



AY 07/08 Sam Nunn Fellows under the belly of a B-1 bomber at the Robins, AFB Museum

Sam Nunn Fellows Meet with Experts on Port Security and Military Logistics

On October 8-9, 2007, the fellows of the Sam Nunn Security Program traveled to Savannah and Warner Robins to meet with experts on port security and military logistics. In Savannah, Fellows met with individuals from the Coast Guard, Customs, Georgia Ports Authority Police, Thunderbolt Marine, and the Maritime Logistics Innovation Center (MLIC.) The meeting took place at Georgia Tech's Savannah Campus and was hosted by the MLIC. The experts took questions about many of the ways in which technology and national security intersect at the port. Topics included the new transportation worker credentialing system, sensors and scanning technology, the threat of piracy, cyber attacks on port information systems, plans for disruptions of port operations, and the effect of the Panama Canal construction on the port (most of the cargo entering Port of Savannah comes from the Far East.) The Port of Savannah includes the third largest port in the country by container operations, and, therefore, its security and continued operation is critically important to the nation.

The following day fellows traveled to Warner Robins - Air Logistics Center (WR-ALC) to meet with the head of the Engineering Directorate at the Center as well as with experts in electronic warfare, C-5 Galaxy sustainment, and High Velocity Maintenance. In addition to briefings, the Fellows were able to tour the facility where C-5s are

overhauled. The C-5 is the largest aircraft in the US military fleet. The topics discussed during the visit included how the Air Force is going about sustaining aircraft that are long past their planned lifespan, plans to increase standardization in the realm of electronic warfare systems, and a new program to shift aircraft maintenance operations toward the model used by airlines. The prevailing theme was a shift toward more efficient operations. The 402nd Aircraft Maintenance Group won the Shingo Prize for Excellence for streamlining the process so that planes were out of service for much shorter periods, allowing more aircraft to be deployed at any one time. The same process is being implemented in other shops at Robins as well. Robins handles maintenance on the C-130, C-17, and F-15 as well. Another move that is in the works is to follow the practice of the airlines in bringing planes in for maintenance more often but for shorter time periods in a manner that minimizes down time. Both the Savannah and Warner Robins visits gave Sam Nunn Fellows insight into the technical challenges facing the Port and Air Logistics Center.