

Governor's Base Commanders Meeting

April 11, 2012

Executive Summary

Hosted at Hurlburt Field by Colonel Jim Slife, USAF

Colonel Slife presented an overview of 1st Special Operations Wing mission and operations at Hurlburt Field. He thanked the Governor and Lt. Governor for their support and highlighted their role in construction of an overpass to relieve congestion on Highway 98 at the main gate.

Governor Scott told the commanders that his goal was to maintain Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation. He remarked that Florida listens to the base commanders and takes actions that follow through. The Governor then ceremonially signed HB 7075.

Lt. Governor Carroll provided updates on numerous current military and defense-related issues around the state.

Agency Updates – State agency heads provided updates on actions to support the military installations and communities around the state. Highlights included: DBPR licensing streamlining for military family members, recent veteran-friendly legislation passed, FWC reduction of black bear conflicts at Hurlburt Field, and ongoing DEP environmental cleanup at Tyndall AFB.

Base Commanders Briefings – Commanders raised issues for the Governor's information and action. Highlights included:

Naval Support Activity Orlando – Extensive use of leased space could threaten future presence and impact; makes this activity more vulnerable to DOD realignment actions.

Homestead ARB – Current DOT expansion project may encourage incompatible development near Homestead ARB.

MacDill AFB – Commander raised issue of parents' concern about quality of schools near MacDill and issues with local school superintendent. Dept. of Ed. will assist. Governor also promised to have a presentation at the next meeting on charter schools to help inform all commanders

Next meeting will be in August at Patrick AFB.