Welcome to the first edition of the FDA bi-weekly newsletter!

FDA Vision: To maintain and enhance the position and reputation of Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation.

NEWS:

1. **Association of Defense Communities (ADC)** -- Florida had great representation at the June ADC Conference in Washington. There were 10 FDA members in attendance. During the ADC Conference, FDA members celebrated the Eglin-Hurlburt community being named as an ADC Great American Defense Community and NAS Whiting Field receiving the ADC Installation Excellence Award.

2. **Florida Defense Support Task Force** – In May, the Florida Defense Support Task Force approved the award of 7 grants totaling $1.8 million to support and strengthen military installations and missions across the state.

3. **NS Mayport** – The U.S. Navy has awarded contracts to BAE Systems for the repair and maintenance of two ships at NS Mayport near Jacksonville at the BAE Systems Jacksonville Shipyard. The ships are the USS Farragut and the USS Fort McHenry. The contracts are worth $61.7 million and have a cumulative value of $68.6 million if all options are exercised.

4. **Possible Stationing of MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aerial System in Florida** – The US Navy is considering Wallops Island, Virginia, NAS Key West and NS Mayport as possible locations for the Navy’s new unmanned aerial systems.

5. **Possible Future Additional F-35 Joint Strike Fighters Stationing in Florida** – Both the 125th Fighter Wing at Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, and the 482nd Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Reserve Base are being considered by the Air Force for F-35 basing in decisions to be made in the coming year. If selected these bases would receive the aircraft within 5 years according to current plans.

6. **Federal Budget/Defense Budget** – Given an election year and very few Congressional working days in the next few months, it is a strong likelihood that Congress will have to pass a Continuing Resolution to keep the government operating past September 30.
7. **BRAC** – It is possible that Congress could authorize a BRAC during the lame duck session. However, the soonest there would be a BRAC would most likely be 2019. At this point the prospect of a BRAC seems increasingly unlikely until sometime after 2019.

8. **2016 Military Friendly Guides** – The updated 2016 Florida Military Friendly Guides are being delivered next week to Tallahassee. Base commanders and military communities across the state will be receiving distribution with the next few weeks.

9. **EFI Military and Defense Transition** – Rocky McPherson retired at the end of May. Bruce Grant, Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force has assumed his duties for EFI.

10. **Base of the Future** – Great publication from ADC – worth your time to read!


**NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:**

I am excited and honored to serve as your Chairman for the Florida Defense Alliance. As we develop the plans for the upcoming year, I need your assistance in order for FDA to bring you value. Please share your best practices and military/defense news with us to share. It is this connection with each other that brings us the innovative movement to keep Florida moving forward to address the opportunities and challenges facing our military and surrounding communities. With the sequestration statutory spending caps, it is important for us to raise awareness about the impact of the military in our communities and the state.

Recently, many of you attended the ADC Conference. Let us know what ideas, practices or programs you gained from the conference. In order for Florida to stay the leader in address military/defense opportunities and challenges, we need to hear from you.

From what I hear there are many areas we must be engaged:

Although, the next BRAC may be a few years off, communities should begin working with their local installations to identify capabilities for future missions. How do we work with our installations and local communities on the “Base of Future” and what capabilities are needed? We need to be strategic in our thinking and offer innovative solutions for the limited resources the services have to invest.

The P4 partnerships will be important to address energy resiliency and other critical base needs including addressing leased facilities.

We will need to reengage with our local CareerSource boards regarding the aging civilian workforce and their corporate history and knowledge.
With the rapid use of drones, how do we protect installations and air space concerns?

Budgetary concerns to address the lack of maintenance or commanders MILCON requests.

Developing a strategic vision and alliance for our ranges and the many challenges they face on encroachment at all levels and from every direction.

These are just a few of the many items we need to address and this does not include the military spouse and family opportunities or staying aware of the issues that Veterans Florida is working on.

There is a lot to be said for keeping things simple; but there is nothing simple about the military/defense world. Conditions continue to change, requiring us to build and rebuild alliances and coalitions especially now in this election year. Priorities change as different issues become important. The need to inform and educate community leaders and local, state and congressional elected officials on our issues is a never ending and always an ongoing proposition. We are listening to you and looking forward to a year of progress and achievement. Our goal is to engage with you to create an organization that most effectively serves our Florida military/defense communities. Your participation strengthens the FDA.

As you can see, we have a full year ahead and your involvement is critical to our success. What would you like to see in the newsletter or what information would be a benefit to you? We are building the agendas for the August Conference Call and November meeting. Is there a topic or program you would like us to research for the discussion? I ask you to recruit new individuals to our organization so we can continue to build the awareness needed to assist those men and women that give all for us.

Have a safe and fabulous July 4th Holiday weekend! I look forward to working with each of you.

------  Kelli Jo Kilberg

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August 23 – Next FDA Conference Call

November 16 – Semi-Annual FDA Meeting in Tampa

Web site -- https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/
FLORIDA DEFENSE ALLIANCE:

Purpose

Enterprise Florida, Incorporated created the Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) in 1998 in accordance with Florida Statute 288.980 as a non-profit partnership between the Governor, Florida state officials, the Florida Congressional Delegation, state legislators, base commanders and staff, community leaders, and business executives to increase military value, enhance base capabilities, and promote multi-service synergies for Florida’s military bases, while supporting and enhancing the quality of life of Florida military families.

Mission

- Foster federal military presence in the State of Florida in support of national defense.
- Preserve test, training, and staging areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval or air forces to guarantee future availability of such areas to ensure the readiness of the Armed Forces conducting operations in Florida.
- Expand defense-related industries.
- Ensure that both active and retired Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, National Guard, reserves, and family members receive continual improvement to quality of life.
- Support local efforts to enhance the value of military installations.

Membership

The Florida Defense Alliance is a grass roots consortium of representatives of defense-related organizations including federal, state, and local government as well as defense industry, economic development organization, and other interested parties who come together in order to protect, promote and enhance military value of Florida installations and missions. FDA will establish working groups, as required.

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” ---- Theodore Roosevelt
Happy Independence Day!

Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776:

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation……..

..........We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness........

.......We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.......
Jeff Fanto, Kay Rasmussen, Jim Breitenfeld and Sal Nodjomian at ADC Conference in Washington, DC. Eglin-Hurlburt community recognized as a Great American Defense Community.

What is the MQ-4C Triton?

The MQ-4C Triton is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for the United States Navy as a surveillance aircraft. Developed under the Broad Area Maritime Surveillance (BAMS) program, the system is intended to provide real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions (ISR) over vast ocean and coastal regions, continuous maritime surveillance, as well as search and rescue missions, for the U.S. Navy, and to complement the Boeing P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft, but the equipment to link the two platforms is currently unfunded. Triton builds on elements of the Global Hawk UAS while incorporating reinforcements to the air frame and wing, along with de-icing and lightning protection systems. These capabilities allow the aircraft to descend through cloud layers to gain a closer view of ships and other targets at sea when needed. The current sensor suites allow ships to be tracked over time by gathering information on their speed, location, and classification.
NOTES FROM THE STAFF:

FDA Members --- Thanks for all you do to support Florida’s military installations and missions on a daily basis on your communities. Your efforts – work worth doing -- are the heart and soul of the state’s commitment to the dedicated men and women of our armed forces. Your actions enhance the quality of life for our military and families and truly make a difference. The relationships you continue to build with base commanders and military personnel are invaluable to strengthening the installation and the community. It is because of this that Florida leads the way for other states in fostering strong, vibrant defense communities that truly embrace our military.

SUGGESTIONS: Suggestions for this newsletter are welcome! We will adjust/modify this newsletter so that it meets the desires and expectations of the FDA membership.
FDA Vision: To maintain and enhance the position and reputation of Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation.

NEWS:

1. **2016 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit** – The Florida Chamber is sponsoring this summit on August 17th in St. Petersburg. This will be the third annual summit and the FDA Chair, Kelli Jo Kilberg will be one of the presenters. For more details, visit their website at: [http://www.flchamber.com/event/2016-military-defense-veterans-opportunities-summit/](http://www.flchamber.com/event/2016-military-defense-veterans-opportunities-summit/)

2. **Florida Defense Support Task Force** – The next meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force will be on July 21st beginning at 9:00 AM at the Fairfield Inn and Suites, 4888 Lenoir Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32216.

3. **2016 Military Friendly Guides** – The updated 2016 Florida Military Friendly Guides are being delivered this week across the state to both base commanders and local defense community leaders. If you need more, please contact Bruce Grant or Marcy Sanders.

