

Agency News

MDA Headline

Project continues to move ahead sending a strong signal to business and industry that Mississippi is a great place to do business. The start of construction ceremonies held, Friday, April 6 is one more significant step toward a future filled with opportunities for all Mississippians, a future filled with success and prosperity.

The application for the charter for the Mississippi World Trade Center has been submitted to the World Trade Center Association. The WTCA will consider the application for approval at its annual meeting in Seoul, Korea on April 23. The MWTC will serve as the state's umbrella organization for international business, education and cultural initiatives, and serve as a one-stop resource for services for international businesses. Through association with the World Trade Center worldwide network, the MWTC will establish an effective and efficient connection between the state and the rest of

the world.

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) allotment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, has been increased as a result of a new and innovative method proposed by the Mississippi Development Authority. Funds from the U.S. Department of Labor have increased from this year's total of 37.4 million to 62.8 million, the largest increase in the nation. This substantial increase is a result of our staff working with the Labor Market Information staff at the Employment Service to compile data on unemployment in a different manner.

Tourism Development recently launched a new advertising campaign targeting the Southeast. Also, the division began their first round of Level I Frontline Hospitality training. The Mississippi Arts Commission has partnered with the division to develop a blues tourism product that will result in the creation of a new travel offering.

MIL Headline

The Mississippi Army National Guard is training over 500 soldiers for a September deployment to Bosnia as part of the multi-national peacekeeping force.

Our troops will join 21 other state's troops to form Stabilization Force 10 in the Balkan nation.

"Our soldiers have been undergoing intensive training," said Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. James H. Lipscomb III. "These are the finest troops, and I have complete confidence that they will perform their mission in a

professional manner."

The Guard members, assigned to Mississippi's 155th Separate Armored Brigade, are primarily armor soldiers, infantry soldiers and support personnel from other units. "We have assembled a task force that has proven they have what it takes to get the job done," Lipscomb said.

The Guardsmen have been training in a mock base camp at Camp Shelby and have studied Bosnian and Serbian history, which will aid them as peacekeepers. The soldiers will be in Bosnia for seven months.

DHS Headline

Mississippi Department of Human Services is committed to developing and implementing new and innovative policies and strategies, which will improve the quality of life and economic status of all Mississippians. MDHS is focusing on five major goals: the improvement of customer service; promotion of economic independence for TANF families; improvement in the overall effectiveness of Agency programs; improvement of internal and external communications; and improvement of MDHS image through community outreach and internal team building.

The Senate unanimously confirmed Janice Broome Brooks as Executive Director during this

legislative session. Since her appointment by Governor Musgrove in December, Mrs. Brooks has provided a new sense of purpose and direction for MDHS, by virtue of both her leadership qualities and tireless work ethic.

In March we announced, a child care initiative which will allocate an additional \$19.5 million dollars for quality, affordable child care services to 12,700 additional families, and the provision of financial assistance to help pay the cost of utility bills to low-income families, the elderly and disabled, and families with small children. We strive to build strong families and make more Mississippians self-reliant.