providing air support for that, for Green Flag East, and  
12 the renovations going on down at Fort Polk. They're  
13 only able to meet that requirement about 50 percent of  
14 the time. The other 50 percent is generally picked up  
15 by B52s flying out the Reserve Wing at Barksdale or  
16 Boeings flying out of Dyess Air Force Base over in  
17 Texas. So obviously not an optimal situation. If  
18 you're going to train the way you fight, it helps to see  
19 somebody flying overhead, so that's the reason we feel  
20 that's important.

21 An example of support for the Air Force  
22 Global Strike Command, the Four-Star, this letter from  
23 Senator Vitter to Chief of Staff Mark Welsh and  
24 Secretary of the Air Force Deborah James. We provide a  
25 lot of information to the delegation on matters just



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1 like these, and we get quite a bit of support from them  
2 as well.

3 Future commissions, we've got to protect  
4 our flying environment, not just for B52s and A10s,  
5 which is what it is currently being used for, but also  
6 to plan for the future with the B21, and if possible,  
7 F35, in addition to Support Green Flag. And those  
8 aircraft are probably going to be a good bit noisier  
9 than the B52, and if you've ever been around a B52  
10 flying over 1,200 feet, it is extremely noisy. So we're  
11 working with the parish, Bossier Parish, Bossier City,  
12 on a Joint Land Use Study. The last one was in 2009,  
13 and it's currently being updated. We're fortunate in  
14 that the community is working very hard to balance  
15 encroachment dangers with expansions, and that's a very  
16 fine dance and a very difficult dance to make happen.  
17 And, fortunately, everybody in Northwest Louisiana  
18 recognizes the important of Barksdale Air Force Base,  
19 and we certainly don't want to kill the geese that  
20 bring the golden eggs.

21 Challenges that lie ahead, less than  
22 half of the combat forces are ready to go to battle.  
23 Our advantages in technology is rapidly eroding. China  
24 is developing a stealth technology, redeveloping stealth  
25 aircraft. Russia is developing stealth aircraft. Our



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1 Air Force is the smallest, oldest, least ready than it's  
2 ever been. That goes back to 1947.

3 Budget issues, huge priority. All  
4 likelihood, what we're going to see is the Bomber B21  
5 Program is a massive program, and it's going to be like  
6 that quite a bit that's used as a source of funding.  
7 Four-Star positions within the Air Force are at risk.  
8 Secretary Harding would like to see the Air Force  
9 realign the way it uses its combat and commanders, so  
10 we've got to make sure that we hang on to our Four-Star  
11 general, our Four-Star position, because the advocacy  
12 within the Air Force is nothing like having a Four-Star.  
13 They speak the same language as the other Four-Stars,  
14 but when the hog is getting carved up, you make sure you  
15 have the horsepower to get the best piece of the hog you  
16 can.

17 BRAC, that's -- even though they  
18 are saying -- Congress is saying they don't want another  
19 BRAC, I think every branch is saying, "We do want BRAC."  
20 The Air Force has 30 percent more capacity than it  
21 needs. That doesn't mean it has 30 percent more bases,  
22 but there's excess capacity at just about every base out  
23 there. They're looking to come up with efficiencies.

24 Barksdale is one of the largest  
25 employers in Northwest Louisiana. Annual economic



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1 impact 753, almost \$754-million, so we see BRAC as an  
2 opportunity to pick up new missions. I would much  
3 rather see an orderly process like BRAC, and I use  
4 "orderly" advisingly because there's an awful lot of  
5 room for mistakes to be made and have been made with  
6 previous BRAC rounds. But in a BRAC round, at least you  
7 know who your enemies are and who's sniping at you. If  
8 there is a disorderly base closure process without a  
9 formal process such as BRAC, you don't know who's  
10 creeping you. I'd like to know who's creeping me and  
11 I'd like to know that I'm being crept.

12 All of our masons are a big target.  
13 Unfortunately, the majority of the senior leadership  
14 within the Air Force are fighter focused. They have a  
15 bias towards fighter airplanes. Nothing insidious about  
16 it. It's just how they grew up, and so we're no  
17 different than any other branch in the service. If you  
18 grew up with the infantry, like Secretary Pierson did --

19 SECRETARY PIERSON:

20 Well, you don't own anything until you  
21 stand on it.

22 MR. VISOR:

23 Exactly. There you have it.

24 Having said that, I will touch on a  
25 couple things people have asked me about this morning.



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1                   You may have seen that a B52 was lost  
2 yesterday out at Anderson Air Force Base in Guam. Just  
3 by coincidence, we -- Wisenheimer having met earlier  
4 with the Air Force commander last night, he got there  
5 about the time that it happened, and so he was on the  
6 phone quite a bit. We had no idea what had happened.  
7 We didn't get a chance to visit with him. Too soon to  
8 really tell what happened, but apparently they were at  
9 takeoff, either right above the ground or trying to  
10 stop, and had some type of emergency. And that's the  
11 bad news. The front of the airplane broke off where the  
12 crew capsule is. All seven people that were in the jet  
13 were able to get out unharmed. Loaded with a lot of  
14 fuel. B52's first takeoff weighed something like  
15 180,000 pounds. How much of that was filled, we don't  
16 know, but it burned a long, long time. Everybody's  
17 okay.

18                   There are plenty B52 aircraft out in the  
19 desert in Arizona. We had a fire at Barksdale about  
20 four years ago, burned up another aircraft. Didn't burn  
21 it up. Totally destroyed the avionics in it. The Air  
22 Force was able to go out to Davis-Monthan and pick  
23 another aircraft out, bring it out of flyable storage,  
24 which is a very interesting process. They drain all of  
25 the fluids out, pump non-producing fluids in and then --



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1 they Shrink Wrap it and come back about every four to  
2 five years, take the Shrink Wrap off, put new fluids in,  
3 go through the same process.

4                   So hopefully the Air Force will  
5 reconstitute another aircraft out Davis-Monthan. We  
6 surely need all of the bombs that we have. The B52s are  
7 now back in the fight in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria. The  
8 B1s were your workforce earlier for about 12 to 13  
9 years. As you might imagine, the wear and tear in that  
10 kind of environment really does a number on the  
11 aircraft. They don't get the upgrades they need. They  
12 don't get the depth or the level maintenance that they  
13 need. So B1s are being reconstituted. They're having  
14 all of these all new cockpits installed. I was out at  
15 Dyess last week, got to see those things. It's  
16 state-of-the art. You get in the cockpit of a B52, and  
17 you look at all of the little dials about that big.  
18 They're all eight inches. It's really nice to have a  
19 test cockpit, so life is good.

20                   So I'll try to answer your questions if  
21 you have any.

22                   (No response.)

23                   MR. VISER:

24                   Thank you.

25                   SECRETARY PIERSON:



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1 Thank you for that report, Murray.  
2 Mike Reese, Fort Polk Progress.

3 MR. REESE:

4 We'll see if we can pull it up.

5 SECRETARY PIERSON:

6 We'll move to GNO until we can get that.

7 MR. SILBERT:

8 Thank you, John. Delighted to be here.

9 I have to say, it's a little humbling to listen to  
10 Murray with a 25-year track record, and we're kind of a  
11 year into it now. So I'm delighted to have this  
12 opportunity to give you an update on SEMA.

13 It was a year ago this May that we  
14 actually entered into our CPA with the State to launch  
15 our initiative, and so it's just right out of the box.  
16 Over the past year, our first order of business was to  
17 organize and create a 501(c)(6), which we've  
18 successfully done. We've put out two RFPs. One in the  
19 area of outreach and communication, and the other one in  
20 the area of advocacy. So I'm going to talk for a few  
21 minutes, you know, on the front end, just about the  
22 efforts around SouthPaw, the group that was selected and  
23 the work they've done to date on communications and  
24 outreach, specifically around kind of the look and feel  
25 of SEMA branding and materials that have been developed



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1 and so forth.

2 So I'll pass this around. These are  
3 examples of one pages and other materials we've put in  
4 place. You'll see for each of our military initiatives,  
5 we have one-pagers that are opportunities for us to kind  
6 of showcase what the core mission is, who they are, the  
7 economic impact of the facility and their personalized  
8 impact quote from the asset leadership. And our thought  
9 is that we can effectively use these as we meet with  
10 civic organizations, civic associations, business  
11 organizations, elected officials, whether they be state  
12 local or federal, and we can kind of modify these as we  
13 go as well.