4. **Avon Park Air Force Range Designated in Sentinel Landscapes** – The U.S. Departments of Defense (DoD), Agriculture and the Interior today announced the addition of three military bases to the Sentinel Landscape Partnership, a conservation effort begun in 2013 to improve military readiness, protect at-risk and endangered species, enhance critical wildlife habitat and restore working agricultural and natural lands in the Southeast and Midwest. The three bases are: **Avon Park Air Force Range**, Florida, Camp Ripley, Minnesota and training grounds in Eastern North Carolina. Sentinel Landscapes are working or natural lands important to the Nation's defense mission—places where preserving the working and rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes. Press release can be found at: [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2016/07/0163.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&ededeployment_action=retrievecontent](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2016/07/0163.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&ededeployment_action=retrievecontent)
5. **Value of Community Partnerships with Military Installations** – The RAND Report below provides insights into the value of partnerships. As we know partnerships between military installations and neighboring communities can produce a variety of benefits for both parties, including cost savings or revenue, as well as a range of non-monetary benefits such as an enhanced military mission, and improved installation and community operations and services. Other benefits include access to additional expertise and resources; enhanced outreach to military personnel and their families; and energy and environmental advantages. But beyond cost savings and other concrete benefits, installation partnerships “are often more about long-term, mutually beneficial relationships and strategic issues than saving money. Such partnerships are strategically important to the long-term function and mission of installations. Read the full RAND report here: [http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1419.html](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1419.html)

6. **DEO Managing Defense Grants** – The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) currently manages all FY 15-16 defense grants (DRG and DIG). Eric Miller at DEO is the main point of contact for these grants. EFI continues to manage all legacy defense grants from FY 14-15 and earlier.

**NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:**

In today’s ADC – Defense Communities 360 Daily, they had an article on a recent report by the RAND Corp. This report ties in with the ADC white paper on The Base of the Future. Both have good information for each of us to review and then engage with our community and military leaders on what we can be doing to enhance our partnerships.

Florida has been the leading state in addressing the challenges facing military installations and surrounding communities. Our state along with our communities has been in these partnerships for long-term benefits for all of the stakeholders inside and outside the fence. Through the FDA partnership, we have leveraged different federal and state programs and grants to engage the discussions necessary to be forward thinking on meeting the opportunities and challenges ahead for our communities and installations. Take a moment to review the Base of the Future white paper and the RAND Corp report and let me (kjkilberg@hotmail.com) know your thoughts. Would you like more information on any of the topics discussed? There are still many challenges that need to be worked out for many of the partnership opportunities to work with ease. Let me know how you would like to engage with the FDA network in moving the enhanced partnerships forward and how we can be strategic in creating Florida as the “Base of the Future”.


------- Kelli Jo Kilberg
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The FDA also serves as an advisory body for Enterprise Florida on military matters.

Legislative Initiatives for 2017:

Please consider any possible military and defense-related legislative initiatives for 2017 that would make Florida even more military-friendly. We would ask that you forward these to the FDA Chair for consideration by the Legislators on the Florida Defense Support Task Force. In past years, the FDA has been outstanding in promoting military-friendly legislation as evidenced by all the laws found in the Florida Military-Friendly Guide.

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

"A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace."

--Commodore George Dewey
Military Trivia Facts

1. 30 of the 43 Presidents served in the Army, 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of 5-star General (Washington and Eisenhower) and one earned the Medal of Honor (T. Roosevelt).

2. Less than 28 percent of Americans between the ages of 17-23 are qualified for military service, that’s only about 1-in-4.

3. The U.S. Air Force was part of the Army until 1946. It was called the Army Air Corp.

4. Only one President (James Buchanan) served as an enlisted man in the military and did not go on to become an officer.

5. The Department of Defense employs about 1.8 million people on active duty. It is the largest employer in the United States, with more employees than Exxon, Mobil, Ford, General Motors, and GE combined!

6. The Navy’s bell-bottom trousers, are commonly believed to be introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. In addition the trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs and swinging them over your head to fill the legs with air.

7. The Coast Guard seizes 169 pounds of marijuana and 306 pounds of cocaine worth $9,589,000.00 every day.

8. The Coast Guard is smaller than the New York City Police Department.

9. The Marine Corps motto, "Semper Fidelis," was adopted in 1883 as the official motto. It is Latin for Always Faithful.

10. The nickname “Leatherneck” originates from the stiff leather stock that early Marines wore around their necks, probably to protect their jugular vein against saber blows.

11. The U.S. Army was in charge of exploring and mapping America. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was an all Army affair. Army officers were the first Americans to see such landmarks as Pike's Peak and the Grand Canyon.

12. The Air Force's F-117 fighter uses aerodynamics discovered during research into how bumblebees fly.
What is a P4? (Definition courtesy of ADC)

Partnerships designed to enhance the efficiency or improve the military value of DoD installations fit under the rubric of “P4,” public-public and public-private partnerships:

Public-Public Partnership — a partnership between two or more public agencies that combines resources — either monetary or in-kind — funded by two or more public revenue streams to achieve common goals and objectives.

Public-Private Partnership — a partnership between at least one public or quasi-public agency and at least one private entity that combines resources — either monetary or in-kind — funded by both public revenue streams and private capital to achieve common goals and objectives. A well-known example of this type of partnership in DoD is housing privatization; other models include enhanced use leasing (EUL) of underutilized assets and facilities-use agreements.

P4’s provide a framework through which military installation, civic, and business leaders collaborate to develop creative ways to leverage respective capabilities and resources to reduce operating costs and increase capabilities. The net result is a “win-win” scenario where all parties in an agreement realize a benefit.

News from Military Installations and Communities:

We would like to begin sharing news and updates on activities of local bases and defense communities around the state. Please send those in for the next newsletter – we want to hear from you!

Pictures:

Please submit any pictures of local defense community activities so that we can use this forum to share them with other FDA members. Thanks!

What is the LCS?

The littoral combat ship (LCS) is a class of relatively small surface vessels intended for operations in the littoral zone (close to shore) by the United States Navy. It was envisioned to be a networked, agile, stealthy surface combatant capable of defeating anti-access and asymmetric threats in the littorals.
NOTES FROM THE STAFF:

FDA Members ---Thanks again for all you do to support Florida’s military installations and missions on a daily basis in your communities. You are the heart and soul of the state’s commitment to the dedicated men and women of our armed forces. You focus on activities that reduce the exposure of your military base to BRAC or other realignment actions. Military service carries a high price for both the service member and the family. Your support to them makes all the difference in the world. Your actions have a tangible impact on improving their quality of life while stationed in Florida.

SUGGESTIONS: Suggestions for this newsletter are welcome! We will adjust/modify this newsletter so that it meets the desires and expectations of the FDA membership.

F-16’s from, 93rd Fighter Squadron "Makos" from Homestead ARB.
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NEWS:

1. **Greater Pensacola Chamber Receives Task Force Grant** – Congratulations to the Greater Pensacola Chamber! They received a grant from the Florida Defense Support Task Force for $250,000 for signage to assist the base and surrounding community in alleviating traffic confusion caused by new security procedures at NAS Pensacola. The funding will greatly assist in re-routing traffic and relieving traffic problems around the base.

2. **2016 Military Friendly Guides** – The updated 2016 Florida Military Friendly Guides have been delivered across the state to both base commanders and local defense community leaders. If you need more, please contact Bruce Grant or Marcy Sanders.

3. **Homestead Air Reserve Base Looking into Applying Military Compact to Children of Air Reserve Technicians (ART)** -- Homestead ARB is looking at how provisions of the Interstate Compact for Military Children can be applied to the children of ARTs.

4. **Jacksonville Hosted Recent Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting** – Last week, Jacksonville hosted the Florida Defense Support Task Force meeting. Local defense community leaders held a no-host dinner the night before the meeting. Following the meeting, Task Force members visited Naval Station Mayport.

5. **FDA on the Agenda for Task Force Meetings** – FDA will be on the agenda for all meetings of the Florida Defense Support Task Force to ensure that local defense community voices are always part of the discussion. Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg did an outstanding job at the July meeting informing the Task Force on the role of the FDA.

6. **Letter Writing Campaign for Triton Stationing in Florida** – Florida has two bases (NS Mayport and NAS Key West) being considered by the Navy for the basing of the MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft. There is another candidate for basing – Wallops Island, Virginia. Virginia officials and citizens have been very vocal in asking the Navy to station the Triton there. However, we in Florida would like to see it come here. So,
FDA is organizing a letter writing campaign from Jacksonville and Key West to help convince the Navy to choose Florida. If you are interested, please contact Kellie Jo. Bullets below contain some of the best reasons:

- Florida is already home to more than 758,000 service men and women, 20 military installations and 3 unified commands and is well-known as this nation’s most military-friendly state.
- Either Naval Station Mayport or Naval Air Station Key West would be a great fit for the Navy since they both fully meet Department of the Navy requirements for MQ-4C start-up and on-going operations.
- The Navy already conducts much of its operational training in Florida waters, using Florida ranges, and airspace because of their proximity to unrestricted airspace.
- The MQ-4C takeoff and recovery would be over uninhabited littoral waters, making Florida the safest option for the training and operation of these unmanned platforms.
- Stationing the Triton in Florida ensures proximity to the Unmanned Patrol Squadron (VUP-19), already in place at NAS Jacksonville, which provides command and control for the Triton. This would leverage the Navy’s investment already made in Florida for the Triton.
- The addition of the Triton would also increase training synergies with surface ships and naval aviation operating in Florida.
- Tritons stationed in Florida would be well-positioned for conducting maritime surveillance operations in both the Atlantic and Caribbean in support of U.S. Southern Command missions.
- The Triton unmanned aircraft would be a perfect complement to the P-8A Poseidon maritime and reconnaissance aircraft already operating from their base in Jacksonville.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:

Last week I attended the Florida Defense Task Force meeting in Jacksonville. There is enormous amount of information shared at these meetings. It is important for the FDA to be engaged to ensure the task force has a clear understanding of all of the data provided. We live this information every day and assume everyone else is on the same page when it comes to military installations and defense issues, opportunities and challenges. What we see so clearly, they may not see as they receive snippets of information at different times. The FDA is connecting the dots and it is up to us to share the big picture with our leaders.

