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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JACKSON, MISS—An investigation into allegations at the Air National Guard's 186th Air Refueling Wing, based in Meridian, Miss., is nearing completion, and the results will be presented to the adjutant general when the final report is compiled.

The investigating officer from the Florida Air National Guard completed taking witness statements and interviews from current and former members of the 186th on Sunday, August 17, 2003. He will now transcribe interviews, reach his conclusions, and then present the report for legal review prior to submitting the report to the adjutant general. This was his second visit to the Meridian base to conduct an investigation that centers on allegations allegedly committed prior to 1999 during the previous Guard administration. The allegations were brought by a former member of the 186th Air Refueling Wing. The investigation was requested by Maj. Gen. James H. Lipscomb III, the adjutant general of Mississippi.

"I wanted a thorough and impartial investigation into these allegations," said Lipscomb. "I have the highest regard for the members of the 186th, and I want to resolve this matter as soon as possible. Since September 11, 2001, the fine men and women of the 186th have performed remarkably in defense of our great state and nation."

When received, the adjutant general will review the findings of the report, and will take the appropriate corrective actions.