14 Something that I'm particularly excited  
15 about is the creation of the website. Essentially the  
16 layout, it's being built, and we're in the last stages  
17 of the content and layout. Don, you will be seeing this  
18 very soon. But it's primarily three sections. Again,  
19 we have an overview of each installation describing the  
20 installation and the economic impact. There will be a  
21 picture of Mark -- with Belle Chasse.

22 Also, another section, in addition to a  
23 description of each of the missions, would be an  
24 opportunity for us to list contractors in the Southeast  
25 Region, the economic impact of some of those contracts,



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1 and the link we give businesses to kind of demystify and  
2 pursue business with the military, those that are  
3 interested in contracting.

4 And then, also, lastly, a kind of news  
5 sharing section where we can put things on the website  
6 that are hard hitting about the military relevant to our  
7 region. At the same time, we can take information from  
8 the National Guard or from the Navy and add it, whether  
9 it's a recognition that the base received or a  
10 particular accomplishment of a serviceman. It could be  
11 about some outreach activity that the National Guard is  
12 doing with youth outreach. But we do have that  
13 flexibility. We want to keep it current and breathing,  
14 you know, have it be up to date.

15 You know, as I talk about, you know,  
16 communications and outreach, one of the challenges we  
17 have out of the box is that, unlike Fort Polk or  
18 Barksdale, we're in a very large metro area. We have a  
19 handful of military missions, and the bad news is that  
20 while the public admires and appreciates the military,  
21 they don't really have a sense of what's here. They  
22 don't have an idea of the magnitude of the economic  
23 impact on the bases in the region and how important they  
24 are as employers and contributors to the community. So,  
25 again, that's a big part of this communications and



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1 outreach.

2 I'll talk for a few minutes about  
3 advocacy, the other strategy area for us moving forward.  
4 We retained Jones Walker to help us in this regard. We  
5 met with Jones Walker, GNO, Inc. of course, and local  
6 leadership, you know, to take a look at, you know, how  
7 we develop a comprehensive military base command unit  
8 personnel operations strategy in Southeast Louisiana.  
9 As we were scanning and looking at the primary issues  
10 right out of the box, kind of an existing and ongoing  
11 problem were with the F/A-18 Hornets at Belle Chasse.  
12 You know, realizing that those are aging airplanes, and  
13 lots of issues obviously that are a threat to the  
14 community and to the base as we move forward with the  
15 pressures of cuts and so forth.

16 We came up -- and when I say "we," I  
17 mean collectively between Jones Walker, SEMA and local  
18 leadership, particularly Jones Walker, our delegation  
19 and staff, we put together language in the  
20 appropriations and departmental defense for 24 new  
21 F/A-18E/F models to replace the aging A models. So  
22 that, was right out of the box, important. We got it  
23 in. The bad news is that as the appropriations went  
24 through, they only funded five new aircraft that was for  
25 active duty. So we kind of repressed the reset button



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1 and reconvened and we changed -- the delegation was  
2 successful in coming up with some language that would  
3 direct the Secretary of the Navy Chief of Reserves to  
4 provide a report to the Congressional Defense Committee  
5 on plans to recapitalize moving forward and modernizing  
6 the Navy Reserve Tactical Aviations Squadron, again,  
7 with special emphasis on new F/A-18s.

8           Additionally, we worked to request for  
9 17 appropriations for programming funding, again, around  
10 E/F-18 models. The point there is that the reasoning is  
11 providing an important interim solution as we're waiting  
12 for the F35s in order to meet our military missions. So  
13 the request has been submitted to delegation members.  
14 We're having ongoing communications to move that  
15 language forward.

16           Also, throughout the year, there were  
17 close focus on looking at MILCON priority projects as a  
18 potential for Belle Chasse and the other missions where  
19 projects could be accelerated or moved up for approval  
20 through Congresses. And as I was saying before, given  
21 budget core structure cuts, we will be very, very  
22 diligent, vigilant in trying to ensure that we have  
23 continued funding and that we continue to, you know,  
24 obviously look out for and grow the missions that we  
25 have.



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1 I'd like to talk a few minutes about  
2 potential opportunities with SPAWAR. I've been in  
3 communication with the commander, base commander, and a  
4 couple of two or three opportunities are bubbling up.  
5 Number one is for expansion of an R&D lab at the  
6 facility at UNO. We actually have a request that's  
7 under consideration now. That will be huge for us.

8 Secondly, there is a request for an  
9 enterprise help desk. He expects that to actually  
10 improve. They're moving to an additional floor down at  
11 UNO to expand that enterprise help desk, new seats, new  
12 services at UNO, so that's good news.

13 And then lastly, he's also at SPAWAR  
14 fighting for an urban cyber range that would be located  
15 in New Orleans. Obviously swapping e-mails, and I  
16 haven't had time to demystify what an urban cyber range  
17 is.

18 SECRETARY PIERSON:

19 We may not have the security clearance  
20 to allow us to know.

21 MR. SILBERT:

22 Exactly.

23 Also, moving on, another opportunity,  
24 the International Guard base at Belle Chasse, in looking  
25 forward, the '20-'22 time horizon, the International



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1 Guard is looking to receive three to five new units  
2 around the country, F35 flight units, and that creates  
3 an opportunity for Belle Chasse. And what's  
4 particularly exciting and why I think we have a  
5 potential competitive advantage to get one of these  
6 units is that that location got the first F15s that were  
7 available and they have a very strong record for  
8 maintenance, readiness, safety and performance. So  
9 we're going to try to support any efforts that Major  
10 General Scott would like to pursue to try to compete for  
11 one of those units. That would be huge for us. I know  
12 Captain Scott. I know -- the reality check is that I'm  
13 sure every other state in the country probably lobbies  
14 for one of these as well.

15 The Marine Corps Reserve, I just -- not  
16 so much an opportunity, but I just wanted to mention it.  
17 At the end of August, they have their 100th anniversary.  
18 That will be taking place in New Orleans, and it's  
19 actually a launch for them. Pretty exciting that their  
20 officials will be coming down from the Pentagon. There  
21 will be huge events at City Park, interactive things  
22 with kids, families, very large ceremony at the World  
23 War II Museum. SEMA will actually launch this program.  
24 It will be held around the country, but I just think  
25 it's great for us in terms of recognition to launch that



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1 in our community.

2 You know, there will be other  
3 opportunities coming up down the road. You know, I  
4 think we're going to be reinvigorating the air show  
5 starting next year, so opportunities to promote on our  
6 website and other ways with your GNO, Inc. contacts.

7 Lastly, I just wanted to mention that,  
8 you know, we have representatives here from Calendar  
9 Commitment, Stan and Bruce Keller, who introduced  
10 themselves, in terms of opportunities and possibly  
11 threats, you know, looking at the base, we feel like  
12 there's some work underway now that's a priority, but  
13 I'll let them talk more about it in terms of planning  
14 and development to preventing encroachment and also to  
15 very wisely promote business development.

16 So, Stan, and/or Bruce, if you guys  
17 would like to pipe in.

18 MR. MATHES:

19 Bruce, you want to go first or me?

20 We went through a joint land use study  
21 four or five years ago, and the major finding in that  
22 study was encroachment, a problem with encroachment.  
23 South of the base, there's approximately 2,000 acres of  
24 virgin forest that hasn't been developed, and the  
25 concern that was identified and the JLU study was this



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1 could ultimately become a residential commerce. We  
2 talked with the owner of the property. There are two  
3 owners. There's one gentleman that owns probably 90  
4 percent of it. Plaquemines Parish owns the other 10  
5 percent. So with the development of the port, Sandy  
6 Sanders would come up, and we are in the process and  
7 we've gotten the property owners agreement to pursue  
8 this, of turning that into a light industrial,  
9 manufacturing, warehouse, shipping possibility of that  
10 area that ties in with the port. And along with the  
11 port, we had to open negotiations with the Navy about  
12 using the runway for air cargo. So with all of that  
13 said, we think we've come up with a solution to the  
14 concerns that Jay has brought forward, and we're moving  
15 forward on that.

16 We've already talked to some engineering  
17 firms. There will be the formal proposal to the Navy  
18 coming up probably no later than September of this year,  
19 and let it work its way through their chain of command.  
20 Very fortunately, the Captain here has been very  
21 supportive of the project and we are moving forward as  
22 fast, unfortunately, as funds will allow us to do. It  
23 all costs money. We all know that.

24 SECRETARY PIERSON:

25 So when BRAC comes around -- this is



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1 probably a stupid question, but do they look at light  
2 industrial development differently than residential  
3 encroachment?