Speaking of leaders and why it is important we are following the BRAC conversations in Washington, DC – a recent article by a prominent Senator acknowledges the need for DOD to reduce some of its infrastructure due to the estimated 22 percent of excess capacities. The issue is he feels there is no need for a BRAC and the services should just make recommendation to Congress and leave the communities out of the process as it is a waste of money and time. As communities that have been involved in the process over the years, we know without a BRAC the data doesn’t tell the whole story and the process becomes very political and not what is in the best interest of the military services. Yes, there are winners and there are losers in a BRAC.
process; but, at least it is out in the open with dialogue to justify decisions. Without a BRAC, we have the process of a 1000 cuts here and there without a true look at a strategic vision for the resources needed for our military services. As a state, we have the opportunity to lead the way on how to develop regional partnerships across the services and the state to create the “Base of the Future”. By focusing on efforts to cut overall costs of maintaining infrastructure, looking at energy efficiencies and other strategic partnerships will assist the services to invest more in the readiness of our airmen, sailors, soldiers and marines. What are some of your unique military/defense partnerships in your community that are strengthening and promoting our military installations? Share your programs with Bruce Grant to make sure we have the data to share for our Florida story. Are you sharing your stories with the candidates running for office? It’s never too early to start informing candidates about the importance of the military and defense industries in our state.

Our CareerSource partners work with our military spouses to make sure they find employment when they arrive here in the state. Florida was one of the first states to address the many challenges that military spouses face when they move every 2 to 4 years to follow their spouses to a new assignment. Each state has different requirements for military spouses to gain their professional licenses or credentials to continue their careers after moving. Take time to reach out to your partners in your community and see if we have address as many of their needs as we can and that our processes are working. Is there a new need that may need legislation or legislation that needs enhancing? We want to be the leader and we want Florida to be the most military friendly state.

As we talk about partnerships, the Air Force Community Partnership is offering a series of seminars to assist with efforts to form new partnerships. For more details about the series and to register, visit the AFCP website. For more information, contact Yvonne Fernandez at fernandez_yvonne@bah.com, or Marta Dunn at dunn_marta@bah.com.

As we enter the last month of the summer, thank you for your support of our military installations and defense industries in your communities as well as the Florida Defense Alliance. Remember to share your best practices with Bruce. Through you our partners, Florida will be “The Base of the Future”.

------- Kellie Jo Kilberg

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QUOTATIONS FROM GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON:

“The soldier is the Army. No army is better than its soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one’s country.”

“Lead me, follow me, or get the hell out of my way.”

“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

“No good decision was ever made in a swivel chair.”

News from the Bases:

MacDill AFB – Colonel Dan Tulley relinquished command to Colonel April Vogel on 8 July. Colonel Reginald O. Godbolt will relinquish command of 6th Maintenance Group to Colonel Clifton D. Reed on August 9th.

In May, the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA) had three board members attend the National Security Forum (NSF), Air War College at Maxwell AFB. The members spent a week at Air
War College and listened to both General Welsh and Secretary of the Air Force address their group.

Below is Dr. Lisa Monnet, President of TBDA with officers from the NSF.

TBDA members also visited Scott Air Force Base in June as part of a mission to develop relationships and work towards increasing understanding and cooperation between the civilian communities and the Air Force. Among those visiting the Illinois base was Chris Farkas, chief operating officer of the Hillsborough County School District, who described innovative ways the district and MacDill are helping families cope with frequent moves associated with life in uniform.

**Team Orlando** –

Captain Erik Etz, USN, commanding officer of the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD) and Naval Support Activity (NSA) Orlando. Etz replaces Captain Wes Naylor, USN, who retired as the outgoing commanding officer of NAWCTSD and NSA Orlando after 27 years of service. Etz’s expertise in strategy, simulation and training technology, and software will help guide The Corridor as it grows high tech industry and innovation through partnerships that support research, marketing, workforce and entrepreneurship. On June 12th, Brig. Gen. William E. Cole became the new leader of the Program Executive Office, Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI).
Immediately following the change of charter, Maj. Gen. Jonathan A. Maddux, the outgoing program executive officer (PEO), was retired from the Army after 40 years of service.

**Hurlburt Field** – Colonel Palenske has taken over as the new commander at the 1st Special Operations Wing.

**Patrick AFB** – Patrick AFB wins 6 awards – Year of excellence. The 45th Space Wing garnered four team awards to include: Child Development Program of the Year, Major General Eugene L. Eubank Award for the small base category of the Year, Operations Program of the Year and John L. Hennessy Award. Additionally, two members, Lt. Col. Paul N. Somer, prior 45th Force Support commander, received an individual award for 2015 Lieutenant General Norm Lezy Award for the number one Force Support Squadron commander in the U.S. Air Force and Staff Sgt. William Chavanu, for winning the Base Honor Guard Member of 2015.

The 45th Space Wing supported SpaceX’s successful launch of a Falcon 9 Dragon spacecraft headed to the International Space Station from Space Launch Complex 40 here July 18, 2016, at 12:45 a.m. ET. At approximately eight minutes after the launch, SpaceX successfully landed the
Falcon 9 first-stage booster at Landing Zone 1 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. The flyback mission was the second successful one for SpaceX following its historic first landing of a first-stage booster on Landing Zone 1 in December 2015. This Falcon 9 Dragon launch was the 13th major launch operation for the Eastern Range this year, and marks the ninth contracted mission by SpaceX under NASA’s Commercial Resupply Services contract.

Pictures:

Please submit any pictures of local defense community activities so that we can use this forum to share them with other FDA members. Thanks!

**Florida Military Family and Community Covenant** -- FMFCC is a nonprofit organization with the mission to empower service members, veterans and their families across Florida.

No single agency or organization has the manpower, resources, or intellectual capital to provide a lifetime of care and support to our military family. We, as a community and state, must build key partnerships and link state and local community efforts. Local, state, and federal governmental agencies, and hundreds of non-governmental organizations, institutions of higher learning, local community-based organizations, and local businesses already provide many veterans and their families the inspiration, resources, and focus to ensure success in post-service life. Tying together the support offered by these organizations is the key concept of the Florida Military Family and Community Covenant's Help for Vets initiative.

**FMFCC is not another social program.** It does not advocate for new programs or negate those that are already ongoing. It works through a network of volunteers known as veteran peer navigators and civilian battle advocacy buddies (CBAB) to harnesses the appropriate government and local community resources. FMFCC believes that we must provide the highest level of quality support our veterans, Service members and their families deserve.

For more information, contact Rae Pike at: [raepike.fmfcc@gmail.com](mailto:raepike.fmfcc@gmail.com)

FMFCC is planning on an outreach to service members and veterans based on a new phone app detailed below:
No single agency or organization has the manpower to support our service members, veterans and their families. Existing referral networks often fall short in meeting the needs of at risk veterans.

**Help For Vets** uses a ‘no wrong door’ policy and a warm hand-off to proven resources and trained Peer Navigators and individuals using the system at the local level.

Integrating the Florida network, will reduce inefficiencies in the transition process, increasing the impact veterans have in our communities, and will continue Florida’s commitment to making Florida the place for veterans to work, play and live.

If anyone would like to be part of the beta testing, please email Rae Pike at raepike.fmfcc@gmail.com and you can be part of the team testing phase one which is the App. Phase two will be a test of the data system and triage implementation with a plan to go live early 2017.
Spotlight on United States Southern Command

U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), located in Doral, Fla., is one of nine unified Combatant Commands (COCOMs) in the Department of Defense. Established in 1963 and originally headquartered in Panama, SOUTHCOM moved to Florida in 1997.

SOUTHCOM is responsible for providing contingency planning, operations, and security cooperation in its assigned Area of Responsibility which includes:

- Central America
- South America
- The Caribbean (except U.S. commonwealths, territories, and possessions)

The command is also responsible for the force protection of U.S. military resources at these locations. SOUTHCOM is also responsible for ensuring the defense of the Panama Canal.

SOUTHCOM is a joint command comprised of more than 1,200 military and civilian personnel representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and several other federal agencies.

The services provide SOUTHCOM with component commands which, along with our Joint Special Operations component, two Joint Task Forces, one Joint Interagency Task Force, and Security Cooperation Organizations, perform SOUTHCOM missions and security cooperation activities.

