

# Salute to the Military

Our Education Partnership



2014

 **HCDC**  
*Harrison County  
Development Commission*



The military is an integral part of our community in Harrison County and in the broader South Mississippi region. They are valued guests while they're here and we're delighted many of them settle here when they leave the military. These highly educated citizens continue to improve our communities in second careers, some serving in public office; some starting businesses.

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### About the Harrison County Development Commission

Created in 1958, the Harrison County Development Commission (HCDC) is the economic development agency for Harrison County, including the cities of Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi and D'Iberville. HCDC is committed to promoting Harrison County as a positive place to live and do business, developing quality jobs and creating increased wealth for all stakeholders.

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# Our Education Partnership

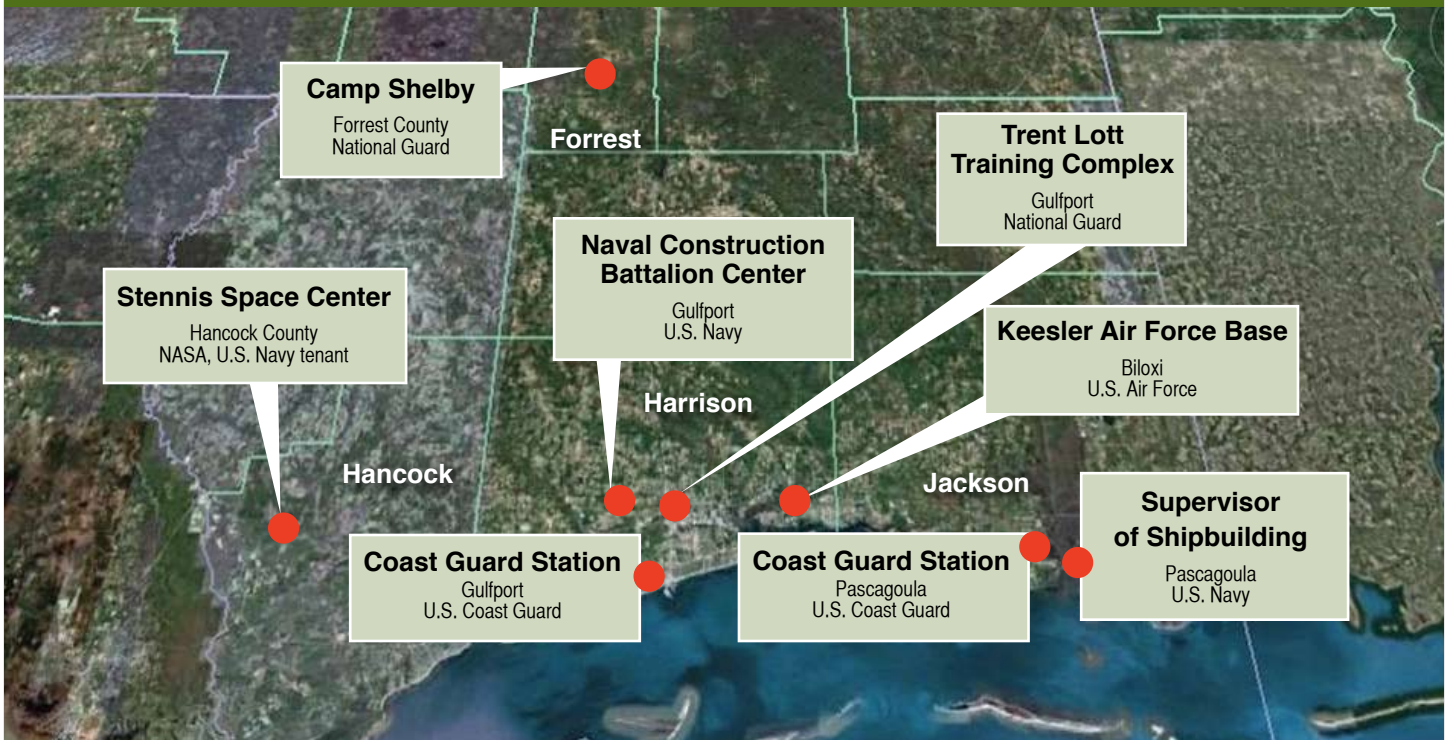
*Military personnel help serve as community stewards by generously working with local schools.*

Courage. Honor. Character. These are definitive traits of military personnel dutifully committed to protecting this great nation at all costs. Whether serving on the frontline of defense by air, ground or water, or executing a cyber mission via digital warfare, South Mississippi is fortunate to be home for a number of military installations committed to training America's finest warriors.

