



THOMAS F. HOUSTON
Assistant Director for Communications
Naval Criminal Investigative Service



Mr. Houston was born on September 23, 1945, in Newton, Mississippi. His family moved two years later to Pascagoula, where he was raised. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi, where he majored in journalism and was executive editor of *The Daily Mississippian*, the University's daily newspaper.

After serving two years in the United States Army and returning to Mississippi to begin his career, Mr. Houston was named Press Secretary to Congressman William M. Colmer of Mississippi, chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee, and later held the same position with Colmer's successor, Congressman Trent Lott. After serving as Deputy Press Secretary in the Ford-Dole presidential campaign in 1976, he joined the staff of the House Committee on Government Operations in 1977 as a professional staff member and served in that capacity until June, 1989.



From 1989 until February, 1993, he served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs). He was twice honored by Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney with the coveted Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service. While at the Pentagon, Mr. Houston served as Director of the Desert Shield/Desert Storm Public Affairs Cell, the round-the-clock clearinghouse for U.S. military information during the Persian Gulf buildup and war. He also directed the planning and development of the first Department of Defense Fact File, a comprehensive collection of information on every aspect of the U.S. military, including descriptions of every major weapon system used by U.S. troops.

Mr. Houston served as Director of Communications and Public Affairs for the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission in 1993 and later was elevated to Staff Director of the independent commission. In 1995, he was named Chief of Staff to Congressman Jim Saxton of New Jersey, a member of the House National Security Committee, and in 1996 was named Chief of Staff to Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and later a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Houston was named Senior Advisor to the Director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in February 1998 and appointed Assistant Director for Communications in January 1999.