4 MR. MATHES:

5 Absolutely.

6 SECRETARY PIERSON:

7 So they're pretty much okay with the  
8 light industrial?

9 MR. MATHES:

10 Yes. I don't want to speak for the  
11 Navy, but I think if you asked the Navy, they would tell  
12 you that their preference would be light industrial  
13 versus heavy industrial, high rise, that type of thing.  
14 Warehousing and light industrial, where people come to  
15 work 6:30-7 o'clock and leave about 5:30 in the  
16 afternoon are cleared out, they're not going to be  
17 bothered by the noise. It's a win for the air base, but  
18 it's also a win for the parish because we're going to  
19 generate real estate, attached revenue, jobs, et cetera,  
20 et cetera. So we think we found the perfect storm.

21 SECRETARY PIERSON:

22 And then the idea around using  
23 potentially the asset of the runway, is that an enhanced  
24 use lease opportunity that will actually generate some  
25 funds for the US Navy?



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1 MR. MATHES:

2 Yes.

3 SECRETARY PIERSON:

4 We are doing a similar opportunity over  
5 at NASA. That's one of things that we do. We take --  
6 it's a way for the federal government to actually bring  
7 in some revenue, which is a good thing, but I was  
8 curious as to how that's relevant, if that was  
9 advancing. It sounds like it.

10 MR. RUSSO:

11 Stan, one of the things -- and I don't  
12 know how it all fits in. We've been developing a mega  
13 sight right adjacent to the old England Air Force Base,  
14 and one of the things that, you know, when you're going  
15 through your certifications, is elevating and height  
16 requirements on buildings and so forth.

17 SECRETARY PIERSON:

18 Restrictions, yeah.

19 MR. RUSSO:

20 And the only thing I would say to kind  
21 of keep an eye on is try to forward project to the Navy  
22 at the present time the needs of height requirements of  
23 such and such, because if it goes 10 years from now and  
24 they switch planes or something like that, they need a  
25 different height elevation, so it might be -- you've got



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1 2,000 acres. It might be try to plan one area to  
2 develop first to work from that standpoint just so it  
3 doesn't put them in a bad position later on, because the  
4 height elevations, it seems like, when we were doing  
5 this, it was the worst thing. And, I mean, I guess if  
6 you're going to fly, you want to make sure you have it.  
7 You don't want to sit too high up there, but that was  
8 just one of the things that...

9 MR. MATHES:

10 That was well identified in the joint  
11 use study.

12 MR. KELLER:

13 If I could just add on to all of this,  
14 you know, Regional Planning Commission has agreed to do,  
15 I think, a stage zero study for the cargo concept of  
16 this, and one thing that would augment that would be to  
17 have a heavy component of that with that economic --  
18 doing an economic analysis of the air cargo concept of  
19 that. So that's one thing that would be a very  
20 important component to go to Regional Planning  
21 Commission, a study to look at that. And, you know, I  
22 think the base would certainly -- the Navy likes the  
23 idea of that land use that it brings. It's very  
24 compatible.

25 SECRETARY PIERSON:



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1 Well, there are -- we'll have to talk  
2 about resources later, but the State's in the process of  
3 securing some resources that will be practiced out to  
4 our regions, but if there is a study that is in need to  
5 be supportive of this program, it may be possible to  
6 have some of those funds available.

7 MR. KELLER:

8 Yes.

9 SECRETARY PIERSON:

10 Anything else? Commander?

11 CAPTAIN SUCATO:

12 I think both Gary, Russo's and Stan's  
13 comments regarding the base falling into two categories,  
14 the history and you go into the future will result if a  
15 BRAC round were to happen eventually, the utility of the  
16 base, specifically the future utility of the base, and  
17 encroachment. For example, in the last BRAC round,  
18 encroachment and what future military utility base would  
19 serve would dominate characteristics with how bases fare  
20 the round.

21 In case of the issue in new New Orleans,  
22 many of these concepts will -- for example, the JSF for  
23 F35 Alfa comes to 159th Fighter Wing, and that both  
24 entails current significant environmental -- excuse  
25 me -- significant economic -- these are the upgrading of



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1 certain facilities. It also provides future utility for  
2 the base, why do the tax payers want to keep that 10  
3 years from now.

4 The civilian joint use airport concept  
5 places heavily on encroachment, because when we look at  
6 encroachment, many facets are both things we prefer, for  
7 example, not crashing an airplane into it, but also  
8 whether our close residents or the neighbors of the base  
9 are in close proximity of us, are they affected by the  
10 base operations. For example, their housing  
11 developments are very closely within a crash zone or a  
12 noise zone. That is a significant encroachment issue  
13 because predictably they're not excited about jet noise  
14 at night and we're not excited about them being  
15 encroached upon. The civilian airfield concept serves  
16 both of those needs because it's light industrial,  
17 doesn't care about jet noise, and light industrial also  
18 doesn't care, for example, after hours where we might be  
19 doing firing missions.

20 SECRETARY PIERSON:

21 Excellent. Well, we're very much  
22 interested in maintaining, growing, looking at the  
23 assets that are around our installations. Another  
24 significant one that you have is this idea that we can  
25 go out in the Gulf, protected areas, close proximity to



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1 that is a real advantage for those facilities. We'll  
2 continue to try to make sure the congressional  
3 delegation stays aware of as many positives as they can.

4 In all of the things that need to be  
5 said, need to be mentioned over on our side, I'll pass  
6 this to you.

7 MR. SILBERT:

8 As you mentioned with, for example, the  
9 JSF airspace is a key location with how that aircraft  
10 will train, how it uses the airspace around it, and the  
11 one in New Orleans is the greatest asset for our access  
12 to Gulf of Mexico.

13 SECRETARY PIERSON:

14 Excellent. Thank you.

15 Can we circle back to Fort Polk?

16 MS. MCCONNELL:

17 Yes. Technology is a beautiful thing.

18 SECRETARY PIERSON:

19 While that's coming up, I think these  
20 are great. The organizations you see here -- Barksdale  
21 Forward is how old?

22 MR. VISER:

23 23, 25. I'm not good at math.

24 MR. REESE:

25 He's twice our age.



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1                   SECRETARY PIERSON:

2                   The Greater New Orleans area has not  
3 recognized the very significant economic impact, and  
4 you've probably got five of these sheets or more for  
5 various installations. This is just SPAWAR, 1,340 jobs  
6 generating more than 5-million, almost 8-million in  
7 local and state taxes, but 81-million of payroll out  
8 there. These are significant economic drivers, and, you  
9 know, that's why the State has recognized through the  
10 Military Affairs Council of how we can integrate support  
11 and pay attention to these economic drivers that are in  
12 our state and dominate in our communities. We're really  
13 pleased with the leadership of the GNO and the  
14 cooperation of the Calendar Commitment members to allow  
15 us to build that voice in the Greater New Orleans area.

16                   MR. RUSSO:

17                   And I'd say the conversations we're all  
18 starting to have between Murray, Gary, the team, all of  
19 us, I think.

20                   MR. REESE:

21                   I'll kind of quickly go through this.  
22                   If you remember Murray's slides, it's  
23 very obvious that he did my slide deck as well.

24                   MR. VISER:

25                   Plagiarism is a wonderful thing.



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1 MR. REESE:

2 That's right.

3 So, anyway, we're going to touch on some  
4 main things here. Obviously current status and  
5 opportunities and our involvement with the State, as  
6 most of you know, the Joint Readiness Training Center is  
7 really the anchor that holds and secures Fort Polk and  
8 most likely its future, but the real economic impact  
9 that comes from the 310 Brigade Combat Team being  
10 stationed at Fort Polk. In these last several rounds of  
11 reductions, our saving grace is to be able to keep this  
12 310 Brigade Combat Team.

13 The JRTC continues to be highly  
14 effective. Senior leaders within the Army and other  
15 joint services are there on a monthly basis to oversee  
16 the training that's occurring there. It is indeed some  
17 of the most realistic and relevant training going on  
18 within the military, and without that JRTC there, there  
19 would be little to leverage at Fort Polk. So they've  
20 increased the number of days at these training  
21 rotations. Chief of Staff is committed to doubling the  
22 National Guard rotations, which is good in terms of the  
23 economic impact that does come from those training  
24 cycles. In fact, next month, Fort Drum New York, that  
25 area, New York City, is sending a good many National



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1 Guard soldiers down for a training exercise. So there's  
2 a lot of emphasis on spending dollars under Chief of  
3 Staff Milley to upgrade the National Training Center in  
4 California and the Joint Readiness Training Center in  
5 Fort Polk with increased MILCON to expand and further  
6 develop these. And, you know, like we said, there's  
7 significant economic benefits, but we've got to really  
8 pay attention to whether or not we're staying on the  
9 cutting edge with the types of technologies, the types  
10 of air platforms, the types of Army equipment platforms  
11 that will be used in the future and how we prepare for  
12 that and stay ahead of the curve so we're ready to  
13 accept those.