The tremendous benefit of operating as a central point of specialized training is the opportunity for

members of the military to engage the community in key areas where their presence and involvement make a significant difference. One very successful partnership is through the bridge of education that joins various installations with school systems to foster a positive cultural impact for students of all ages and all levels of learning.

Col. George Tombe, commander of the 81st Training Group at Keesler Air Force Base, says it's all about being good stewards of the local community: "We're big community partners because we believe in the Gulf Coast area," Col. Tombe says. "As a training group, our mission is training and education. One of the unique skill sets we have is to set up a course







*NAVOCEANO employee Julius Jackson volunteered in January as a judge for East Hancock Elementary School's annual science fair in support of 'Partnership in Education.' Photo courtesy of Naval Oceanographic Office Public Affairs*

where our instructors volunteer their free time to teach instructors at Biloxi High School on how to maximize the use of their in-classroom technology.”

During this test program, Keesler instructors from the 81st Training Support Squadron’s Faculty Development Flight will offer Interactive Technology training, known as the “IT” course, which is designed to train the trainers on how to “make their presentations come alive” by using multi-touch whiteboards. Adding enriched interactivity to the learning environment of the 21st century classroom will further motivate and engage students.

Dr. Alice Duggan, director of the Career Technology Center at Biloxi High School, could not be more appreciative of Keesler’s commitment: “It impresses me that these instructors would use their own down time and come into the school to help better education,” Dr. Duggan says. “We are very blessed to have a military base in our community. We all have to work together as a team to educate every child, and the military helps with that preparation.”

Keesler and the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) both have full-time School Liaison Officers dedicated to being a primary source for information and networking. In addition to coordinating volunteers for activities such as career days, reading programs, mentoring, tutoring, fundraising, beautification programs, playground repair, class presentations and more, these officers also work tirelessly for multiple military families in relocation transition, as well as for the high number of military children in many of the districts.

Gerry Cross, Keesler’s School Liaison Officer, says his preparation for this position stems from firsthand experience as a retired Air Force First Sergeant (24 years of service) who raised four children through public school in eight different locations.

“I lived the challenges that our current military families are facing today,” Cross says. “Not only is it valuable for our military families to have someone working on their behalf, the schools really appreciate the position as well. I have become the focal point on educational matters with the surrounding school districts and they now have someone to contact that works for quick resolve.”

Kevin Byrd, School Liaison Officer for NCBC, is a retired administrator and spent nearly 30 years in education. At one time, he was the principal of Stone Elementary School in Wiggins and assistant principal for many years in the Harrison County School District. Byrd’s great respect for his father and brother who served in the military, coupled with his passion for education, made this job a “perfect fit” for him.

“I love working with our military families,” Byrd says. “Sometimes our families may encounter roadblocks or detours as they transition to and from schools in different states. It may be a credit that will not transfer, a class you can’t sign up for, or transferring from a traditional seven period day schedule to a 4 X 4 block schedule. These are areas that school liaisons try to work and smooth things out to make the move a little easier for the child.”



*In May, NAVOCEANO employee Michael Bendzlowicz teamed up with a group of Seabees from MCB 133 stationed at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport to construct much needed shade over a playground at West Hancock Elementary in Kiln, Miss. Photo courtesy of Naval Oceanographic Office Public Affairs*

When Bayou View Middle School in Gulfport needs classroom proctors for state testing, the National Guard at the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) is always up for the task. Cherish Crockett, guidance counselor for Bayou View, is grateful for the long-term partnership with CRTC.

“They are very helpful, very efficient, they show up on time, and they go above and beyond,” Crockett says. “They are an example of excellence for our students and it would be very hard to accomplish testing without them.”

Every year, the 255th Air Control Squadron (ACS) at CRTC assists the Harrison County Child Development Center, a special needs school for disabled students, with “Trunk or Treat” during the school’s Fall Festival. The ACS even has its very own Santa (mechanic Derrick Bakker) who gladly makes his annual visit to the students every December.

“They are a wonderful bunch of men and women who come here to help,” says Vicki Carter, principal of the Child Development Center. “They are extremely gentle and kind with the children, and are a great resource for us.”