SOUTHCOM exercises its Combatant Command authority through the commanders of its components, Joint Task Forces/Joint Interagency Task Force, and Security Cooperation Organizations.
NOTES FROM THE STAFF:
FDA Members --- It is great to see FDA members around working side by side with bases on issues both care deeply about. FDA continues to help Base Commanders work on both local and state issues impacting service members and their families. Please stay in close contact with your bases and ensure you understand their issues and concerns. Your relationship with base personnel is vital to improving the quality of life of all those military personnel and their families stationed in Florida.

Pictures of 7th Special Forces Group at Eglin AFB
FDA Vision: To maintain and enhance the position and reputation of Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation.

NEWS:

1. From the Attorney General --

This week, in recognition of our nation’s first Military Consumer Protection Month, I offered tips and resources directly to service members and veterans online. Scammers will sometimes target our active service members while they are on deployment or set up fraudulent charities that exploit our veterans.

This is absolutely despicable and I am dedicated to doing everything in my power to protect the brave men and women who risk their lives to defend us.

In recognition of this important month, I released my new Military Consumer Protection Guide which is full of information and tips about predatory lending practices, identity theft, debt collection, foreclosure fraud and more. Using Twitter, I reached out directly to military members and their families with tips about how to avoid scams targeting our military.

We will never be able to fully thank the brave men and women who step up to defend our country, but we can and should do our part to protect them from scams and ensure they
have the resources needed to avoid becoming a victim of a deceptive and unfair trade practice. Any consumer who believes they have been a victim of a scam or other fraudulent activity should file a complaint by calling 1-866-9-NO-SCAM or by visiting MyFloridaLegal.com.

2. Florida Chamber Foundation’s 2016 Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit – This summit will be held on August 17, 2016 at the Hilton St.Petersburg Carillon Park. Information can be found at: http://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/

3. Homestead ARB Letter Writing Campaign – Sharon Haxton and Jonathan Borgert have organized a letter writing campaign in support of stationing the Air Reserve F-35s at Homestead ARB.

4. CORRECTION – In a previous newsletter, we indicated that Florida is home to approximately 750,000 active duty guard and reserve personnel. The actual number is approximately 100,000.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:

I’m always amazed by all of the activities that happen at our military installations around the state of Florida. Most recently we had the more than 50 U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) organizations and private companies arrived at Eglin Air Force Base near Valparaiso, FL, for an event that marries product testing, research and battle simulations: Sensor Week. Participants were able to test new sensor and seeker technology on a testing range with more than 400 vehicles and aircraft, including everything from Air Force jets to Russian fuel trucks and missile launchers.

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast’s (FRCSE) avionics shop celebrated becoming the first U.S. Navy site to establish depot repair capability on a component of the P-8A “Poseidon” aircraft - The result will be faster turnaround time and reduced cost compared to sending the radars off to be repaired or modified.

The 14th annual PANAMAX exercise, a multi-national military exercise involving at least 19 nations happened at Naval Station Mayport. This year event was on the heels of the newly expanded Panama Canal. PANAMAX is one of the largest multinational military exercises in the world.

Air Force attack planes from Arizona visited Patrick Air Force Base this week for practice flights that pilots say could lead to more little-known and daring rescue missions carried out by Patrick-based airmen.
This is just a few of the many activities our bases and communities support. We are engaged in preparing our men and women in the services to be the best that they can be in spite of the fiscal restrictions imposed by the Budget Reduction Act of 2011.

As the FDA, we want to be innovative in how we assist our military installations, men and women. So on our next conference call agenda, we will have a discussion on strategic positioning for the state and how Florida can become the “Base of the Future”. So put on your thinking caps and be prepared with your innovative ideas from your area. If you have questions or if you would like to discussion ideas, feel free to email me or call me.

This Sunday is the 71st Anniversary of the end of World War II. Governor Rick Scott has signed the 2016 Spirit of ’45 Day Proclamation. So take moment to remember those that gave all and thank our veterans and active duty men and women for the freedoms we have today.

If you are going to the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit, I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for your support of the Florida Defense Alliance

------ Kellie Jo Kilberg

FDA CALENDAR:

August 23 – Next FDA Conference Call

11:00 AM EDT – DRAFT AGENDA ATTACHED

November 16 – Semi-Annual FDA Meeting in Tampa

Web site -- https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/

Legislative Initiatives for 2017:

Please forward any possible military and defense-related legislative initiatives for 2017 to the FDA Chair for consideration by the Legislators on the Florida Defense Support Task Force. In past years, the FDA has been outstanding in promoting military-friendly legislation as evidenced by all the laws found in the Florida Military-Friendly Guide. **We need to surface these ideas in the next month to be well-positioned to get them into draft legislation by September.**

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

--- Edmund Burke
News from the Bases:

NAS Whiting Field --

Encroachment Partnering Initiatives:
NAS Whiting Field has secured more than nearly 1,000 over the last year. These parcels are located adjacent to the installation, underneath flight tracks and within accident potential zones. Buffering of these lands serves to protect our mission and to safeguard conservation efforts that have been identified in two multi-year encroachment partnering agreements. The cost of the purchase of restrictive use easements over these properties equates to a total partner match over $2.6M, with nearly $1.9M executed from Navy Readiness Environmental Protection Integration funding and remaining allocations coming from the State's Florida Forever and Defense Infrastructure Grant programs. The culmination of the Navy-County and Navy-State efforts brings the total land acquired around NAS Whiting Field to roughly 4,100 acres. The successes of what is considered the "Navy's Model" in encroachment partnering has positioned this partnership to potentially secure another 1,500 acres within the next 6 to 12 months - providing a protection buffer that enables NAS Whiting Field to support one of the most dynamic aviation training missions in the Department of Defense.

Projects:
* NAS Whiting Field completed a Special Project on 20 June 2016. This $14.5M Special Project extended the life of NAS Whiting Field South Field runways through construction repairs to ditches/storm water drainage and the complete resurfacing of 12,000 feet of runway surface areas.
* NAS Whiting Field was awarded a $10.1M project in June 2016. The project will provide a new "Flight Center" in support of Training Air Wing FIVE’s T-6B flight training mission.

Milestones:
On 21 June 2016, NAS Whiting Field and Training Air Wing FIVE celebrated the arrival of the last T-6B to the installation. This capstone event brought the 148th "Texan II" to NASWF and marks our full transition from the T-34 to T-6B.

Partnering:
NAS Whiting Field and Escambia County Board of County Commissioners finalized a Land Exchange Agreement that documents the understanding and intent regarding the proposed exchange of Navy Outlying Landing Field 8 and real property located in Santa Rosa County.

Awards:
On Jun 22nd, NAS Whiting Field was the recipient of the 2016 Installation Excellence Award from the Association of Defense Communities during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The installation was honored for its demonstrated leadership in innovate partnerships that protected and promoted military and community goals.
AFTAC and Florida Tech partner for research

The Air Force Technical Applications Center and Florida Institute of Technology announced Wednesday a partnership to conduct research and development for AFTAC’s treaty-monitoring mission. The Cooperative Research and Development Agreement will combine areas of expertise from both organizations. At the same time, the hope is for Florida Tech to grow a new generation of experts for the AFTAC mission. AFTAC, headquartered at Patrick Air Force Base, is the national security organization that monitors nuclear treaty compliance.
NS Mayport –

NS Mayport changes command

Navy Capt. Wesley McCall, former commander of Mayport Naval Station, departs the change of command ceremony. (Photo: Florida Times-Union)

The man they nicknamed “Cowboy” officially rode off to his new post within the U.S. Navy’s command structure Friday after a three-year stint that saw him lead the team that prepared Mayport Naval Station for new high-speed littoral combat ships. But as Capt. Wesley R. McCall leaves the 74-year-old base to be executive assistant to Vice Adm. Dixon Smith at Navy Installations Command in Virginia, a man whose past saw many assignments at Jacksonville’s other base replaced him during a change of command. Capt. David J. Yoder, based with helicopter squadrons in Jacksonville many times over his 22 years in the Navy, said it was great to be back.

Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field –

Eglin and Hurlburt -- Additional Changes of Command include:

- Lt General Marshall "Brad" Webb new at AFSOC HQ.
- Col Michael Miller at 24th SOW
- Master Chief Sean Sulski at US Coast Guard Station Destin
Pictures of new privatized housing:
The DSI lost a comrade in BGen Mark Stogsdill.

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Mark Stogsdill, the former commander of the 919th Special Operations Wing at Duke Field, died Tuesday at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans.

July 21, 2016

By KELLY HUMPHREY, NW Florida Daily News
SHALIMAR — Stogsdill, who commanded the 919th SOW from 1998 to 2004, oversaw the wing’s activation following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

According to Crestview community leader Bob Lynn, throughout his time at Duke Field, Stogsdill was extremely active in community affairs. “We worked together along with former Mayor George Whitehurst to cement relations between the military and the city,” Lynn said. “As far as he was concerned, he couldn’t do enough for Crestview.”

Lynn said he was saddened when Stogsdill left Duke Field to take command of the 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Georgia. When he retired and moved back to the area, Stogsdill became involved in a variety of military-related charities, including serving on the board of the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast, the Okaloosa County Veterans Memorial and the Defense Support Initiative. “He would never say no to a good cause,” Lynn added. “He was also a devoted family man. He was very involved in his daughters’ school activities.”