14 And there's other urban training  
15 environments, dense-populated-area-type training  
16 environments, underground tunnel system training  
17 environments that we know are the future of the Army in  
18 terms of their planning and strategy, and we're already  
19 seeking MILCON dollars, keeping our delegation up to  
20 speed so we know that we're preparing at Fort Polk to  
21 make sure we continue to be that primary training  
22 platform for the Army in the future.

23 One of those areas -- yeah. So, you  
24 know, this is just a real quick recap of what a lot of  
25 you know went on here. First round reductions



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1 eliminated 10 brigade combat teams across the country.  
2 We've managed to survive that round of cuts. In no  
3 short measure, you know, the impact that our communities  
4 around the State of Louisiana, State of Louisiana itself  
5 had to the Army were very impactful. They were able to  
6 further reduce brigades in Europe. Now there's a big  
7 discussion about maybe get that back up to encounter  
8 Putin's aggression.

9           The second round was completed in 2015.  
10 That would bring the Army down to about 450,000  
11 soldiers. The study that the Army conducted are all of  
12 the way down potentially as low as 380,000 soldiers. So  
13 there won't be another study process. If the Army has  
14 to go further than 450, there won't be another economic  
15 assessment. There won't be another listening session  
16 tour, you know, if the Army can make these decisions  
17 based on the information they've already collected, so  
18 we remain very leery of that.

19           And we dropped to about 570,000 from  
20 590,000 active duty soldiers. The trajectory now that  
21 we go down to 450, potentially as low as 420. As many  
22 of you saw maybe on the news last week, we are already  
23 at a point below where we were preceding World War II.  
24 Certainly not a safer world we live in.

25           So in those two rounds of cuts, we were



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1 very fortunate that we maintained that brigade combat  
2 team. You'll see on a slide in the future how  
3 significant that is. We are now the only installation  
4 in the Army with a singular orphan brigade combat team  
5 that's not located in its division headquarters. That  
6 puts us in the cross hairs in almost every reduction  
7 decision the Army makes, not to mention all of the other  
8 brigade bases around the country that target us as well.  
9 But we did lose the 152nd, the 1st MEB. That resulted  
10 in a loss of about 2,400 soldiers and reduced our  
11 economic impact from a high of about 1.97-billion to  
12 where we are today, which is about 1.5-billion.

13 So there's been a lot of work that's  
14 going on. We've been in this constant defense mode of  
15 how we avoid being reduced. We're thankful now that if  
16 we're able to restore some dollars to the Army core  
17 structures, we can actually build an offense at Fort  
18 Polk, leverage what we've created there as far as  
19 growth. So the House Armed Services Committee and the  
20 House appropriators have held to a -- are trying to  
21 restore an active duty vote of 480,000 to prevent  
22 further reductions. In order to fund that, the  
23 mechanism they used out at the House was to take part of  
24 the Overseas Contingency Operations, the OCO, war funds  
25 and apply them to holding this core structure at 480,



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1 which would mean that they would run out of war funds  
2 halfway through next year, and that would mean that the  
3 next President would then have to ask for supplemental  
4 war funds. The Senate doesn't like that tool, doesn't  
5 like that strategy and is likely not to approve that  
6 strategy as the bill works its way through the Senate,  
7 and so let's just see where that lies out. But for two  
8 years, we've been trying to pass legislation that did  
9 that and nobody really wanted to get on board. Now,  
10 after the last round of cuts, we've got a great deal of  
11 support.

12                   And then finally, I'll just mention that  
13 we are part of a new strategy. The jury's still out on  
14 what that means to us in the long-term, but the 310  
15 Brigade at Fort Polk, as part of the 10th Mountain  
16 Division out at Fort Drum New York, is going to be  
17 associated with the 36th Infantry Division, which is a  
18 National Guard division out of Texas. Now, we will  
19 remain active duty on our end, but we will train and  
20 they will train with us, and there will be other  
21 connections between those two. We're told to embrace  
22 that as a main priority of the Chief of Staff of the  
23 Army, but we're doing so, but doing so with great  
24 caution as we go forward. What we don't want to see is  
25 another downsizing occur as they reduce our active duty



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1 component down to some sort of task force that would be  
2 backfilled with the National Guard guys out of 36th  
3 Infantry.

4 And just real quick, we purchased about  
5 47,000 acres so far out of a total possible 100,000 acre  
6 purchase. This continues to be another great anchor for  
7 Fort Polk as the only installation in the Army that's  
8 been able to grow over the last decade. That was  
9 greatly assisted by the State of Louisiana, our off-base  
10 communities, but we've got to really hold the Army's  
11 feet to fire now to say, "Hey, you can't come in here  
12 and purchase 50,000 acres, take it out of the tax base  
13 and perpetuity and then turn around and reduce the core  
14 structure there that supports the economy and the very  
15 schools that this money now does not go to." So I think  
16 it's going to leverage us in the future. This is about  
17 the fourth largest Army training space in the Army  
18 inventory, and when you talk about BRAC, that maneuver  
19 space is one of the most highly weighted measures in a  
20 BRAC for the Army.

21 As I mentioned, in talking about Fort  
22 Polk, you see us all alone ourselves in the bottom  
23 center. All of those red circles and red squares  
24 signify brigade combat teams that were eliminated in the  
25 last two rounds of cuts. So you see that we're the only



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1 installation left with a single brigade combat team that  
2 is orphaned from its division in Fort Drum New York.

3 Very significant, again, just to say  
4 that again, that the Secretary of the Army that had to  
5 approve the last two round of cuts, Secretary John  
6 McHugh, retired and he moved back to Fort Drum New York  
7 where he's a Congressman in Fort Drum New York. And I'm  
8 sure that it speaks volumes from the effort of Louisiana  
9 that he reduced the brigade combat team in his hometown  
10 and salvaged one at Fort Polk Louisiana. I'm sure that  
11 was not an easy decision for him, and we're told that it  
12 was not, but we had a lot of great factors that  
13 supported Fort Polk. And that really leaves us in a  
14 critical position that we're going to be targeted in any  
15 other future reduction. Fort Drum's entire strategy is  
16 support their installation. It's based on how they get  
17 that brigade down in Fort Polk Louisiana back to Fort  
18 Drum New York, and that's their full-time congressional  
19 strategy.

20 As the Military Value Analysis that  
21 graded the bases and chose where those cuts were going  
22 to occur, as that information has come up, roughly  
23 speaking, Fort Polk ended up at about the middle third,  
24 and the way it was measured, we think there's still some  
25 room to move in there. We continue to find measures



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1 that they normally use simply are not accurate, either  
2 in terms of number of acres available for training that  
3 increased during this period of time, but as you know, a  
4 government analysis, sometimes they're maybe using  
5 numbers that are several years old. And the way the  
6 facilities airspace have changed since then, that can  
7 very well put us in the top third in that Military Value  
8 Analysis.

9 I think, you know, one of the things to  
10 be mindful of is that the Chief of Staff has looked at  
11 one of the brigades in Alaska that is supposed to have  
12 gone away and now they're kind of slow rolling that in  
13 determining whether or not there's been a major  
14 political push for Alaska to keep their brigades. And  
15 so in kind of opening Pandora's Box, they open it and  
16 come back say, "You know what, we're going to relook  
17 this thing. We're going to salvage that brigade and  
18 give up another someplace else," and that other could  
19 potentially be us, but it also opens Pandora's Box for  
20 any other decisions that could be made. So I'm not sure  
21 they want to set that decision going forward.

22 So I'll just mention -- I won't go  
23 further into this, is that POSTURE Act this year,  
24 they're trying to hold the active duty core structure at  
25 480,000. It's very much in play. The President has



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1 threatened to veto it under its present structure in  
2 terms of funding. The Senate is tending not to support  
3 that as the measure as well, so we'll have to watch as  
4 we go forward.

5 The Government Accounting Office did a  
6 study, also, on these core structure cuts and said,  
7 "Hey, you know, there may have been too much emphasis on  
8 protecting the brigade combat teams. We may have gotten  
9 rid of too many enabling units," and so they may be  
10 relooking at if they were to stand back up some of these  
11 enabling units, we may very well have an opportunity to  
12 get back a couple of the units that we lost, so we're  
13 paying very close attention to that.