Two years ago, the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO), a subordinate of Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC), established a “Partnership in Education” with the Hancock County School District as a Navy outreach initiative to give back to the community where many of their employees reside.

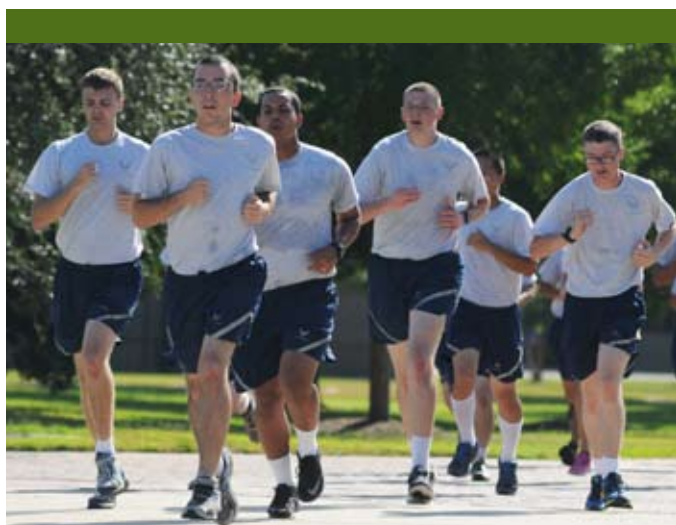
“This partnership helps promote science and math, and enhances the lives of the children who are our nation’s future leaders,” says Lanee Cooksey, Public Affairs Officer for NAVOCEANO. “Whether being a guest speaker in a class, judging a science fair, reading to elementary school children, starting a campus cleanup crew, helping coach a sports team, or helping a student build a robot, there are many ways Navy employees can give back to our young people and experience the rewards that volunteering offers.”

To all military personnel and civilian workers who have dedicated countless hours to the betterment of education in South Mississippi, thank you. Thank you for your service and thank you for helping shape the next generation.

# A Look at Keesler Air Force Base

Keesler Air Force Base is a chief hub of education for the Air Force. The 81st Training Wing, part of Air Education and Training Command, is comprised of three groups that enable Keesler's training mission: 81st Training Group, 81st Medical Group and 81st Mission Support Group. Keesler has one of the largest medical centers in the Air Force and provides a residency program for various medical specialties and training programs for nurses and technicians.

The 81st Training Group also serves as one of the largest training groups in the Air Force. Keesler trains nearly 30,000 airmen, reservists, joint service members, international students and civilians annually with an average daily student load of nearly 3,500. Of the 333 courses available, Keesler is at the forefront with a cyber centric training program that teaches airmen to conduct both offensive and defensive military operations within the digital domain.



*Physical training is a top priority for Airmen to be prepared and equipped for any physical challenge they may face when conducting the mission at home station or in a deployed environment.  
Photo courtesy of NCOIC Public Affairs, 81st Training Wing*



## Profile 81st Training Wing

**Location:** Biloxi, Miss.

**2nd AF commander:**

Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brown

**Wing commander:** Brig. Gen. Patrick C. Higby

**Missions of 81st TW and tenants:**

Technical training, medical, air lift and weather reconnaissance

**Co-located:** 81st Medical Group, 81st Mission Support Group, 403rd Wing, 85th Engineering Squadron, U.S Marine Corps Detachment-Keesler, Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit-Keesler

**Established:** 1941

**Branch:** U.S. Air Force

**Acres:** 1,784

**Active duty/civilian personnel:**

11,276 (fiscal year 2013)

**Combined payroll:** \$347.5M

**Student load:** 3,800 daily average

**Physical assets:** \$2.4B

**Volunteer hours in community:** 177,386

**Plant replacement value:** \$1.83B

**Purchasing (local vendors/contractors):**  
\$111M

**Economic impact:** \$592.6M  
(\$1.1B with multiplier)



Team Keesler practiced real-world training during the exercise which simulated a gas line explosion that set a building on fire. Due to the extreme temperatures, exercise "players" wore minimal fire gear. Photo courtesy of U.S. Air Force/Kemberly Groue

Keesler is home to the only Department of Defense weather school, a joint training center for the Air Force, Air National Guard, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

In addition to two military leadership schools on base, Keesler has an education office to assist military members and civilians who are enrolled in online degree programs or are pursuing degrees through one of four on-base college campuses: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey University.



