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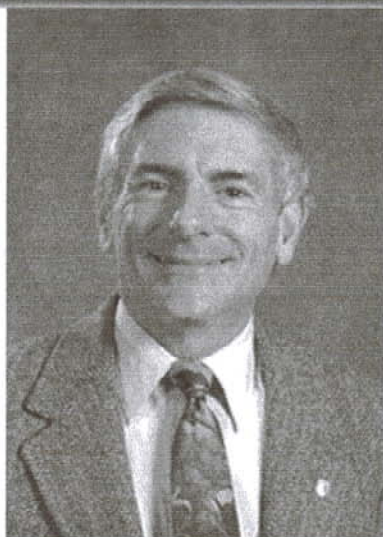
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*Dr. Keith Womer, director of UM's Hearin Center for Enterprise Science, oversees nationally recognized research in military operations and process optimization.*

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## Biz Prof's Research Aids Naval Training Program

04/14/2003

UNIVERSITY, Miss. - Just days before the war with Iraq began, University of Mississippi professor Keith Womer was in the nation's capital seeking ways to improve the U.S. Navy.

Director of UM's Hearin Center for Enterprise Science, Womer met with other researchers and scientists as part of the Office of Naval Research's Science and Technology Review Panel, whose role is to generate ideas and obtain expert opinions on products ONR is developing.

Among the data and research they examined was a potential screening tool designed to predict a recruit's potential success in the transition from a civilian to Navy sailor. They also looked at data on the effectiveness of simulation-based training

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exercises in preparing the Navy for combat.

Although the war had not begun when they met, its likelihood helped the panel narrow focus in discussions, Womer said. "When we deal with training, preparation for war is always on our minds. So the fact that there was an impending war merely added to the urgency of the discussion."

A research project closely tied to urban warfare was of particular interest, he said.

Womer also has served as a National Science Foundation reviewer. As Hearin Center director, he oversees nationally recognized research in military operations and process optimization.

by Lashaun Wallace

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