



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
JOHN ROUNSAVILLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 10, 2021

Representative Steven M. Palazzo
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Palazzo,

On behalf of the Mississippi Development Authority, I am pleased to send this letter of support for the expansion of Camp Shelby's MATES facility. Camp Shelby is a vital asset to South Mississippi, and the expansion of the current MATES facility is an exceptional investment in the Pine Belt's future.

As the state's chief economic development agency, MDA views Camp Shelby as a strategic asset. The maintenance work and training that takes place at Camp Shelby is both crucial to our nation's defense and is a significant part of South Mississippi's economy. The current tank maintenance facility is outdated and makes certain aspects of the work more dangerous and time consuming for the National Guard and its world-class mechanics. An investment in the MATES facility would appropriately align the workplace with our talented maintenance professionals and also attract opportunities from other regions, thus spurring further development of Mississippi's economy.

We appreciate the National Guard's investment at Camp Shelby and the continued support of the U.S. Congress for this critical installation. I appreciate your time and consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Rounsaville".

John Rounsaville

JR:hm



The University of Southern Mississippi
Mississippi Defense Initiative
a DoD OLDCC Funded Grant



June 4, 2021

Representative Steven M. Palazzo (MS-4)
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Palazzo:

On behalf of the Mississippi Defense Initiative (MDI) at the University of Southern Mississippi, I am pleased to offer my support of the proposed Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) bay expansion at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CSJFTC). MDI's mission is to strengthen Mississippi's defense and national security assets as an economic driver for the state of Mississippi and we are passionate supporters of CSJFTC and their mission. MATES is an integral part of that mission and a tremendous maintenance asset to the MSNG and US Army as a whole. The proposed maintenance bays will increase the efficiency of MATES maintenance operations and the overall operational readiness of the armored vehicle fleet it supports.

As a retired US Army armor officer with almost 30 years of experience on tanks, I know the challenging maintenance needs of our aging heavy tracked vehicle fleet... in particular the M1A2 SEP family of tanks. The current tank maintenance bays at MATES do not allow for the tanks to rotate their turrets while inside the maintenance bays. If the turret needs rotating, the tank must be pulled out of the bay (to somewhere with enough space to rotate the turret), then moved back into the maintenance bay to continue repairs. This process adds time and unneeded complications to tank maintenance. The proposed bays will be large enough to rotate the tank turrets without having to move them. This will improve safety and the overall efficiency of maintenance operations.

CSJFTC and MATES already provide world class support to our war fighters. We even support active-duty units for exercises: Arctic Anvil is a great example of this. Investment in MATES is an investment into a strategic asset that directly benefits our warfighters. I urge you to help secure the funding for the two additional larger maintenance bays at the CSJFTC MATES facility.

Sincerely,

Haimes A. Kilgore

Haimes A. Kilgore LTC(R), MBA
Program Director,
Mississippi Defense Initiative



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Vice President for Research

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June 4, 2021

Representative Steven M. Palazzo (MS-4)
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Palazzo:

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) enthusiastically supports the effort to expand the maintenance bay capability at the MATES facility on Camp Shelby. USM is an avid supporter of Camp Shelby and its critical mission of training our nation's warfighters.

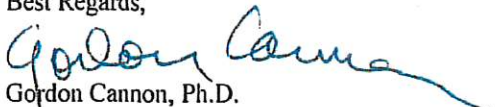
Camp Shelby is currently one of the largest economic drivers of our economy in the Pine Belt and the state of Mississippi. An expanded capability at MATES offers the opportunity to further expand Camp Shelby's impact. MATES currently supports National Guard maintenance operations for 3 states (MS, AL, and TN). In 2022, Camp Shelby and MATES will support the fielding of M1A2 SEP V3 tanks to NC and TN National Guard formations. The proposed MATES expansion will be critical to support these fleet fielding operations and bring additional full-time jobs to our area.

The proposed MATES expansion will allow tanks to complete hull and turret maintenance without having to be moved in and out of the bay. Currently, the bays are not large enough for turrets to be rotated inside of them. The tanks must be removed from the maintenance bay, turrets rotated, and then moved back into the maintenance bay to continue repairs. This process adds time and unneeded complications to tank maintenance. The proposed expansion will improve safety, save bay time for maintenance, and improve the overall efficiency of maintenance operations. For units training at Camp Shelby, this will mean more time spent on their vehicles engaging in world class maneuver and/or gunnery training.

USM fully supports the effort to upgrade the MATES facilities at Camp Shelby. This effort will directly affect our nation's warfighter's ability to train and deploy with the most modern equipment in the US Army arsenal and will keep Camp Shelby positioned and a strategic supporting asset as our forces field new equipment. Please do everything possible to help secure funding for the two additional maintenance bays at the Camp Shelby MATES facility. Thank you for your service, time, and consideration.

April 9, 2021

Best Regards,


Gordon Cannon, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research



June 4, 2021

Representative Steven M. Palazzo (MS-4)
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Palazzo:

As President of the Area Development Partnership (ADP), the regional chamber of commerce and economic development agency here in Greater Hattiesburg, MS, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community through economic progress. We are avid supporters of Camp Shelby and their mission as an integral part of our nation's military. As the largest state-owned National Guard training facility in America, Camp Shelby is a national jewel that we treasure here in South Mississippi. As the region's largest business organization, we are committed to supporting the growth and prosperity at Camp Shelby. It is not only crucial to our nation's defense but equally important to our region from an economic development perspective.

As you know, the ADP has been a strong advocate and voice in the need for expanding Camp Shelby's MATES facility. The current facility, built in the 1980's, is constrained and not conducive for our troops and certainly hampers productivity and even puts people and equipment at risk. The bays of yesteryear are inadequate and hurt the morale of these world-class mechanics working on tanks and other vehicles for Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama units. With modern facilities, other units could potentially have equipment repaired here, leading to additional jobs for our region.

I've personally walked through the current cramped facilities and it's so apparent that new modern bays are a must if we're going to provide our military with the modern facilities that they so deserve. They are repairing equipment that will end up in combat to protect our nation's freedoms; so, I can't overemphasize the importance of funding this strategic asset. On behalf of the business community in Hattiesburg, I urge you to do everything possible to help secure funding for these two additional MATES bays at Camp Shelby. Thanks so much for your service, time, and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chad E. Newell'.

Chad E. Newell
President

2992 West Beach Boulevard
P.O. Box 4079
Gulfport, MS 39502-4079



June 7, 2021

Representative Steven Palazzo
US House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Palazzo,

The Mississippi National Guard's Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center has long been a premier training and mobilization campus for our national defense. Located in the heart of our service territory, it is at the center of our military training assets in southeast Mississippi and vital to our local economy.

As with any industry, continued growth and modernization upgrades are vital to the success of current and future missions. We offer support of the FY2022 Appropriations Submission for the Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) at Camp Shelby. This submission will provide bay expansions of maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) space that does the work for a tri-state area that includes Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Space and upgrades to the MATES facility will offer our world-class mechanics the space to effectively complete maintenance on tanks in a safe and efficient manner by eliminating unnecessary movements during the MRO process. This MRO work to be completed at the MATES facility is crucial to the warfighters during deployments in theaters across the globe.

With the successful appropriations for the upgrades to the MATES facility, Camp Shelby's Joint Forces Training Center will remain a premier National Guard facility and economic generator for the greater Hattiesburg area.

Thank you for your consideration of the submission from the Mississippi National Guard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Useforge".

Brian Useforge, Director
Economic Development