## Profile 81st Medical Group

**Location:** Biloxi, Miss.  
**Commander:**  
 Col. (Dr.) Thomas Harrell  
**Mission:** Healthcare (medical/dental), education/training  
**Established:** 1941 (as U.S. Army clinic)  
**Branch:** U.S. Air Force  
**Area:** 900,000 square feet  
**Patient load:** 316,266 visits (fiscal year 2013), 26,356 outpatient visits monthly, 1,198 visits daily  
**Annual student load:** 44 medical residents, 14 dental residents, 2 physician assistants in clinical training, 299 enlisted phase II graduates (fiscal year 2013)  
**Annual deployment:** 142 medics deployed in 2013



## Profile 403rd Wing

**Location:** Biloxi, Miss.  
**Wing commander:**  
 Col. Frank L. Amodeo  
**Mission:** Tactical airlift, aerial weather reconnaissance, agile combat support  
**Established:** 1973  
**Branch:** U.S. Air Force (Reserve)  
**Assigned organizations:** 403rd Operation Group, 403rd Maintenance Group, 403rd Mission Support Group, 403 Aeromedical Staging Squadron  
**Flying hours:** 4,550  
**Runway:** 7,630 feet by 150 feet  
**Personnel:** 1,450 reservist including 250 full-time air reserve technicians  
**Operating budget:** \$78M (fiscal year 2013)  
**Economic impact budget:** \$98M estimated (fiscal year 2013)

### QUICK QUOTE

"Education is our primary mission at Keesler."

Col. George Tombe, commander of the 81st Training Group



# Military Economic Impact

## Harrison County Military Base Profiles

Installation/Activity	Branch	Location	Acres	Mission
Keesler Air Force Base (Plus Training Annex)	Air Force	Biloxi	1,784*	Technical Training, Tenant Unit Undertaking, Weather Reconnaissance, Healthcare
Naval Construction Battalion Center	Navy	Gulfport	1,098*	Construction, Training, Mobilization, Logistics
Trent Lott Training Complex	AF Guard	Gulfport	277*	Air Combat Training, Deployment Preparation
U.S. Coast Guard Station Gulfport	Coast Guard	Gulfport	6.5	Search and Rescue, Maritime Law Enforcement, Homeland Security

## Harrison County Personnel Fiscal Year 2012

Installation/Activity	Military Personnel	Civilian	Annual Student Load
Keesler Air Force Base (Plus Training Annex)	8,038	4,042	28,000
Naval Construction Battalion Center	6,023**	NA <sup>1</sup>	9,973
Trent Lott Training Complex (Air Guard)	367	97	NA <sup>1</sup>
Trent Lott Training Complex (Army Guard)	157	84	NA <sup>1</sup>
U.S. Coast Guard Station Gulfport	110*	0	NA <sup>1</sup>

\*\* active/auxiliary/reservists

## Other South Mississippi Bases

Installation/Activity	Branch	Location	Acres	Personnel	Economic Impact	PRV
U.S. Coast Guard Station Pascagoula	Coast Guard	Pascagoula	437*	50***	NA <sup>2</sup>	NA <sup>2</sup>
Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center	AF Guard	Hattiesburg	133,864*	3,000****	\$135 million**** (payroll)	\$1.2 billion*
The Navy at Stennis Space Center	Navy	Bay St. Louis	NA <sup>2</sup>	2,070****	\$220 million**	\$299.9 million*
Supervisor of Shipbuilding	Navy	Pascagoula	NA <sup>1</sup>	400+	NA <sup>2</sup>	NA <sup>2</sup>

\*\*direct economic impact, 50-mile radius \*\*\* active/reservists \*\*\*\* Navy personnel/contractors \*\*\*\*\* fiscal year 2011

## Harrison County Dollars Fiscal Year 2012

Installation/Activity	Payroll	Construction	Economic Impact	PRV
Keesler Air Force Base ( Plus Training Annex)	\$358.4 million	\$121 million	\$621 million <sup>3</sup>	\$2.12 billion*
Naval Construction Battalion Center	\$245.7 million	\$78.4 million	\$365.3 million <sup>3</sup>	\$1.21 billion*
Trent Lott Training Complex				
Air Guard	\$5.7 million	\$5.4 million	\$26.2 million	\$167.1 million*
Army Guard	\$16.3 million	NA <sup>1</sup>	\$33.4 million	