Commissioned in 1969 through Officers Training School at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Stogsdill earned his navigator wings in 1970 at Mather Air Force Base in California. He was a master navigator with more than 6,500 flying hours, including 450 combat hours flown during the Southeast Asia conflict on AC-130 Spectre Gunships. Following six years on active duty, he joined the Air Force Reserve in 1975.

Pictures:

Please submit any pictures of local defense community activities so that we can use this forum to share them with other FDA members. Thanks!
Spotlight on Marine Corps Support Facility, Blount Island

As the hub of the Marine Corps’ prepositioning programs, Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island serves as the home of Blount Island Command and its worldwide mission supporting Marine expeditionary forces. Blount Island Command's Marines, sailors, civilians, and defense contractor partners are proud of our relationship with Marine war fighters and are singularly dedicated to providing them with the best combat ready equipment and supplies in the world. It is located on the east side of Blount Island near the port of Jacksonville.

Colonel Brian Hughes,
Commander
Military Trivia:

**Ditty Bags** Ditty bog (or box) was originally called ditto bag because it contained at least two of everything - two needles, two spools of thread, two buttons, etc. With the passing of years, the 'ditto' was dropped in favor of ditty and remains so today. Before WW I, the Navy issued ditty boxes made of wood and styled after foot lockers. These carried the personal gear and some clothes of the sailor. Today the ditty bag is still issued to recruits and contains a sewing kit, toiletry articles and personal items such as writing paper and pens.

**NOTES FROM THE STAFF:**
FDA Members ---Thanks for all you do working side by side with Base Commanders on both local and state issues impacting service members and their families. Your efforts truly make a difference.
FDA Vision: To maintain and enhance the position and reputation of Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation.

NEWS:

1. **Florida Chamber Foundation’s 2016 Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit** – FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg made a great presentation at the summit. Additionally, BG (ret) Chip Diehl was one of the featured speakers at this summit. The attendees also heard from Governor Rick Scott and Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam. Pictures and slides from the summit should be available on the Chamber web site next week. As they have done in past years, the Chamber published a video on the importance of the military to Florida. Here is the link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nufCXc9Y9Us](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nufCXc9Y9Us)

2. **New Chair for the Florida Defense Support Task Force – Rep. Clay Ingram** – Last week, Speaker of the House Steve Crisafulli announced that Rep. Clay Ingram from Pensacola as the new Chair of the Florida Defense Support Task Force. By Florida Law, the Task Force Chair rotates each year between an appointment by the Florida Senate President and the Florida House Speaker.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:

Last week, several of the FDA members participated in the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunity Summit in St. Petersburg. What always amazing me is the fact that the military/defense sector is the hidden gem in our state. The majority of our state does not understand the magnitude of the asset we have or the complexity it will take to retain our missions and/or acquire new missions and support our defense companies. The many obstacles are mind boggling including the fact that our military and defense companies must maneuver through the maze of the game called the uncertainty of the defense budget due to the use of Continuing Resolutions at the federal level. This practice of continuing resolutions adversely impacts current programs as well as prevent the Department of Defense from initiating any new projects or programs identified in the President’s Budget Request or by Congress. So it is important that we are communicating and informing our elected officials of the needs to pass the 2017 Defense Appropriations Bill and Budget.

Thank you to everyone who participated on the August Conference Call. We covered a lot of ground in a short time. Some of the topics covered included best practices from around the state as well as topics for the agenda for November FDA meeting including research on allowing state funding for “inside the gate”, OEA grant opportunities, the Rising Seas – DOD and community initiatives and the election result impacts on Florida and our defense communities. Make sure to mark your calendars for the November 16th FDA meeting as we will be covering several topics, sharing best practices and resources to add value to our meeting. If you have other topics or have research you would like to share; please forward them to Bruce and me. The next Florida
Defense Support Task Force meeting is September 15th in Pensacola. I will be sharing the outcomes of our conference call with the task force. We are successful due to your involvement and leadership. You are the leaders that make a difference for others and your communities. Continue to share your best practices and assist other Florida defense communities when possible.

The Florida Chamber Foundation produced a video on the military and defense sectors here in Florida. Here is a link to that video for you to share with your organizations. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nufCXC9Y9Us. I have been invited to present at the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Future of Florida Forum in Orlando later in September. As the FDA, we will elevate the discussions on the importance of the military/defense sector here in Florida and the role we play in national security.

Again, thank you for stepping up to assistance the FDA in positioning “Florida as The Base of the Future!” Together, we will find the ways to reduce the cost of operations, enhance the capacity of our military installations as well as quality of life for our military families.

-----  Kellie Jo Kilberg

FDA CALENDAR:

November 16 – Semi-Annual FDA Meeting in Tampa

Web site -- https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadeference/

Legislative Initiatives for 2017:

Please forward any possible military and defense-related legislative initiatives for 2017 to the FDA Chair for consideration by the Legislators on the Florida Defense Support Task Force. In past years, the FDA has been outstanding in promoting military-friendly legislation as evidenced by all the laws found in the Florida Military-Friendly Guide. We need to surface these ideas in the next month to be well-positioned to get them into draft legislation by September.

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“Perpetual optimism is a combat multiplier.” --- Colin Powell

News from the Bases:
NAS Jacksonville –

New Commander -- CAPT Sean P. Haley

Captain Sean Patrick Haley replaces Captain Howard Wanamaker. Captain Haley has been the Executive Officer at NAS Jacksonville since 2015.

NS Mayport –

New Commander -- CAPT David J. Yoder

Captain Yoder replaces Captain Wes McCall. His most recent sea tour was as the Commanding Officer of the HSC-7 “Dusty Dogs” assigned to CVW-3 aboard the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75).

LCS CREW 110 Commissions At NS Mayport

Command Master Chief Hardin, XO Commander Randy Malone, Shockey Snyder cut the ribbon to signify commissioning.

(Photo courtesy of LCS Crew 110)

Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Crew 110 was commissioned on Aug. 5, becoming the first LCS Crew stood up entirely on the East Coast. The Commissioning Ceremony was held at the Mayport Beacon on Naval Station
Mayport and marked the crew’s completion of individual pre-commissioning training and qualifications and their transition to active duty status. LCS Crew 110 is the third crew home ported at Mayport Naval Station Florida, to attain commissioned status; however, the two preceding crews were stood up in San Diego and then transferred to Mayport in December of 2015.

**Avon Park Air Force Range –**

New Commander – LTC Daniel Edgar

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel A. Edgar assumed command of the 598th Range Squadron at the Avon Park Air Force Range on Friday, August 19, 2016. Lieutenant Colonel Edgar replaces Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Beeker who left earlier this summer for another assignment. Lieutenant Colonel Edgar served as the Director of Operations for the 74th Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base prior to taking command of the Avon Park Air Force Base. Colonel Timothy G. Sumja, Commander of the 23d Fighter Group at Moody Air Force Base, presided over the ceremony. The 598th RANS oversees the bombing range and air-ground training complex and are responsible for managing 106,074 acres, approximately 78,000 of which are open to the public.

Loved ones say goodbye to longtime chaplain


Highlands Today © August 18, 2016

BY TONY JUDNICH

It will be impossible to see an American flag, or a cross on a Christian church, without thinking of Harold S. Johnson, said Linda Lynch, director of chaplaincy at Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center in Sebring. Johnson, a World War II veteran and longtime chaplain at the hospital, died Monday at his home in Avon Park. He was 88………..
New Vice Wing Commander 482nd Fighter Wing Homestead, Col Brian “Jethro” Neal. His last assignment was as the Commander of the 44th Fighter Group April 2015 – July 2016 Panama City, FL. He brings a wealth of experience to Homestead. F-22 Pilot, Deputy Division Chief A3T, AT-38 Instructor Pilot, B2 Mission Commander/Pilot, T-37 Instructor Pilot. Also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Welcome to Homestead Col Neal!!

The Miami Chamber of Commerce selected one of Team Homestead’s finest as a Military Service Person of the Year for their 29th Annual Awards Program and Salute to the Military. Master Sgt. Frank Navarro, the 482nd Fighter Wing Honor Guard superintendent, was among eight other military personnel who received the award for their impact on their local communities.

The 482nd Fighter Wing Key Spouse Program - The Key Spouse Program is a commander’s program where each volunteer is vetted and appointed by the commander. The program is designed to enhance mission readiness and establish a sense of unity within the base community, said Athena Avendano, the newly appointed 482nd FW Key Spouse.
Cape Canaveral/Patrick AFB –

**GSSAP Satellites Launched from the Cape**

The latest two Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program (GSSAP) satellites launched from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., early Friday aboard a Delta IV rocket, Los Angeles Air Force Base announced. The satellites are the third and fourth in the program, which launched its first two spacecraft from Cape Canaveral on July 28, 2014. Because they achieve near-geosynchronous orbit, the satellites provide clearer and more accurate space situational awareness data in addition to supporting the ongoing surveillance mission of US Strategic Command. Among other purposes, the capabilities of GSSAP satellites will give operators a clearer view of man-made space objects and reduce the chances of collisions between them. In July, the satellites helped the 1st Space Operations Squadron collect data to identify the cause of an anomaly in the Navy's Mobile User Objective System-5 satellite.