14 Small Army Hospital Study continues to  
15 leave the Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital in  
16 jeopardy of becoming a clinic. This is very risky  
17 because it would push most of the medical care out to  
18 local communities and not reflective of the local  
19 communities' ability to either provide high-quality  
20 services or meet the demand that's presented by this  
21 very dangerous, realistic training that goes on at the  
22 Joint Readiness Training Center as it may inhibit our  
23 ability to sustain that mission or to grow a mission in  
24 the future that we're not able to meet the healthcare  
25 plans in our installation. So we'll continue to watch



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1 that very closely. Obviously that's driven by budget.

2 And very quickly, the thing that I'm  
3 most proud of is the work that we've done in education.  
4 As all of you know, the military members, regardless of  
5 rank of service, the quality of education for their  
6 children continues to be one of the driving themes that  
7 we hear about the way they perceive an installation  
8 being stationed there. On the Army side, the Chief of  
9 Staff has even said we'll assess education in all base  
10 communities and it absolutely will be a factor in our  
11 decision making of where these core structure utilities  
12 will happen and where we grow installations in the  
13 future.

14 Louisiana does not enjoy great  
15 reputation for education. We recognize that, and so  
16 it's our job to make sure that we differentiate, you  
17 know, sometimes the perception that our State may have  
18 and highlight the great achievements that are occurring  
19 in some of our off-base education communities. At least  
20 there is one of those in Vernon Parish. We're cutting  
21 the ribbon on the new Parkway Elementary on August the  
22 18th, 10 a.m., about \$21-million, to serve as a new  
23 elementary school for the base. It's located on base  
24 property, but outside the secured area, which will allow  
25 us to grow other community assets outside of the base



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1 that can attend that school, and so we'll have key  
2 leaders there.

3 Another big win is the National Math and  
4 Science Initiative over at Barksdale and Fort Polk that  
5 passed. We just received about a \$1.2-million grant.  
6 We'll leverage a few state dollars to get it, and that  
7 will add advanced placement courses to about three high  
8 schools outside of our military installations. Huge  
9 achievement because we find out from the Army members  
10 that they are really supportive of advanced placement  
11 courses in lieu of dual enrollment. Louisiana schools  
12 love dual enrollment, but these military members'  
13 children leave Louisiana to go to school someplace else,  
14 they'd like to carry that college credit with them, not  
15 to mention the increased rigors in those classes. So  
16 we're very excited about that and continue to brief the  
17 Army. The Army continues to use our education  
18 initiatives as an example to other defense communities  
19 across the country, and that's where we want to remain.

20 The other area is shared services. I  
21 know many of you are working in Section 331 Defense  
22 Services that allow state and local governments to come  
23 on the installations and provide those services that are  
24 currently being provided at the airmen (sic) level, and  
25 so that may be street construction, that may be animal



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1 control, that may be the management of an education  
2 center. But the basic premise is that if, say, animal  
3 control, for instance, if the Army identifies that to  
4 say it costs us \$300,000 a year to do animal control on  
5 base, but the Parish of Vernon does the same thing, just  
6 off base, as long as they can do it for less than  
7 \$300,000 and meet our requirements, we can sole source  
8 contract with them. The Parish is not held at the same  
9 wage rates as the federal government. They pay whatever  
10 their own prevailing wage rate is. And there's a lot of  
11 other tools to help lower the cost of that and further  
12 integrate that parish operation and local communities,  
13 as long as it's beneficial. The Chief of Army  
14 Partnerships will be there next week and we'll have a  
15 big roundtable discussion about identifying these  
16 projects that we can go after.

17 And like everybody else said, it's  
18 constant, persistent outreach at a federal level to be  
19 successful. As all of you know, these key positions  
20 change out every two years, and we're starting building  
21 that relationship fresh every two years and so you can  
22 never let your guard down there. We do that at every  
23 level of decision making within the Army and certainly  
24 at Congress.

25 And, again, you know, we've got a number



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1 of MILCON projects. Senator Cassidy serving on that  
2 MILCON Appropriations Subcommittee is very helpful.  
3 We've identified this Joint Operations Center. We're  
4 trying to move it ahead now, and also JRTC. We've got  
5 some runway issues at Fort Polk that we recently lost  
6 our unmanned program there. It went back to Texas as a  
7 result of the short airfield. We've got great assets at  
8 England Airpark. We've got other assets we can use to  
9 reduce the airspace issue, protected airspace required  
10 to transition these unmanned systems, and we've got to  
11 figure that out. Whether that's an airspace expansion,  
12 or whether that's a runway expansion, we've got to  
13 figure that out. And then the Main Post Chapel, that  
14 used to be an issue for us.

15 And then very quickly, just, you know,  
16 that state support, I think, is significant, and I know  
17 we'll maybe get into it further in this agenda, but the  
18 State support that we've had has been significant in  
19 terms of our ability to maybe pursue some of these needs  
20 in the Army and increase our military value in  
21 protecting against further reductions at Fort Polk in  
22 preparing for base realignment closure. We would not be  
23 very effective without that state support. And I think  
24 that it goes further to say that as we've tried to  
25 attract new missions, the State's ability and



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1 willingness to take down some of those prohibiting  
2 factors, such as MILCON, and return former missions  
3 being based there is very important.

4 So that is our update on Fort Polk. And  
5 I'll also mention, you know, we use the Roosevelt Group,  
6 such as Murray does, that has really advanced our  
7 ability to be tactful both inside the Army and Capitol  
8 Hill.

9 And I'll note another colleague here,  
10 Danny Ford, that joined us, sitting behind me, and Danny  
11 works legislative issues at the State level. And,  
12 again, that's been very important for us. We work with  
13 Danny, as we have with Chris, to manage what goes on  
14 with the State, because as you-all know, when working  
15 state issues, you can come down to Baton Rouge. We've  
16 got the support measures and it's in the deal and it  
17 looks good to me, and by the time I could to drive back  
18 to Leesville, you get a call to say, "Hey, that  
19 amendment has just got stripped out." And so without  
20 someone that's having to hold down a job is not there,  
21 so without someone watching those initiatives all of the  
22 time, it's very difficult to be effective at the State  
23 level.

24 And it's also important that when a  
25 member is asking questions on a bill that is about Fort



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1 Polk, and that member may be from New Orleans, it's  
2 important to have a colleague around that can say, "Let  
3 me explain this issue to you so you better understand  
4 it," and that education piece is critical, I think, in  
5 working with State Capitol. So I wanted to introduce  
6 Danny as well.

7 SECRETARY PIERSON:

8 Thank you.

9 All right. We'll call on now the gent  
10 from the Roosevelt Group and try to make our way through  
11 it. Again, I apologize that Chris Goode could not be  
12 here today.

13 I think if you want to do it, that would  
14 be great.

15 MR. REESE:

16 So I'll hit some of the highlights, and  
17 Murray can plug in on several of these as well.

18 You know, when we started working with  
19 the Roosevelt Group, it was a couple of guys. It was  
20 this guy second from the left and second from the right,  
21 and they did a great job for us. They've been on  
22 previous BRAC commissions. They knew those issues well.  
23 They've worked on the Hill, and they were very  
24 effective. And over time, they have been able to build  
25 an even larger team of people that have also, I think,



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1 raised the value of their firm. Ms. Kathleen Ferguson  
2 in the middle was the Assistant Secretary of the Air  
3 Force for Installations and Environment.

4 MR. VISOR:

5 Correct.

6 MR. REESE:

7 All right. So she's a great key player.  
8 She's well thought of within all branches of service,  
9 and she provides great insight and great access.

10 To the far left is Colonel Kevin Felix  
11 who just left Army TRADOC. He was really big in Army  
12 2020 and Army 2025 future battle strategies and future  
13 training strategies. Recently retired, Colonel Felix  
14 has been a great asset on the Army side of the House.

15 And you may have comments about Kathleen  
16 as well.

17 MR. VISER:

18 Kathleen is, I think I met Kathy maybe  
19 seven years ago when she was still in her day job, and  
20 one of the sharpest, brightest installation people I  
21 have ever met and has a corporate memory that goes back  
22 a long time and it helped us identify, in a couple  
23 instances, some things that might have been on the Wing  
24 Commander's wish list that, "Hey, everybody wants those  
25 kinds of things." She is great from a standpoint of



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1 bill issues, so we're really looking forward to when her  
2 quiet period is over and she can start talking with and  
3 directing our folks at Barksdale.