<sup>3</sup> Keesler Air Force Base Economic Impact with multiplier is \$1.2B, Naval Construction Battalion Center Economic Impact with multiplier is \$850M

Source: \*Department of Defense Base Structure Report Fiscal Year 2013 Baseline, Base Public Affairs Offices  
NA<sup>1</sup> (Not Applicable), NA<sup>2</sup> (Not Available)



DoD Sites	
State	Total
Alabama	96
Alaska	154
California	362
Colorado	84
Florida	218
Hawaii	141
Louisiana	86
Maryland	112
Mississippi	127
Montana	251
Nebraska	120
New York	111
North Carolina	97
North Dakota	189
Pennsylvania	128
South Carolina	58
Texas	229
Utah	92
Virginia	193
Washington	102

Source: Department of Defense Base Structure Report Fiscal Year 2014

Mississippi DoD Military			
Branch	Retired	Paid	Monthly Paid (000)
Army	10,359	9,663	\$15,369
Navy	6,227	5,990	\$11,803
Marines	951	824	\$1,858
Air Force	9,848	9,450	\$18,975
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,385</b>	<b>25,927</b>	<b>\$48,005</b>
Coast Guard	348	326	NA <sup>1</sup>

Source: Office of Actuary, as of 9.30.2013

Harrison County DoD Military			
Branch	Retired	Paid	Monthly Paid (000)
Army	891	817	\$1,483
Navy	1,912	1,837	\$3,551
Marines	166	151	\$336
Air Force	3,099	2,943	\$6,142
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,068</b>	<b>5,748</b>	<b>\$11,512</b>
Coast Guard	68	67	NA <sup>1</sup>

Source: Office of Actuary, as of 9.30.2013

South Mississippi Veteran Population			
County	9/30/13	9/30/14	9/30/40
Harrison	21,776	21,867	22,287
Jackson	15,464	15,457	12,346
Hancock	4,728	4,712	3,897
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,968</b>	<b>42,036</b>	<b>38,531</b>
Mississippi	225,469	223,534	169,979

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as of 9.30.2013

Defense Contracts Totals for Contracts in County					
County	# DoD Contractors in County	# Contracts Awarded 2013	Value of Contracts Awarded 2013	# DoD Contracts Awarded 2000-2013	Value of Contracts Awarded to Contractors 2000-2013
Hancock	60	39	\$6,655,417	568	\$228,352,428
Harrison	504	214	\$78,908,719	3,842	\$1,747,917,447
Jackson	166	112	\$2,708,311,877	1,383	\$28,848,927,080
<b>Total</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>\$2,793,876,013</b>	<b>5,793</b>	<b>\$30,825,196,955</b>
Mississippi	2,985	1,395	\$4,242,953,825	22,506	\$43,777,135,680

Source: www.governmentcontractswon.com as of 9.30.2013

Defense Contracts Totals for Contracts in City					
City	# DoD Contractors in City	# Contracts Awarded 2013	Value of Contracts Awarded 2013	# Defense Contracts Awarded 2000-2013	Value Defense Contracts Awarded to Contractors 2000-2013
Biloxi	138	56	\$4,840,413	954	\$384,472,294
D'Iberville	21	17	\$3,156,306	273	\$165,479,905
Gulfport	284	119	\$70,295,640	2,280	\$1,183,468,236
Long Beach	24	5	\$121,863	149	\$7,817,644
Pass Christian	18	11	\$233,823	115	\$4,060,278

Source: www.governmentcontractswon.com as of 9.30.2013

# A Look at Naval Construction Battalion Center

The Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) maintains and operates facilities, and provides services and material in support of equipping, training and mobilizing Naval Construction Force units. Of the 45 tenants located on base, five carry a significant educational mission.

The Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) is a tri-service school responsible for training and developing construction professionals in the Navy, Army and Air Force. The school teaches basic and advanced builder and steel worker courses, and advanced courses in equipment maintenance, equipment operations, utilities and engineering aid.

Naval Construction Group 2 trains and mobilizes the Naval Construction Force with specialized skills from convoy security to building bridges, timber towers and timber bunkers.

The Expeditionary Combat Skills School offers training for deploying personnel with six-week courses on hand-to-hand combat, IED recognition, combat field medicine and more.