Eglin AFB –

**Battle-Tested at Sensor Week**


Deskeng © August 1, 2016

Testing defense and military systems can pose a significant challenge. These systems have to perform under battlefield conditions that are harsh and unpredictable. Because you can’t test in an actual operating theater, simulating field conditions is the next best scenario. However, it can be difficult and expensive if you need to test a sensor solution that requires the participation of a fighter jet or a convoy of tanks and trucks .............
Pictures from the Florida Chamber’s Military, Defense, and Veterans Opportunities Summit:

Gov Scott and BG Diehl

Kay Rasmussen and Kellie Jo Kilberg

BG Diehl and Lisa Monnet TBDA

Debi Graham and Keith Hoskins Pensacola

Gov Scott addressing the summit
Military Trivia:

11 Things You Might Not Know About the U.S. Navy

By David W Brown


Published in Mental Floss – March 4, 2016

Founded on October 13, 1775, by an order of the Continental Congress, the U.S. Navy is the largest navy in the world, and it is steeped in lore and tradition. Presidents, astronauts, artists, and athletes have worn its uniform, and untold thousands have lived by the words engraved on the Naval Academy chapel door: “Non sibi, sed patriae,” or: ”Not for self, but for country.” Here are eleven things you might not know about the Navy.

1. The Navy’s birthplace is in dispute.

Beverly, Massachusetts, and Marblehead, Massachusetts, have long argued over which was the birthplace of the Navy. Each town claims to be homeport of the schooner Hannah, the first armed sea vessel of the American Revolution, and founding boat of the U.S. Navy. (It was so named for Hannah Glover, wife of General John Glover of the 21st Marblehead Regiment.) Marblehead provided the crew; Beverly outfitted the ship. (The men of Marblehead are notable for another action during the American Revolution—they rowed General George Washington across the Delaware River just before the Battle of Trenton.)

Other cities vying for recognition as the birthplace of the Navy include Philadelphia, PA; Whitehall, NY; and Providence, RI. The Navy takes no position on its place of origin.

2. All submariners are volunteers.

Most attack submarines in the U.S. Navy are 33-feet wide and about the length of a football field. Ballistic missile submarines are the length of the Washington Monument. Submarines stay submerged for months at a time. There are no windows, there is no night and day, you have fifteen square feet of living space and no privacy—and there’s a nuclear reactor right behind you. They don’t just let anyone in a submarine. All submariners are volunteers, and have passed rigorous psychological and physical tests. Claustrophobics need not apply. Those serving on submarines are among the most highly trained personnel in the military.

3. How does the Navy name its ships?
In 1819, the United States Congress placed the Secretary of the Navy in charge of naming ships—a power he or she still enjoys. Generally, names are compiled by the Naval Historical Center based on the suggestions from the public, sailors, and retirees, and from naval history. The Chief of Naval Operations formally signs and recommends the list to the Secretary. Ships named for individuals are christened by “the eldest living female descendent” of that individual. Commissioned ships are prefixed with USS, which stands for United States Ship. Though the convention had been in use since the late eighteenth century, it was not standardized or formalized until 1907, by Teddy Roosevelt.

4. The Navy SEAL Trident is sometimes called the “Budweiser.”

The trident worn on the uniforms of Navy SEALs is officially designated as the “Special Warfare Insignia,” but it is sometimes called the “Budweiser,” named in part for the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) course, the grueling twenty-five week special warfare school. The trident also has an uncanny resemblance to the Anheuser-Busch logo.

5. Why was TOPGUN founded?

The United States Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program—previously called the United States Navy Fighter Weapons School, but more popularly, “TOPGUN”—was founded during the Vietnam War. The Navy was concerned by the poor performance of its air-to-air missile attacks against the North Vietnamese and ordered an evaluation of its combat aviation program. Inadequate crew training was decided to be at fault, and TOPGUN was established, where pilots would engage in realistic dogfight training against aircraft comparable to the enemy of the day. By the 1970s, Navy kill-to-loss rates went from 3.7:1 to 13:1—a testament to the profound and radical success of the program. It later became the basis of a Tom Cruise movie and, not to spoil anything, but don’t get too attached to Goose.

6. You’ve heard of a few people who know the words to Anchors Aweigh.

- Neil Armstrong flew armed reconnaissance as a Naval aviator during the Korean War. In 1951, he landed on Korean soil after his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire and he had to eject. Eighteen years later, he landed on a more famous patch of ground.

- There’s a good argument to be made that Robert Heinlein’s literary universe was influenced by his time at the United States Naval Academy, from which he graduated, and his time on the USS Lexington and USS Roper.

- Humphrey Bogart enlisted in the Navy in 1918 and served on the USS Leviathan and USS Santa Olivia.

- Before he was MC Hammer, he was AK3 Stanley Burrell (short for Petty Officer Third Class Aviation Storekeeper).

- Bob Barker’s time as a Navy fighter pilot means he's familiar with more means of transportation than just a new car!

7. NCIS isn’t just a TV show.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is a federal law enforcement agency operating from 140 locations in the world. Special agents for the largely civilian organization are charged with criminal investigations (obviously), counterterrorism, and counter-intelligence. It was founded as the Office of Naval Intelligence, and at the time was responsible for gathering information on foreign vessels, passengers, bodies of water, and naval
infrastructure. During World War I, its mission expanded to espionage and sabotage. Today, it’s a cash cow for CBS.

8. **If not for the Navy, James T. Kirk would have been captain of the USS Yorktown.**

In the original pitch for *Star Trek*, the ship we know as the USS Enterprise was called the USS Yorktown. Gene Roddenberry renamed it in part for the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier whose maiden voyage was in 1962. The seafaring Enterprise was (and remains) the longest vessel in the U.S. Navy. Roddenberry felt that the starship at the heart of his series would have had a similar standing as the aircraft carrier, and a new Enterprise was christened.

9. **In the Navy, there are no walls or bathrooms.**

The Navy has a rich lexicon established by millennia of naval tradition. Ships don’t have walls, they have bulkheads. The mess deck is where you eat food, the deck is where you walk. The head is where you’ll find a toilet. The rack is where you sleep. Birds take off from the bird farm or, rather, planes take off from an aircraft carrier.

10. **SEAL Team Six has an outlaw past.**

When Richard Marcinko founded SEAL Team Six (so named because there were only two other SEAL Teams, and he wanted the Soviets to think the number was much larger), he did so quickly and effectively. Because the unit was so cloaked in secrecy, the best decisions weren’t always made about spending and training. Marcinko, a combat hero and visionary, went on to found a unit called Red Cell (designed to test military units, tactics, and security) and would later spend time in federal prison for defrauding the government. The present name (that we know of) for SEAL Team Six is the Naval Special Warfare Development Group.

11. **The first admiral in the Navy was David Farragut.**

Even if you’ve never heard the name, you know his words, allegedly spoken at the Battle of Mobile Bay: “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!” (It’s unknown whether he spoke those exact words—different accounts give slight variations.) He was commissioned into the U.S. Navy at age nine. His adoptive father, Captain David Porter, probably had some hand in this. At age twelve, Farragut fought in the War of 1812. Though he was born in Tennessee, he remained steadfastly loyal to the Union during the Civil War, and after he seized the city of New Orleans, was promoted to Rear Admiral—a rank created especially for him by Congress. President Lincoln later promoted him to Vice Admiral (Farragut would later be a pallbearer at Lincoln’s funeral). Following the war, he was made the first Admiral of the Navy.

**NOTES FROM THE STAFF:**

Sincere thanks to all the dedicated members of the Florida Defense Alliance. You are the reason that Florida is the most military friendly state in the nation!
FDA Vision: To maintain and enhance the position and reputation of Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation.

NEWS:

1. **Florida Chamber Foundation’s Future of Florida Forum** – FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg did such a great job at the Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit that she has been asked to speak about the military and FDA at the Future of Florida Forum 28-30 September in Orlando. Details on this event can be found at: [http://www.flchamber.com/event_post/future-of-florida-forum/](http://www.flchamber.com/event_post/future-of-florida-forum/)

2. **Navy Triton: Draft Environmental Assessment** – The Navy has made available to the public a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of its proposed action to provide facilities and functions to maintain the MQ-4C Triton Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) on the East Coast. The Draft EA evaluates the potential environmental effects of home basing the aircraft at one of three alternative locations on the East Coast: NAS Key West, NS Mayport and Wallops Flight Facility (NASA) Virginia. The Draft EA is available for public viewing at: [http://www.public.navy.mil/usff/environmental/Pages/Nepaprojects.aspx](http://www.public.navy.mil/usff/environmental/Pages/Nepaprojects.aspx)

   *Analyses presented in the Draft EA identified that no significant impacts to the quality of the human or natural environment would be introduced at any of the three locations.*

   The Draft EA is available for public review and comment from Sept. 1, 2016 through Oct. 1, 2016.

