



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1400

13 MAY 1997

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHIEF OF INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR
FORCE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, USMC
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, USCG

SUBJECT: JCOC 60

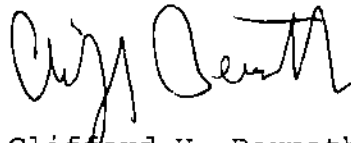
This year's JCOC was extremely successful. I just received the following e-mail from one of the participants that sums up the experience:

I just wanted to say thanks again for the most wonderful experience I have had in a long time. The dimensions of the experience continue to surface all the time. I have definitely come away a changed person. This morning I felt a tremendous loss and hurt when I heard the news story of the Marines who were apparently lost in a crash of their helicopter. Then I heard about the deployment of the Marines to Zaire and I know that the three young men who were with me at breakfast are on that ship sitting waiting for the call to arms. I then found myself listening to an interview with the commander of the NATO forces who was a US Army General. I found myself echoing the words of General Wilhem about putting our country's young men in harm's way without the best equipment we can buy. As I ate dinner tonight I wondered what happened to the nightly cocktail party and all my new friends. Where was your smiling face and quick wit or (b)(6) sarcastic insults which I had learned to love. Where was (b)(6) to tell us one of his stories. Most of all where was the Major, Captain, General, or Admiral who had always provide insights. I miss the group, the knowledge and even the busy days. Please feel free to call on me any time to help with any project. I believe in your work and the goals you have set for the program. I'll write again soon. Feel free to drop a line anytime.

I am currently going through all of the critiques. Despite the overwhelming success of the program and the positive expressions, we still have room for improvement. I will provide each of you with a detailed summary of the critiques to aid in next year's planning.

Thanks for your continuing support. I am absolutely convinced that the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference greatly benefits the Department and each of the military Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Bernath". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cliff" and last name "Bernath" clearly distinguishable.

Clifford H. Bernath
Principal Deputy Assistant
Secretary of Defense for
Public Affairs