



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000



18 JUN 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SUBJECT: Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC 59)

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 Army did a superb job. Your speech as keynote speaker at the welcome dinner struck a chord with the participants and set the tone for the rest of the conference. Lieutenant General Caryl Marsh, Commanding General, I Corps and Fort Lewis, represented the Army admirably and accompanied JCOC members through most of their visit to his installation. (b)(6) Army Public Affairs, served as Army Project Officer this year and did so with distinction. He should be commended.

I have received countless letters from JCOC participants telling me how impressed they were with the Army's portion of JCOC. Some of them have written about the welcome dinner and being greeted by camouflaged soldiers in full battle gear. Others wrote about the intense reality of the live fire offensive operation. They even enjoyed the MRE lunches with the troops. All were experiences of a lifetime for this group and allowed them a perspective generally unknown to most citizens of our nation. The exemplary professionalism and pride in mission exhibited by the soldiers of all ranks at Fort Lewis are testimony to what today's Army is all about.

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 soldiers who made JCOC 59 so successful.

William J. Perry



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