4 MR. REESE:

5 I'll make one other comment, because I  
6 don't know some of the rest of these people, but bottom  
7 left corner, Lucian Niemeyer is a former professional  
8 member of the Senate Army Reserves Committee, has a  
9 great reputation within that community, and he has  
10 really raised the bar in terms of our understanding of  
11 the way the House and Senate Services Committee develops  
12 bills, approves and disapproves things at the  
13 professional staff level, and that's been very  
14 important.

15 And the only reason I stay on this slide  
16 for a second is to say that the Roosevelt Group for us,  
17 we don't need a lobbyist. We have direct access to all  
18 of our members of congress and we have no trouble  
19 getting their support and approval. What this team  
20 brings to the table for us is that institutional  
21 knowledge, professional knowledge of the bureaucracy  
22 side of the House more than the lobbying side of the  
23 House. If they understand a strategy or developing a  
24 strategy, they know Murray and they know how to pursue  
25 it, you know, if we need to.



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1 MR. VISER:

2 Just a quick stop with Mike, Mike is  
3 spot on. Access to professional staff on a bill is,  
4 boy, that's critical. That is absolutely critical  
5 because they see beginning to end how the process works,  
6 how the sauce is made, and it has been a huge asset for  
7 us.

8 MR. REESE:

9 And it's recognition. The money is not  
10 funded by those guys that are out campaigning all of the  
11 time. These guys are about 25 to 30 years old that are  
12 working in those staff positions, but these are some of  
13 the other areas that the Roosevelt Group is working.

14 You know, again, I talked about a little  
15 bit of this in my presentation, you know, the NDAA  
16 that's coming out now, it still doesn't allow a round of  
17 BRAC. We continue to believe BRAC is still a strong  
18 possibility, and like Barksdale, we continue to believe  
19 that it's a great opportunity as far as installation if  
20 it occurs, but you have to have a plan. You have to  
21 stay 10 steps ahead of it and be prepared for it  
22 statewide.

23 This may -- Murray, it may be more you  
24 in terms of aircraft and capitalization.

25 MR. VISER:



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1           Yeah. As I said, the Air Force is the  
2 smallest it's ever been since its inception going back  
3 to 1947. Our technological edge is gradually eroding  
4 away. The things that made us so successful in the last  
5 15 or 20 years in the fight will not continue to stand  
6 as well, quite honestly. We also have not had to fight  
7 a near-peer competitor. We have been blessed with air  
8 superiority in just about every campaign, if not every  
9 campaign that we've been involved in since Vietnam. So  
10 it's critical that we understand the breadth of  
11 pressures that the Air Force, the Army, the entire  
12 department of defense is working under.

13           It's great to say, you know, we've  
14 gotten reprieved from sequestration for two years, but  
15 that doesn't mean sequestration is two years shorter.  
16 It just means it's being pushed to the right out into  
17 the future and it's going to run, unless it's repealed,  
18 for the full term, full original term plus some for  
19 sequestration, and it is a bad, bad thing. This is a  
20 terrible way to run anything, not just the military.  
21 Sorry, but I digressed for a moment.

22           MR. REESE:

23           Again, just reiterating those facts that  
24 this budget environment is forcing constraints on the  
25 Air Force and the Army and Marine Corps and the Navy and



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1 every element to levels below those that would be  
2 supported by actual military strategy.

3 Just a quick recap of FY-'17, the  
4 authorized core structure within the branches of  
5 service, you know, continues to be a decline at every  
6 level, and although at the presidential level they will  
7 tell you that that's a sufficient strategy, you will  
8 hear testimony after testimony after testimony of joint  
9 chiefs, leader of each branch of service that it does  
10 not support the military strategy.

11 Again, to Murray's point, you can just  
12 see that that original budget cap is the dashed red line  
13 on the bottom represents about a trillion dollars in  
14 cuts over the course of what was supposed to have been  
15 10 years. That solid green line represents kind of  
16 where we've ended up at, you know, because of the budget  
17 deals that have gone on, the last budget deal just says  
18 that we're going to provide supplemental funding for two  
19 years basically to get through the Presidential Election  
20 cycle, and then we're going to postpone the impacts for  
21 another two years out to 2021. This continues to be, I  
22 think, the biggest, most alarming challenge to the  
23 Department of Defense that exists. It's not our enemies  
24 as much it is our funding levels.

25 And, again, it's just that, you know,



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1 they're going to procure fewer weapons. And you can see  
2 across all of these platforms, they're going to reduce  
3 shipbuilding while other countries are increasing  
4 theirs. So all of these things, the budget restraint,  
5 the budget will force all branches of services to make  
6 decisions that could impact any one of us at any time.

7 MR. VISER:

8 The term that the Air Force typically  
9 uses is we're willing to accept risk, acceptable risks.  
10 Well, those acceptable risks, when does it become  
11 unacceptable? I guess the answer is when they have  
12 enough money to get what we really need, and that scares  
13 me to death, folks, I'll tell you.

14 MR. REESE:

15 You know, again, we've talked through  
16 these issues, but absolute persistent engagement is key  
17 and critical both to the branches of service and  
18 obviously at the Congressional level and more so at the  
19 State level these days. The State is way ahead of the  
20 issues that come up, whether they're environmental or  
21 Congressional mandated, very important.

22 Again, you know, not waiting for a BRAC.  
23 I think that we took a BRAC study in 2005 is what caused  
24 us -- the State Division of Study, the study caused us  
25 to set up an organization because of that was one of the



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1 things identified with the Community Advocacy  
2 Organization what was key and critical. I think as a  
3 State, as an LMAC, we've got to really decide what our  
4 role is in trying to leverage state assets to improve  
5 outcomes for all of us.

6 I'm going to take on this year the  
7 chairmanship of ADC's Federal Outreach Advocacy  
8 Committee. I'll start that in June, and basically that  
9 committee, our first agenda item is that we're setting  
10 up policies to be presented to either the Republican or  
11 the Democratic presidential transition team. We're  
12 already talking to people in both of those parties'  
13 committees that are setting up potential transition  
14 teams so that we have a seat at the table there. We  
15 also work with the Defense Caucus in both House and the  
16 Senate to set advocacy goals there and policy goals  
17 there. And we've actually had a lot of kickback on BRAC  
18 language asking that committee at ADC to advise Congress  
19 on that future BRAC language. So that will be an  
20 opportunity to have a seat at the table as that process  
21 moves forward.

22 MR. KELLER:

23 Excuse me. What does the ADC stand for?

24 MR. REESE:

25 That's the Associate for Defense



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1 Communities.

2 And so they have -- we were kicking this  
3 around a little bit ago with Gary and I, there's some  
4 things they do well, and we've attended some meetings  
5 that have had little value. But in terms of the  
6 national organization that brings people to do similar  
7 activities together, there's this group that does that,  
8 and, like, their national conference will be in June,  
9 mid June, and they'll have high-level civilian and  
10 military leaders of all branches of service there. It's  
11 a great opportunity to work with our other colleagues to  
12 see how similar problems are being solved in other  
13 installations. So it's about the only thing that exists  
14 to bring our community advocacy groups together.

15 MR. VISER:

16 If I could give you a little background  
17 on the Air Force -- Group, that group provides direct  
18 access to Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Secretary  
19 of the Air Force. It is a wonderful opportunity for  
20 those of us involved with it to come to understand the  
21 senior leadership within the Air Force. Their thought  
22 process is to -- in some cases, it's sessions are  
23 typically off the record, not for repetition, not for  
24 the -- what's word I'm looking for? I hate when I lose  
25 my words. But not to attribute any comments that are



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1 made. So it is a very candid group and it's a wonderful  
2 group to be a part of and I'm very privileged to be able  
3 to represent our community and our State in that on that  
4 group.

5 MR. REESE:

6 Again, we've kind of covered my area.

7 MR. VISER:

8 As we talked about, military  
9 construction investments continuing at Barksdale, not at  
10 the level we enjoyed when the major command was being  
11 stood up, but that's okay. We still have a seat at the  
12 table and we're still moving forward with their MILCON  
13 projects.

14 As I said, weapons storage facility is a  
15 huge investment. It's so big it's going to be over  
16 three years. So that is critical to the future of  
17 Barksdale Air Force Base and our community.

18 Again, workforce education, we're  
19 working with local higher-education entities to make  
20 sure that we have good STEM education and good STEM  
21 resource for Global Strike Command and other areas that  
22 they need.