NCBC also is home to the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center (NMOPDC), which provides professional training in meteorology, oceanography, hydrography and geospatial information.

NCBC offers an academic education component through the Navy College Office. This facility provides academic counseling, testing, and overall general support for service members and dependents enrolled in Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College classes on base, online courses at other institutions, or classes at local universities.

## Profile

### Naval Construction Battalion Center



**Location:** Gulfport, Miss.

**Commander:**

Capt. Paul Odenthal

**Mission:** Construction, training, mobilization, logistics

**Established:** 1942

**Branch:** U.S. Navy

**Acres:** 1,098

**Military/civilian/contractors:** 6,023

**Annual student load:** 9,973

**Payroll:** \$245.7M

**Mobile battalions:** NMCB 1, NMCB 11, NMCB 74, NMCB 133

**Tenants:** 45 tenants in 600 facilities

**Plant replacement value:** \$1.21B

**Economic impact:** \$365.3M fiscal year 2012 (\$850M with multiplier)



*Photo courtesy of NCBC Public Affairs*

## QUICK QUOTE

**“When our folks go out the front door and deploy to locations around the world, they have the knowledge and skills to do their job effectively and get the mission accomplished.”**

Robert Mims, Public Affairs Officer for NCBC

# Trent Lott Training Complex

## Air National Guard & Army National Guard

The Trent Lott National Guard Training Facility, also known as the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC), is one of four CRTCs across the United States. The mission of the Gulfport CRTC is to provide a state-of-the-art facility to accommodate visiting units up to wing size (1,100 people) with integrated, year-round realistic joint training.



Visiting units bring their own instructors and aircraft to work in a specialized environment that draws upon the vast air space over the Gulf of Mexico for air-to-air fighter tactic training, as well as ranges at Camp Shelby for air-to-ground training.

The Gulfport CRTC is home to two Air National Guard tenant units: 255th Air Control Squadron and 209th Special Operations Civil Engineering Squadron. The CRTC hosts the State Emergency Operations Center for local natural disaster response. In addition, the CRTC is partnered with the Mississippi Army National Guard's 1108th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, 890th Engineer Battalion and 2/20th Special Forces Group.

The CRTC also hosts two large exercises a year for joint/combined training with other branches of the military: Southern Strike in the fall and Emerald Warrior in the spring.

### Profile

#### Trent Lott Training Complex



**Location:** Gulfport, Miss.  
**Commander:** Col. John S. Ladner, CRTC  
**Mission:** Training, deployment  
**Established:** 1954  
**Branch:** Air National Guard  
**Acres:** 277  
**Military/civilian:** 479  
**Payroll:** \$13.4M (Military & Civilian)  
**Co-located:** Combat Readiness Training Center, 255th Air Control Squadron, 209th Civil Engineering Squadron  
**Plant replacement value:** \$1.1M (Air)  
**Economic impact:** \$26.4M

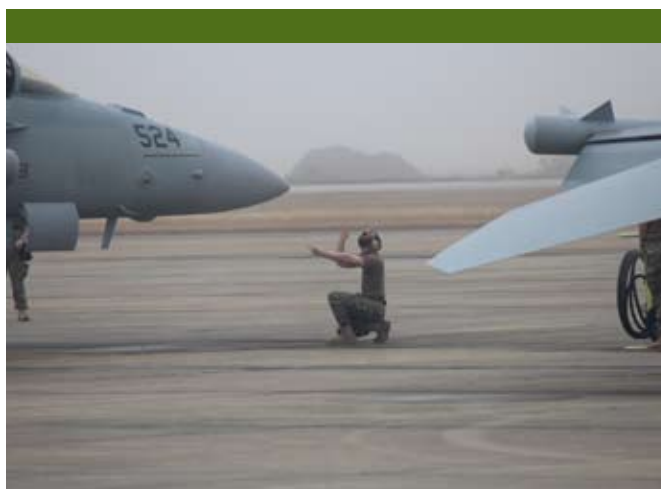


Photo courtesy of Public Affairs Office, Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi National Guard

### QUICK QUOTE

**"Our purpose is to provide planning assistance and a specialized environment for units to experience realistic training."**

Lt. Col. Berry McCormick, Director of Support for CRTC

# A look at US Coast Guard

To maintain proficiency in missions executed along the three coastal counties, special skill set training is a primary objective for members of Coast Guard stations located in Gulfport and Pascagoula.

