MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: MEETING WITH SOUTH CAROLINA MILITARY BASE TASK FORCE

1. The Honorable BJ Penn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, and the Honorable Wayne Arny, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Facilities met with the Honorable Mark Sanford, Governor of South Carolina and members of the South Carolina Military Base Task Force, including Kurt Taylor, Mayor Pro Tempore, North Charleston; Bob Coble, Mayor, Columbia; Bill Rauch, Mayor, Beaufort; Joe Riley, Mayor, Charleston; William Randolph, Mayor Pro Tempore, Sumter; Richard Eckstrom, Comptroller General and Co-Chair, South Carolina Military Base Task Force; Brig. General (ret.) Thomas R. Mikolajcik, USA; and, James C. McGuire, Office of the Governor, in Room 4E523 at 1000 on 14 March 2005. In addition, CAPT John E. Cohoon, USN, Chief of Staff, Commander Navy Installations Command; CAPT James D. Heffernan, USN, OASN (I&E); and, Capt James A. Noel, USMC, ODASN (IS&A) were also present.

2. In general, members of the South Carolina delegation informed Mr. Penn and Mr. Arny that South Carolina installations are prepared to accept new missions and serve as a model for DOD joint multi-Service installations. For example, they specifically referred to Charleston as a model for Twenty-First Century DOD jointness. They noted that MCAS Beaufort has 17,000 acres available for re-development and that the installation should be considered for joint Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard use. Additionally, they noted that since MCAS Beaufort is characterized by very little encroachment, it presents an opportunity for joint basing of Navy and Marine Corps aviation assets and suggested the potential for MCAS Beaufort to receive aviation assets from NAS Oceana, VA. They stated that MCRD Parris Island and Navy Hospital Beaufort are capable of accommodating additional missions. The delegation specifically referred to several initiatives undertaken by South Carolina communities to ensure the viability for realignment of new missions to South Carolina installations, including an expenditure of $600 million for a new bridge in Charleston and a one-half percent sales tax in the city of Charleston to improve the transportation infrastructure.
3. Mr. Penn and Mr. Arny thanked the delegation for their numerous visits. He provided a brief explanation, and current status, of the BRAC process. The Secretary stated that recommendations for closure or realignment had not yet been developed. He also noted that some installations and regions would gain activities from the BRAC process.

4. The meeting concluded at 1103.

JAMES A. NOEL
CAPTAIN, U.S. Marine Corps
Recorder, IAT