   Comments may be submitted in writing to:

   Navy MQ-4C Triton UAS Home Basing Project Manager  
   Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic  
   Attn: Code EV21JB  
   6506 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23508

   Comments must be postmarked by Oct. 1, 2016. Comments may also be submitted electronically. All comments provided to the Navy during the public comment period will be reviewed, considered, and addressed appropriately in the Final EA.

3. **Next Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force** – The next meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force will be September 15, 2016 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1144 Airport Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32504 beginning at 9:00 AM CDT.

   For the Defense Reinvestment Grants (DRG), DEO intends to award grants to:

   Bay Defense Alliance, Inc.
   
   City of Jacksonville
   
   Clay County Economic Development Corporation
   
   Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast
   
   Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County FL
   
   Greater Pensacola Chamber
   
   Orlando Economic Development Commission
   
   Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners
   
   The Miami-Dade Beacon Council, Inc.
   
   Walton County Chamber of Commerce

   For the Defense Infrastructure Grants (DIG), DEO intends to award grants to:

   Bay County Board of County Commissioners
   
   City of Jacksonville
   
   Clay County Development Authority
   
   Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners
   
   Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners

   The links to these announcements:

   DRG:


   DIG:

5. **New Member of the EFI Military and Defense Team: COL (ret) Terry McCaffrey** – This week, Terry McCaffrey joined our team as the Deputy Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force. Terry is a pilot who served for over 26 years in the Air Force and has spent the last few years working in state government. We look forward to working with him and are extremely glad to welcome him to the team!

Col Terrance J. McCaffrey, USAF (Ret), is currently serving as the Deputy Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force at Enterprise Florida. Prior to this position, Terry served the State of Florida as the Planning and Design Administrator with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and as Assistant Director of the Division of Recreation and Parks with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He transitioned to state government after more than 26 years of service in the US Air Force. After graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 1988, the Colonel and his family completed 18 assignments across the nation and around the world. Terry is a command pilot with approximately 2,400 flight hours in 14 aircraft types; primarily the F-111A, AT-38B, F-15C and T-6A. He commanded at the Squadron, Group and Wing levels and completed four Air and Joint Staff tours in Japan, Colorado, Hawaii, and Virginia. In addition, he led two large education programs as a Commandant of Squadron Officer College at Air University in Alabama and completed his Air Force career as Chair, Department of Aerospace Studies and Commander, AFROTC Detachment 145 at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. Terry holds four advanced degrees including MS in National Resource Strategy, a MA in Airpower Strategy, a MA in Military Art and Science and a MA in Public Administration. In addition to his work at Enterprise Florida, Terry volunteers on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park, the Wakulla Springs Alliance, the Golden Eagle Home Owners Association, and is a member of the Deerlake Middle School Advisory Committee. Terry and his wife Lisa who is a teacher at Killearn Lakes Elementary School have three children: Garrett is a software developer and lives in Atlanta GA with his wife Holly; Trevor is a student at Auburn University; and Mallory is a middle school student.

**FDA CALENDAR:**

November 16 – Semi-Annual FDA Meeting in Tampa

Web site -- [https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/)
Legislative Initiatives for 2017:

Please forward any possible military and defense-related legislative initiatives for 2017 to the FDA Chair for consideration by the Legislators on the Florida Defense Support Task Force. In past years, the FDA has been outstanding in promoting military-friendly legislation as evidenced by all the laws found in the Florida Military-Friendly Guide. **We need to surface these ideas in the next month to be well-positioned to get them into draft legislation by September.**

**QUOTATION OF THE DAY:**

“No good decision was ever made in a swivel chair.” --- General George S. Patton

News from the Bases:

No input received for this newsletter 😞

Military Trivia:

Military Trivia Quiz

1. What does the military nickname "G.I." stand for?
   A) Government Identity B) Gentleman Inducted C) Government Issue D) Gallant Individual

2. Which Military Institute adopted this following the graduation of the class of 1926?
   "Shoot Straight, ride hard, dance well, and so live that you can look any man straight in the eye and tell him to go to hell."
   A) The Citadel B) Annapolis C) Air Force Academy D) West Point

3. "BAH" stands for:
   A) Basic Allowance for Housing B) Base Armory Headquarters
   C) Biological Arms Handling D) Bar opens at Two

4. The "Soldier and Sailor's Civil Relief Act of 1940:"
   A) Provides basic protection against lawsuits while on active duty.
   B) Provides for limits on how long a person can be deployed.
   C) Allows only unmarried people to be drafted.
   D) Provides job training after military service.

5. An Army “Private First Class” is the same as an:
   A) E-2 B) E-3 C) E-4 D) E-5
6. On Average, which Military Service ties with the Coast Guard for having the Fastest Promotion Rate to the Rank of E-9?
   a) Army
   b) Navy
   c) Air Force
   d) Marines

7. What does ASVAB stand for?
   A) American Service Vocational Aptitude Battery
   B) Armed Services Volunteer American Battery
   C) Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
   D) Armed Services Vocation Assessment Battery

8. How Many Days of Leave (Vacation Time) Does a Person in the Lowest Enlisted Grade (E-1) Earn Each Year?
   a) 7 Days
   b) 14 Days
   c) 21 Days
   d) 30 Days

9. In Department of Defense (DOD) Jargon, what does the term “F - Hour" signify:
   a) The Time of an Announcement to Mobilize Reserve Units
   b) The Time a Unit will be Deployed
   c) The Time Attack Aircrafts will Take off (Launch)
   d) The Time a Unit is Sent to the Field

10. Other than the Air Force, Which Military Service Requires the Highest General ASVAB (Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery) Test Score in order to Join?
    a) Army
    b) Marine Corps
    c) Coast Guard
    d) Navy

11. In the Enlistment Oath, Who Do Military Enlisted Personnel Swear to Obey the Orders of?
    a) The President & Officers
    b) The President & the Secretary of Defense
    c) The Secretary of Defense & Officers
    d) The President, Secretary of Defense, & Officers

12. Where Does the Army's Infamous 61 Day Ranger School Begin? (The Course Consists of Instruction at Several Places)
    a) Fort Bragg, N.C.
    b) Eglin AFB, FL
    c) Dahlonega, GA
    d) Fort Benning, GA
13. Which U.S. Military Service has the most 4-Star Generals?
   a) Army
   b) Navy
   c) Air Force
   d) Marines

14. What does the Acronym "M.A.S.H." Stand For?
   a) Military Assistance Support Headquarters
   b) Military Army Surgical Hospital
   c) Mobile Army Surgical Hospital
   d) Doesn't Actually Stand for Anything

15. According to the DOD, what equals in rank to a Navy/Coast Guard “Commander” in the other services:
   a) Major
   b) Lieutenant Colonel
   c) Colonel
   d) Brigadier General

16. In the Famous U.S. Marine Corps "This is my Rifle" Creed, the 2nd Sentence of the Creed Reads:
   a) There are many like it, but this one is mine.
   b) My rifle is my best friend.
   c) My rifle, without me, is useless.
   d) My rifle is human, even as I, because it is my life.

17. What is the Maximum Number of Dependents (under the age of 18) that one is allowed to have in order to
    enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces?
   a) One
   b) Two
   c) Five
   d) No Maximum

18. What branch of the Service did the Army give birth to in 1947?
   A) Air Force  B) Navy  C) Marines  D) Coast Guard

19. “Semper Paratus” is the official song of the:
   A) Army  B) Navy  C) Marines  D) Coast Guard

20. Whose picture is on the Purple Heart medal?
   A) President Lincoln
   B) An unidentified soldier
   C) President Washington
   D) The First Secretary of Defense

21. What is the oldest American military uniform item in continuous use?
   A) The Army Private’s Cap
   B) The Good Conduct Medal Ribbon
   C) General’s Star
   D) The gold buttons on the Marine Corps Dress Blue Uniform
22. How many people have won the Congressional Medal of Honor twice?
A) 0 B) 1 C) 9 D) 19

ANSWERS:
7. C 16. A

Spotlight on Naval Air Station Key West –

Naval Air Station Key West is a naval air station and military airport located on Boca Chica Key, four miles (east of the central business district of Key West, Florida, United States.

NAS Key West is a state-of-the-art training facility for air-to-air combat fighter aircraft of all military services, with favorable flying conditions year round and unparalleled aerial ranges that offer aircrew training within minutes after takeoff. On a broader scale, NAS Key West's national security mission supports operational and readiness requirements for the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security (e.g., U.S. Coast Guard), Air National Guard and Army National Guard units, other federal agencies, and allied military forces.

The air station is also host to several tenant commands, including Fighter Squadron Composite 111 (VFC-111), Strike Fighter Squadron 106 (VFA-106) Detachment Key West, the U.S. Army Special Forces Underwater Operations School and Headquarters, Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South).