23 Encroachment, always critical. Don  
24 remembers when we had a subdivision built right  
25 under where the aircraft turned and it come over about



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1 1,800 feet, about 1,200 feet above the ground, all eight  
2 engines going, flaps out, and it is loud. When I tell  
3 you it is so loud, I could be yelling in Dan's ear and  
4 he couldn't hear me. I'm not kidding you. So we're  
5 very aware of encroachment and the dangers there and  
6 we're very cognizant in this community to try to  
7 balance, as I said earlier, between the needs and wants  
8 of Barksdale Air Force Base.

9 Green Flag, again, that's a critical  
10 area. We have a wonderful partnership with Fort Polk  
11 and Fort Polk Progress to be able to try and solve this  
12 problem and give our young men and woman that come  
13 through Fort Polk the best training they could possibly  
14 receive.

15 MR. REESE:

16 And I think the other branches of  
17 service, in particular, the New Orleans area, you know,  
18 I think there's probably further opportunity to hash out  
19 that Joint Readiness Training Center, and it's built  
20 just like the Gulf of Mexico is, so close in terms of  
21 the training environments, the real-world scenarios that  
22 play out at Fort Polk and the air support they need to  
23 paint those as realistic as possible. Aerial moving  
24 target ranges and those sorts of things can very well  
25 play into increasing the kind of training value of



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1 assets in South Louisiana as well. If anybody wants to  
2 pursue that, we can help.

3 SECRETARY PIERSON:

4 Thank you for pitching for Chris Goode.

5 MR. VISER:

6 He's better looking than I am. I can't  
7 speak for Mike.

8 MR. REESE:

9 There's more hair, I know that.

10 SECRETARY PIERSON:

11 Getting us back on the agenda, any old  
12 business to come before the group?

13 (No response.)

14 SECRETARY PIERSON:

15 I think we've got some closeout that  
16 Sherri and I will be working on. We'll put some form of  
17 annual report on the records from closeout of 2015.  
18 Going forward, we probably want to put together a look  
19 at what our next -- part of the legislation, I think,  
20 requires an economic impact assessment at some point, so  
21 we'll probably get back to you through e-mail once we  
22 have a plan centered around that or at least something  
23 that we could ask you to comment on.

24 Any other old business issues?

25 I guess the final one would be that



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1 we're working for reappointment of our current board.  
2 We know that they have deceased members, and we know we  
3 have at least one opening. Some of these are refined,  
4 like a retired flight officer or those type things.  
5 We're going to work through those, but if for any reason  
6 someone wanted to discontinue their service on the Board  
7 due to time requirements or something, we would take  
8 that under advisement. But lacking the message between  
9 them and Board, we're going to advocate for our  
10 experienced group to continue the service on the  
11 commission.

12 MR. REESE:

13 I just want to, as a personal note, say  
14 thank you to both Sherri and yourself in working through  
15 these previous closeouts and all of the issues related  
16 to Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, just thank you so  
17 greatly for your patience in dealing with those.

18 MR. VISER:

19 Amen.

20 MR. REESE:

21 Our constant e-mails and questions and  
22 status updates, you've been so incredibly patient for  
23 that and so effective in getting it done. I know once  
24 you start dealing with multiple state agencies in that  
25 process, not only the legislative auditor's office, but



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1 all of the other locations there are. Thank you very  
2 much for making that process easier.

3 SECRETARY PIERSON:

4 Well, we're glad to serve, but thank you  
5 for that acknowledgement.

6 There are several wings of government  
7 that the Division Administration has to review the  
8 contract. It's got to come back to LED. You know, we  
9 try to disburse the funds and then we have the  
10 documentation and files, and you can sleep well at night  
11 knowing that your funds are well managed.

12 Thank you for that, Mike.

13 New business, appropriations and other  
14 legislative matters, we might ask Stan to comment in a  
15 minute. We've been working in partnership -- "we" being  
16 Louisiana Economic Development, in partnership with our  
17 allies here and with Danny to try to secure some funding  
18 going forward. As you can appreciate, a very  
19 challenging fiscal environment in doing that. I feel  
20 like we're getting a lot of support. Certainly it's  
21 attributable to the good cause. That's our charge.  
22 It's also helpful that we have a number of major  
23 communities across our state involved in this. I  
24 commented to the Southwest Louisiana folks the other day  
25 the fact that both Lake Charles and Alexandria will both



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1 stand up for Fort Polk is very helpful.  
2 Shreveport/Bossier, obviously for Barksdale, and the  
3 entire GNO Region for the various military installations  
4 around there, including the Coast Guard Reserves and  
5 National Guard, et cetera, all around the state, all of  
6 that is very helpful to us.

7 Danny's left the room, so somebody's  
8 threatening our funding across the street. Tentatively  
9 we believe that we're okay for now, but it's just as  
10 Mike said, the last 48 hours, things go in various  
11 directions and so we really won't know until probably  
12 the 6th of June how we fared, but we've got a very  
13 supportive Governor, Commissioner of Administration.  
14 And I think if -- we did reach out to the Governor's  
15 office today to see if he was available to come over,  
16 and as Mike mentioned, he's got a bill signing and a  
17 media event that was right there on top of us at 10  
18 o'clock, so it wasn't possible. But on behalf of the  
19 Governor, he's very committed to our cause here. It's  
20 great to have a military person in the office, you know,  
21 the goes from the ground up, so to speak, so I have a  
22 good feeling about where we're positioned.

23 If Danny comes back, we'll call on him.  
24 Otherwise, Mike, you may want to comment on the  
25 Association of Defense Communities Forum, unless there's



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1 any other questions about the appropriations and  
2 legislative matters.

3 MR. REESE:

4 Let me just comment on the  
5 appropriations and legislation matter. We're going to  
6 meet together on the 31st, and really the whole purpose  
7 of the sit down is to say, "Hey, you know, I realize  
8 everybody's been busy, you know, but as we start looking  
9 out on the horizon, as we start looking out to the  
10 future going outward, you know, what -- how can  
11 Louisiana relook at the way we support other defense  
12 communities?" We've got a great opportunity, as you  
13 said, with the Governor and his military background and  
14 with yourself to get a better understanding from our  
15 legislature of what our military installations mean. So  
16 I'm constantly bombarding Sherri with new articles  
17 related to how other states are doing it in leveraging  
18 their assets. I think we've got a great opportunity to  
19 potentially do that in Louisiana. You know, where the  
20 State is able to appropriate more dollars to bodies such  
21 as LMAC, to be able to grant larger type of grants to  
22 specific projects that hedge against BRAC or that  
23 support the acquisition of new mission in our  
24 installations. And I feel strongly that this Governor's  
25 going to, I think, really embrace the idea of an



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1 offensive strategy once the smoke clears from, you know,  
2 everything they're having to do now. So that's what I'm  
3 going to advocate for in that meeting, and hopefully  
4 it's something he'll embrace and make part of his kind  
5 of administrative policy.

6 MR. KELLER:

7 Especially since the Congressional  
8 delegation is making, you know, visits to bases  
9 currently, so, you know, they're interested.

10 MR. REESE:

11 Absolutely.

12 MR. KELLER:

13 The Governor should certainly know about  
14 that and that they're already here.

15 MR. REESE:

16 You know, it's a challenge because, you  
17 know, the State of Texas Army installations, there are  
18 peers and people we have to compete against for these  
19 missions. You know, they appropriated \$35-million for  
20 their state advisory board, and their state advisory  
21 board involvement includes the installations on a grant  
22 program basis to take down items that had been  
23 identified as taking away from their military value,  
24 whether that's a base access road, whether that's  
25 encroachment issues, whether that's building a family



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1 wellness complex on the installation and the water and  
2 sewer projects, all sorts of things. And I'm not -- you  
3 know, I recognize the constraints, the financial  
4 constraints we live in in Louisiana. We're not Texas,  
5 but there's other examples across the country of people  
6 doing the same thing. We're going to be competitive.  
7 We're going to make it through these reduction rounds  
8 and we have a way to do that. We have a strategy to  
9 tackle those things to meet the needs, whether that's  
10 encroachment, joint land issues or others.

