



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000



25

18 JUN 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

SUBJECT: Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC 59)

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From all the reports I have received, this year's Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) was a tremendous success. JCOC 59 participants learned about our missions, met the officers and enlisted members of our Military Services, and got a firsthand understanding of the challenges of life in the military. Equally important, the participants gained a greater understanding of the challenges involved in meeting the nation's defense requirements in today's political and economic circumstances. The group determined it would translate that understanding into action in support of the Department's missions and goals.

The success of each JCOC is always directly attributable to the level of commitment and support of our senior leaders. The Navy and the Marine Corps outdid themselves. Your speech to the group during their day of Pentagon briefings played a vital role in setting the tone for the conference. I would also like to mention the truly outstanding JCOC support demonstrated by the Navy and Marine Corps Project Officers, (b)(6) (b)(6) of your Chief of Naval Information Office, and (b)(6) (b)(6) Division of Public Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps. Both officers performed their duties flawlessly and both should be commended for outstanding performance.

The Navy provided multiple opportunities for the participants to meet today's sailors and afforded the JCOC a unique view of naval operations. From the tours aboard the USS NASSAU, USS MITSCHER, the USS JACKSONVILLE and the USS HYMAN G. RICKOVER -- and a COD flight and catapult experience on and off the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT -- JCOC 59 members say they experienced today's Navy 'hands on.' This was my goal precisely. Please express my sincere appreciation to Admiral William J. "Bud" Flanagan, Commander in Chief, US Atlantic Fleet, and to all members of the Fleet who helped make this portion of the trip so successful.

The visit to Camp Pendleton hosted by the Marines was equally significant. The Marines presented an outstanding demonstration. Hosted by Major General Frank Libutti, in the

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absence of Commanding General Anthony Zinni, Marines of all ranks spent a great deal of time with the JCOC. From the Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) ride at Red Beach to the outstanding displays and detailed presentations put on by the support units; from the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Assault Operations demonstration to the ample opportunities to spend real time with young Marines, our participants were overwhelmed with the Marine Corps visit. Please convey my sincere thanks to General Libutti and to the Marines at Camp Pendleton.

Thank you for your Department's unstinting support of JCOC. The program contributes greatly to public understanding of DOD readiness. Please pass along my thanks to the many sailors and Marines who made JCOC 59 so successful.

William J. Perry