

## MEMORANDUM

October 9, 2002

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Return of 114<sup>th</sup> Military Police, MS National Guard

CC: Renick, Boyd, Lee Ann

As you are aware, we had been looking for an opportunity for you to make a personal visit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where personnel from the 114<sup>th</sup> Military Police of the MS National Guard are stationed.

A moratorium has been placed on distinguished visitors during the time we had originally looked at making the trip, and the only other window of opportunity is November 13-15; however, you are tentatively scheduled for an overseas economic development trip during the period. FYI, it's my understanding Adjutant General Lipscomb will be going down there at this time.

I have also been made aware of some other facts about visiting Guantanamo Bay. The flight from Miami to Guantanamo Bay is approximately 2.5 hours, and the landing is made on a small island off the coast. It is a one-hour ferry ride from the airstrip to the actual base; so, two hours of a scheduled visit would be spent on a ferry.

At this time, it looks like the 114<sup>th</sup> will be returning the next week to Fort Campbell (November 18-22). With the logistic hurdles, your schedule and the time required to make a visit to Guantanamo Bay (at least two days), it may not be worth your time to actually go down there.

I would like to suggest the following: Once the return date for the 114<sup>th</sup> is confirmed, let us see about setting up a trip for you to fly to Fort Campbell and greet the soldiers as they step off the plane. The visual of you standing at the foot of the stairs or the back of the plane and shaking hands would work well. We could also arrange for media to make the trip, as was done with the visit to Fort Benning.

Do you want to visit Fort Campbell instead of Guantanamo Bay?  Yes  No

Do you want me to work with the Guard to have media make the trip?  Yes  No

