

Mississippi Development Authority
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT REGARDING NEW BASE CLOSURE STRATEGY
Mississippi Development Authority Terminates Contract with Rhoads-Weber
Shandwick Government Relations Lobbyist Firm in Washington, D.C.

"In 2005, Mississippi will be facing enormous pressure as the federal government seeks the reduction of base closures nationwide. Our bases employ over 35,000 of our citizens with a payroll of over \$1.2 billion dollars. It is critical that we develop a new, aggressive program to ensure that our bases throughout the state remain open while maximizing the funding we receive from the legislature. We must strengthen and better coordinate our efforts between our Congressional offices, our military communities, and the Mississippi Development Authority."

"We are making decisive moves today to keep our military bases safe from closure in the future. We will make swift, but deliberate, decisions on new representation in Washington to ensure that our goals are met and that we get the best, absolute value for the dollars we manage," said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority.