

September 4, 2002

Mr. John Wallace
544 Kathy Circle
Canton, MS 39046-5243

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The Mississippi National Guard has demonstrated its excellence time and time again. By exceeding expectations consistently, the Mississippi National Guard has again achieved extraordinary recognition. The 172nd Airlift Wing of the Mississippi National Guard will be the first (and currently the only) National Guard unit to receive the 8 new Boeing C-17 Globemaster III aircraft beginning in March 2004. This is a milestone not only for Mississippi National Guard but also for the State of Mississippi.

We are tremendously excited about the C-17, in particular the investment and opportunity it brings to our state. As you will see during our visit to the Boeing production facility, the C-17 is the most modern weapon system for strategic airlift operations. This investment represents state of the art technology in aircraft design and operations, training facilities and infrastructure in excess of \$3 billion.

This is just the beginning. Mississippi will see significant cluster development and growth to support the operations of the C-17 unit. One particularly attractive project is for the Jackson base to eventually become a C-17 schoolhouse to train National Guard, Air Force Reserve and allied military aircrews to operate this aircraft. As part of this overall project, a combat landing field will be constructed at Camp Shelby.

The C-17 Globemaster III project increases the marketability of Mississippi as an economic development haven for locating and growing businesses. We have an exciting opportunity to learn more about the C-17 and determine how we can all assist with the continued development of the aviation/military cluster in Mississippi. Thank you for your interest and dedication to Mississippi.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:mtb