INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

The University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Logistics, Trade and Transportation (CLTT) held its Fall 2012 strategic planning meeting. The planning meeting brought together stakeholders from the public and private industry to discuss the five-year goals of the CLTT strategic plan. Members of the CLTT Industry Advisory Council (IAC) representing a broad range of stakeholders in Logistics, Trade and Transportation had the opportunity to discuss and make critical decisions regarding the direction of the CLTT.

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CLTT RECEIVES GARY LACRANGE ENDOWMENT

The University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Logistics, Trade and Transportation (CLTT) recently received a Gary LaGrange Endowment. The purpose of the endowment is to support the CLTT's activities and mission. Gary LaGrange has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Port of New Orleans since 2001. Under LaGrange's direction the Port made great expansions in spite of great adversity. During his tenure, the Port opened new state-of-the-art container, cruise and refrigerated terminals. LaGrange's leadership brought the Port of New Orleans back into operation two weeks after Hurricane Katrina, the most extensive natural disaster in U.S. history.

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CREATING A VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION THAT SUPPORTS ECONOMIC GROWTH

A statewide collection of public and private industry experts and researchers have come together to form the Transportation for Mississippi's Sustainable Economic Growth (TMSIG) group that is applying the principles of sustainability to economic opportunities for sustaining and growing Mississippi's transportation centers while preventing hazardous communities and environmental quality. In February 2012, a symposium in Starkville generated 127 ideas for creating and implementing a vision for a sustainable transportation plan for economic growth. Five primary task committees including communication, funding & finance, multimodal connections, policy & legal, and strategic planning have been organized. Each of these teams is preparing a white paper on that category, giving background, offering goals for the state, and recommending actions to achieve goals. The papers are planned to be completed by September 30, 2012.

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PENTAGON: AFGHANISTAN EXIT WILL COST BILLIONS

Moving the mountain of military gear out of Afghanistan after more than a decade of war will cost billions of dollars and prove more difficult than last year’s withdrawal from Iraq, the Pentagon’s No. 2 official said Tuesday. Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, the Pentagon’s point man for overseeing the draw down in Afghanistan, talked about the challenges in his first extensive interview on pulling out of Afghanistan. The pace of withdrawal is picking up: About 20,000 U.S. troops and their gear will be coming home by October. There are about 80,000 American forces there now. All U.S. combat forces are to leave by 2014. Meanwhile, the main overland supply route through neighboring Pakistan reopened last week. It had been closed since November after U.S. forces mistakenly killed 24 Pakistani troops on the border. Carter said, “It’s a very austere logistics environment to transport anything.”

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