Each member must complete a rigorous qualification package, which is a series of training tasks from small to large that prepare men and women to either be firemen in the engineering department or seamen in the deck department. Seamanship skills (knot tying, boat safety, first aid) and navigation skills (radio communication, flag identification, boat lights recognition) are learned in the classroom and through hands-on application.

Specific qualification and maritime education can be further acquired through a number of Coast Guard-affiliated “C” Schools. One unique school beneficial to the Gulf Coast deals with living marine resources — a week-long class instructing members on subjects such as shrimp vessel design, environmental-friendly net devices and fishery regulations.



Photos courtesy of US Coast Guard



## Profiles USCG Station Gulfport

**Location:** Gulfport, Miss.  
**Commander:**  
Senior Chief Rebecca Polzin  
**Mission:** Search/rescue, law enforcement, homeland security  
**Rebuilt:** 2009  
**Acres:** 6.5  
**Personnel:** 40 active duty, 60 auxiliary, 10 reservists  
**Co-located:** Cutters Razorbill, Pompano, and Aids to Navigation Team

## USCG Station Pascagoula

**Location:** Pascagoula, Miss.  
**Commander:** Chief Warrant Officer Ryan Brodie  
**Mission:** Search/rescue, law enforcement, homeland security  
**Acres:** 437  
**Personnel:** 40 active duty, 10 reservists  
**Co-located:** Cutter Decisive

### QUICK QUOTE

“Our motto is ‘Semper Paratus’ (Always Ready). If we’re not in the classroom studying or on the boats training, then we’re not going to be proficient in the job we need to do.”

Senior Chief Rebecca Polzin, Officer in Charge of USCG Station Gulfport



# Joint Forces Training Center Camp Shelby

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC) is the nation's largest military reserve component training facility. CSJFTC specializes in mobilization training to combat the Global War on Terrorism, and places a strong emphasis on education for career progression of military personnel in the Mississippi National Guard.

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems and the Open Source Technology Center's certification program utilizes state-of-the-art technology training to support national defense and security objectives, as well as prepare war fighters for any mission in a variety of austere wartime environments.



Photo courtesy of 102nd MPAD (Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

## Profile Camp Shelby



### Location:

Hattiesburg, Miss.  
(Perry and Forrest counties)

### Commander:

Col. William Brad Smith

**Mission:** Training, deployment

**Established:** 1917

**Branch:** Army National Guard

**Acres:** 134,000

**Personnel:** 2,500 +

**Payroll (soldiers):** \$100M

**MILCON:** Barracks \$48M

**MILCON:** Deployment processing center \$8.4M

**Plant replacement value:** \$1.14B

The 154th Regional Training Institute at Camp Shelby offers 44 courses on subjects such as leadership, armor, infantry, ordnance and medical to more than 3,000 soldiers (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve) every year.

One of CSJFTC's latest achievements in advanced training is the development of the 14-acre Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF) that features 35 buildings to resemble a village or city. Equipped with cameras, two-way speakers, and smoke and smell simulators, CACTF provides a realistic training experience to ensure mission readiness.

## QUICK QUOTE

**"Education holds the key to Camp Shelby's future with relevant, sophisticated and integrative training to ensure our soldiers are ready for tomorrow's challenges."**

Maj. Deidre Smith, Public Affairs Officer for Camp Shelby

# A Look at Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command

The Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NMOC), part of the Navy's Information Dominance Corps, is comprised of approximately 2,500 officer, enlisted and civilian personnel stationed around the world. Naval Oceanography is the Navy's physical maritime battlespace authority, a critical partner across the full range of Department of Defense operations, delivering decision superiority, operational effectiveness and safety to our operational forces.

Officers, enlisted and civilian personnel receive extensive professional training in meteorology, oceanography, hydrography and geospatial information.

A primary focus of education and training is conducted through NMOC's Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional Development Center (NMOPDC) that trains Navy and joint meteorology and oceanography professionals by equipping them with specific skill sets to meet specific operational needs and mission requirements before deployment. Full-spectrum training includes computer-based training, instructor-led formal classroom courses, online courses, as well as courses offered via Navy Knowledge Online (NKO).

NMOPDC offers more than 150 courses of instruction, including the International Hydrography Management and Engineering Program: a six-month course open to foreign naval officers that provides students with a working knowledge of hydrography for nautical charting and military operation and exercise planning. The most recent class graduated on Aug. 20, 2014.



*Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Takeo Wadriski, left, and Aerographer's Mate 3rd Class Daniel Shefte, analyze operation weather impacts aboard the USS George Washington. Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy*

## Profile Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command



**Location:** Stennis Space Center, Miss.  
**Ranking officer:** Rear Adm. Timothy C. Gallaudet  
**Missions:** Oceanography, bathymetry, hydrography, meteorology, geophysics & astrometry and precise time  
**First established at SSC:** 1976  
(Naval Oceanographic Office)  
**Branch:** U.S. Navy  
**Navy Units at SSC:** Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, Naval Oceanographic Office, Fleet Survey Team, Naval Oceanography Operations Command, Naval Oceanography Anti-Submarine Warfare Center, Naval Oceanography Mine Warfare Center, Naval Research Laboratory, Special Boat Team 22, Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School, Office of Civilian Human Resources  
**Personnel/contractors (Navy):** 1,948  
**Economic impact (Navy):** \$227M (50-mile)

### QUICK QUOTE

**“When someone completes an entire suite of courses, we expect them to go out and support our warfighters in being able to make good, solid decisions for the Navy.”**

Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Palmer, executive officer of NMOC Professional Development Center

# A Look at Supervisor of Shipbuilding

Education plays a critical role at Supervisor of Shipbuilding (SUPSHIP) Gulf Coast in order to be proactive and visionary when it comes to overseeing the building of the nation's next generation of U.S. Navy ships.

Every year, each department plans and budgets for training and educational courses their personnel will need to stay professionally current and up-to-date in their jobs. This training ranges from human relations to facility security, to planning, engineering and ship-specific training.

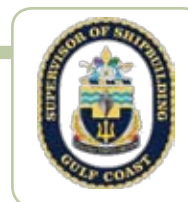
A key educational component for SUPSHIP is staying current on the latest technological advances to provide the U.S. Navy with the best, safest and mission-ready ships for effective frontline defense worldwide.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy



## Profile Supervisor of Shipbuilding

**Location:** Pascagoula, Miss.  
**Supervisor:** Capt. Joe Tuite  
**Mission:** Oversees shipbuilding contracts for the U.S. Navy across the Gulf Coast  
**Established:** 1951  
**Branch:** U.S. Navy  
**Acres:** Occupies office space at Ingalls Shipbuilding  
**Personnel:** More than 400  
**Administering contracts valued at:** \$52.8B

## QUICK QUOTE

“The core principle that guides our education program is we ‘never stop learning.’”

David Stoltz, Public Affairs Officer for Supervisor of Shipbuilding

# Life's Next Adventure

Mike Pornovets is a worldwide kayaker. Thanks to his eight-year service in the U.S. Navy, he was afforded the opportunity to paddle in some of the most beautiful locations around the globe.

The waters of Spain, Croatia, the Netherlands, Germany and Portugal were a one-of-a-kind gift, but Mike's favorite place by far was Curacao, an island off the Venezuelan coast surrounded by the crystal clear Caribbean Sea.

When Mike made the transition from active duty to reserve in 2011, opening a business that followed his love of being on the water was the natural route for his next life adventure. After teaming with The Innovation Center in Biloxi for step-by-step mentoring, "Everything Kayak" soon opened and has since become a successful one-stop-shop for fellow kayak lovers, as well as those who want to learn more about the popular eco-friendly recreation.

"Mike is probably one of the greatest entrepreneurial students we have ever had," says Dr. Stephen Whitt, executive director of The Innovation Center. "He's a good thinker, he's very organized, he's goal oriented, and those are all things the military instills."



*Photo courtesy of Everything Kayak*



*Photo courtesy of Everything Kayak*

The 10,800-square-foot business located next to the outlet mall in Gulfport is fully stocked with all types of kayaks — sit-on-tops, sit-in, fishing, day touring, recreational, ocean, racing, hunting — and offers accessories, paddleboards, outdoor clothing/shoes, and more. For those not sure which kayak would be best, the 1,000-square-foot demo pool on the showroom floor is the best way to test products and learn basic paddling instruction.

"South Mississippi is phenomenal for kayaking," Pornovets says. "We have state line to state line of beaches, the barrier islands, Back Bay, Pascagoula River and so many tributaries and inlets. If you can find a place to park, you can paddle."