11 MS. MCCONNELL:

12 Is there any information you can give us  
13 about Representative Armes' subcommittees?

14 MR. REESE:

15 No. I can give you all kinds of  
16 information that wouldn't be relevant to this.

17 No. I think we intend to be back in  
18 front of the -- Representative Armes is Chairman of the  
19 House Special Committee on Military and Veterans  
20 Affairs. We intended to have a briefing session where  
21 he holds a committee session and each of us provide --  
22 have an update from other members of the State  
23 legislature to understand what our strategies are,  
24 what's going on. That's been muddy. We've tried to  
25 schedule about six times, and there's just so many



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1 moving parts. It may ultimately get done before June  
2 6th. We'll see, and I'll just keep posting that as it  
3 goes.

4 One other legislative matter is we did  
5 get the House and Senate resolution passed endorsing the  
6 I14 corridor as part of the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway  
7 System. We were about to get in a federal highway deal  
8 to be designated future I14 several months ago.

9 Louisiana DOTD raised its hand and said, "No. We don't  
10 want anymore projects that we don't have the money to  
11 do," and there's probably some logic to that, but we  
12 basically went back to the legislature, and the  
13 legislature is now directing Congresses to pursue the  
14 strategy kind of above and DOTD because it is important  
15 that we put that placeholder out there. Texas has done  
16 it already. It now ceases at the line of Louisiana, and  
17 this whole ports-type roadwork and strategy is important  
18 regardless of whether it gets built 40 or 50 years from  
19 now, you have a place to start obviously. And that  
20 resolution is one of the Senate appropriations bills on  
21 the Senate floor in a couple of weeks. We expect to get  
22 that designation as the future I14 corridor for that  
23 section of Louisiana to join in with Texas.

24 MS. MCCONNELL:

25 Who's the author of that resolution?



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1 MR. REESE:

2 John Smith. And it's passed through the  
3 senate and I believe passed through the House.

4 MS. MCCONNELL:

5 It's a current resolution?

6 MR. REESE:

7 Yes.

8 SECRETARY PIERSON:

9 That's a good addition. Thank you,  
10 Mike.

11 Association of Defense Communities  
12 Forum.

13 MR. REESE:

14 Again, I hate to beat a drum again,  
15 but...

16 So the Association of Defense  
17 Communities has been hosting these regional forums.  
18 They have proposed that we consider hosting one. I'm  
19 just going to throw it out there and we can pass that  
20 around later on. It's not an urgent matter, but  
21 basically the concept that we would take a day, say, in  
22 November and we would say we were going to host a  
23 Association of Defense Communities Regional Forum in  
24 Louisiana; we would pick a location. The Association of  
25 Defense Communities' role in that would be bring in



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1 subject matter experts and officials within the DOD to  
2 our forum to provide advice, to make appropriations,  
3 that we understand their priorities. This would be both  
4 a civilian -- mostly the civilian leadership side of the  
5 House, and it will be our opportunity to bring in equal  
6 primaries of defense communities across the state,  
7 whether that be city council members, mayors, police  
8 jury, presidents, others that would be impacted, but are  
9 not likely to go to Washington necessarily to hear about  
10 it. You can bring in Veterans Affairs, Department of  
11 Education, government, LED, you know, the state agencies  
12 as well. And it's like a one-day forum to basically be  
13 able to understand better our defense community issues.  
14 Like I said, ADC's role would be to bring in subject  
15 matter experts to make presentations to the panels.

16 So just throwing that out there if  
17 anybody finds benefit in that and thinks it will be good  
18 to get together with those kind of participants I  
19 mentioned. You know, the mayors at places like  
20 Leesville on the river may benefit in talking to mayors  
21 of Shreveport and Bossier and in the New Orleans area  
22 about how they're meeting some of these defense  
23 community challenges as well as educating our school  
24 superintendents that may want to be meet at the forum on  
25 education.



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1                   SECRETARY PIERSON:

2                   Mike, is there a fiscal note attached to  
3 that?

4                   MR. REESE:

5                   No.

6                   SECRETARY PIERSON:

7                   Do they look for contribution?

8                   MR. REESE:

9                   No. They look for, honestly, you know,  
10 maybe sponsors and that kind of stuff. Like Fort Polk  
11 Progress might be a sponsor to try to -- you know, but  
12 it's not necessary.

13                  SECRETARY PIERSON:

14                  So we'd be willing to participate in  
15 some fashion.

16                  MR. REESE:

17                  I think I would see great value in it  
18 myself. And I guess I've been asking for a little  
19 direction from this group, and the idea is that, yes, in  
20 general, we ought to try to pursue that. And then I'll  
21 get the ball rolling to start that process of where we  
22 could have it, how we can do it, what would be a date,  
23 and then shoot for a target far enough in the future  
24 where we can all plan on it.

25                  MR. KELLER:



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1 Well, certainly jump start the  
2 legislative component of this group to see what the  
3 peers are doing in other states. I understand that  
4 this, you know, we would not be the only ones who are  
5 doing something on a very sophisticated level.

6 SECRETARY PIERSON:

7 Not in the form of a motion, but rather  
8 in the form of a discussion, perhaps you might give me a  
9 brief narrative that describes the opportunity. Sherri  
10 can message it out since we lack a quorum today, but  
11 invite comment and then we'll evaluate the comments and  
12 make the decision on how we -- get some options on how  
13 we proceed and if that's acceptable for the group.

14 Danny, we didn't intend to blow by you  
15 while you were out of the room. We figured it was  
16 something threatening our funding over there that we  
17 needed to attend to, but I would like to circle back and  
18 make the floor available for you if you would like to  
19 make a comment relative to appropriations and other  
20 legislative matters.

21 MR. FORD:

22 Well, we've been successful in the past  
23 couple years securing some funds through the State,  
24 through the State budget, which we were always  
25 line-itemed. This is going to be a great thing for us



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1 because of his understanding of military installation  
2 here, especially with his background and exposure.

3 The biggest hurdle we have and have had  
4 over the past several years is just education in a  
5 whole. The majority of the legislators have no idea  
6 what the economic impact of the bases are, what their  
7 role is in the state, how much employment they have.  
8 It's out of sight, out of mind. Unless you're from --  
9 unless you actually have one of the bases in your  
10 district, they don't know that. And, you know, Exxon  
11 has a fleet of lobbyists at the Capital that talks about  
12 their economic impact and what they do and what has been  
13 lacking from the military installations, as somebody  
14 pointed that out as well. The federal guys get it, but  
15 not the State.

16 And when it comes down to infrastructure  
17 or transportation and roads for deployment, for just  
18 access into the base, the education systems on the local  
19 level, these are things these guys don't know, and we've  
20 started the process of educating them on that. The  
21 Governor, who is a West Point grad and former Army guy,  
22 he's more -- he has invested interest in this. He's  
23 curious about it. He's starting to learn more about it,  
24 but the legislature as a whole and those people who are  
25 appropriating dollars, whether it's money going through



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1 the LED for outreach or for organizations in order to  
2 keep installations here.

3 The other thing that, you know, we've  
4 harped on, and Don and I have talked about this in the  
5 past several years is getting those guys to understand  
6 that just because it's federal dollars coming in, we are  
7 still an employer and an economic asset to the State.  
8 Protecting it with the infrastructure, with roads,  
9 transportation, DOTD and education is a huge thing.

10 Anything we can do to start -- and I  
11 would encourage -- Mike's done a great job in his area,  
12 and I know Murray and Belle Chasse jump started a couple  
13 years ago reaching out to the business community and  
14 educating the legislators. Mike and I talked about it  
15 and it's something that I don't know if when I was out  
16 y'all brought that up -- is trying to do something after  
17 session with inviting the different communities to come  
18 tour the facilities, tour the bases, whether it's  
19 transportation, education and appropriations. Educating  
20 them and giving them a one-pager is a good thing, but  
21 actually getting the folks that are allocating the money  
22 for the infrastructure and education is great stuff, but  
23 getting them to see the base and see the things that go  
24 on there is a very, very powerful thing when they're  
25 talking to colleagues. And when you go to them for the



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1 education committee meeting, "The issues are here, here,  
2 and here," they already have that understanding. So  
3 that's something that the LMAC committee ought to push  
4 forward. And I'm happy to help with that in trying to  
5 get a couple of the committees to meet after session and  
6 hold hearings on the base and at least set up some base  
7 tours with them to get them to understand what all is  
8 going on with the economic impact.

9 SECRETARY PIERSON:

10 Thank you for sharing that.

11 Any other comments?

12 (No response.)

13 SECRETARY PIERSON:

14 We'll entertain adjournment if there are  
15 no other comments.

16 (No response.)

17 SECRETARY PIERSON:

18 Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

19 (Meeting concludes at 11:56 a.m.)

20

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

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

21 Dated this 12th day of June, 2016.

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, CCR  
24 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER  
25



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