Commanding Officer -- Captain Bobby J. Baker

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Captain Bobby Baker was commissioned in May 1993 at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. After completing the Army Aviation Officer Basic course at Fort Rucker, Alabama in 1994, he was designated an Army Aviator and assigned to the 24th and 3rd Infantry Divisions at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where he served as Platoon Leader and Executive Officer. Baker executed an inter-service transfer in 1996, completed Navy flight school and was designated a Naval Aviator at NAS

In March 2008, Baker joined the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. As the Deputy Director of Military Cooperation, he directed the ISAF Individual Augmentee Pre-deployment Course and was responsible for out-of-country training programs for Iraqi and Afghan officers. Following refresher training at VFA-125, Baker reported to the World Famous Golden Dragons of VFA-192 as Executive Officer in November 2010, assumed command of the squadron in March of 2012, and completed two deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn embarked in USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). In August 2013, Baker reported to Oxford University as a Senior Fellow at St. Antony’s College. Until April 2016, he has served as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Commander Naval Forces Europe/Africa/Sixth Fleet.

Baker has logged over 3,400 flight hours, 104 combat sorties and 778 carrier landings. His individual awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with combat V, five Strike/Flight Air Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals (one with combat V), Army Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Commander Carrier Air Wing One Pilot of the Year, and the LCDR Michael Longardt Award for Leadership from Commander, Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic.
NOTES FROM THE STAFF:

We extend a warm welcome to Terry McCaffrey, the newest member of the Military and Defense Team! Staff wants to thank all the dedicated members of the Florida Defense Alliance. You are the reason that Florida is the most military friendly state in the nation!
NEWS:

1. **Florida Defense Support Task Force FY 17-18 Grants** – The Task Force will be accepting grant applications in October for consideration for funding during FY 17-18. The grant application/RFP will be officially released next week. No final decisions on the grant applications will be made until May 2017. To account for emerging projects, the Task Force will accept additional applications during February/March of 2017.

2. **Governor and Cabinet Approve Military Base Buffering Acquisitions** – Yesterday the Governor and Cabinet approved 2 critical agreements to protect Florida’s military installations and missions. The first was the acquisition of 616 acres within the Wolfe Creek Forest Florida Forever project which further protects NAS Whiting Field’s outlying airfields. The second was the acquisition of development rights to part of a non-conservation property outside MacDill AFB owned by Florida Rock. Both actions are extremely welcome and continue to show the commitment of Florida’s leadership to protecting military installations and missions.

3. **Florida as the Preferred Location for Navy and Air Force Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)** – Both the Navy and the Air Force are considering Florida as locations for unmanned aerial systems. The Navy is considering NAS Key West, NS Mayport and Wallops Island, VA as possible sites for the MQ-4c Triton UAV. The Air Force is considering establishing 2 additional MQ-9 Reaper wings at sites that don’t already host MQ-9s and will make their decision based on runway length, capacity, environmental requirements and cost.

4. **Military-Friendly Legislative Ideas for 2017 Session** – Please forward any possible military and defense-related legislative initiatives for 2017 to the FDA Chair for consideration by the Legislators on the Florida Defense Support Task Force. In past years, the FDA has been outstanding in promoting military-friendly legislation as evidenced by all the laws found in the Florida Military-Friendly Guide. **We need to surface these ideas by mid-October to be well-positioned to get them into draft legislation by November.**
5. **Next Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force** – The next meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force will be a conference call/webex scheduled for October 20, 2016 beginning at 9:00 AM

6. **Florida Legislative Committee Weeks Announced** – The Florida Legislature announced its schedule of interim committee meetings for the 2017 regular session. Please note that the House and Senate plan to meet during separate weeks in December:

   *Monday, December 5th - Friday, December 9th (House of Representatives)*
   *Monday, December 12th - Friday, December, 16th (Senate)*
   *Monday, January 9th - Friday, January 13th*
   *Monday, January 23rd - Friday, January 27th*
   *Monday, February 6th - Friday, February 10th*
   *Monday, February 13th - Friday, February 17th*
   *Monday, February 20th - Friday, February 24th*

   The regular session will convene on Tuesday, March 7th, 2017.

7. **New Member of the EFI Military and Defense Team: Michelle Griggs** – Michelle Griggs is the newest member of the military and defense team and is now serving as our new Administrative Assistant. She comes to us from the Golden Eagle Country Club in Tallahassee where she was the VP, Sales and Marketing as well as the primary event planner. We look forward to working with her and are extremely glad to welcome her to the team!

**NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:**

Last week, I presented to the Florida Defense Support Task Force and next week, I will be presenting at the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Future of Florida Summit in Orlando. I will be sharing our story and the importance of the military and defense industries here in Florida.
The agenda for our November Defense Alliance meeting is coming together. We will have a representative from OEA and one from the Air Force Community Partnership Program to share programs and grant opportunities. As we prepare for the meeting, is there information or areas of discussion you would like to see? What would you like to discuss in the Family Readiness or Mission Sustainment Working Groups? We want to make sure you are receiving the information you need to assist your community and military installation. You can contact me at kjkilberg@hotmail.com if you have any thoughts or suggestions for the agenda.  --- Kellie Jo Kilberg

FDA CALENDAR:

November 16 – Semi-Annual FDA Meeting in Tampa

Web site -- https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadeference/

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give to others.” -- Winston Churchill

Pictures:

Florida Defense Support Task Force Members at the Naval Air Museum, Pensacola last week listening to Hil Goodspeed, Museum Historian who did a tremendous job of leading the group on a tour of the facility and providing them with unique, personal stories of the pilots who flew these historic aircraft.

MG Mike Jones, Army veteran and former Tank driver in the flight simulator at NAS Pensacola last week. Note – He was shot down several times during this training session. 😃
News from the Bases:

Eglin AFB –

CHELCO to Manage Eglin Air Base’s Electric Distribution System Under $360M DLA Contract

Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative has won a 50-year, $360.4 million contract from the Defense Logistics Agency to operate and maintain an electric distribution system at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. The Defense Department said Wednesday CHELCO will perform work through July 31, 2067, in support of the U.S. Air Force. DLA’s energy organization received two offers for the contract and will obligate funds from the service branch’s fiscal year 2016 through fiscal 2067 operations and maintenance funds.

DeFuniak Springs, Florida-based CHELCO is a nonprofit electric distribution cooperative that owns and maintains 3,956 miles of overhead and underground lines…

NAS Whiting Field –

Energy Efficiencies Coming to Naval Air Station Whiting Field

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast selected Gulf Power Company of Pensacola, Fla. to receive a $9.8 million award August 24 for a Utility Energy Service Contract (UESC) project to bring energy upgrades to Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Florida.

“This UESC project is a vital step forward for NAS Whiting Field’s long-standing goal of increasing our energy resiliency, and is highly beneficial for the Navy, the hard working men and women of NAS Whiting Field, our community neighbors, and our utility provider,” NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau remarked. “The tremendous efforts that the Navy and Gulf Power teams have put into this project is a testament to the rich partnership we have enjoyed over the years.”

The UESC calls for the design and installation of interior and exterior lighting upgrades, water conservation measures, energy management and control system (EMCS) integration and EMCS communications infrastructure upgrades. Additionally, the project will include transformer replacements to improve energy security and mechanical upgrades to modernize the Heating, Ventilation and Cooling (HVAC) systems in many of the base facilities. All of the EMCS improvements were carefully analyzed for compatibility with DON cybersecurity and ‘Smart Grid’ future goals.

“I am elated to see this project come to fruition,” Jason Poe, NAS Whiting Field Installation Energy Manager, said. “It brings industry-leading technologies to NAS Whiting Field and greatly assists the Navy in meeting the Executive mandated targets for energy and water conservation.”
Many of the electrical savings built into this contract rely on cutting edge technology. The project will bring a host of HVAC advances to NAS Whiting Field, including the installation of variable frequency drives, hybrid water heaters, high efficiency heat pumps and variable volume condensing units. Additionally, care was taken when planning the project to account for the high load and mission critical facilities. Within one of the high-load facilities, the project will create a new “virtual” chiller plant with a high efficiency chiller serving multiple buildings in order to consolidate multiple existing boilers and condensing units across several facilities. This will provide a more robust capability to mission critical locations while also eliminating redundant energy-consuming devices.

“This project is projected to save more than 17,000 MBTU (Million British Thermal units) and approximately 26,000 gallons of water annually,” Poe added. “That equates to about $495,000 annually in combined energy and water savings.” The project falls under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which authorizes agencies to use appropriations, private financing, or a combination of both to comply with its requirements for Utility Energy Service Contracts (UESC) for evaluations/project implementation. The project is expected to be completed by November 2017.

NAS Whiting Field Sailors serve with Habitat for Humanity

By Lt. j.g. Dat Nghiem

Eleven Sailors from Naval Air Station Whiting Field got down and dirty with Habitat for Humanity to help a less fortunate family. The group showed up early Aug 20 to lay down sod for a newly constructed home near Destin. Volunteers spent more than four hours raking dirt, placing gravel, and laying sod on the property. Over five full pallets of sod were delivered to the site along with a few bags of gravel and freshly grown plants. The servicemen and women made sure that no time was wasted and worked together to ensure the landscaping looked presentable for the family.

Crew Leader Richard Freeman stated that the biggest reward of his job is that it enables the community to work side by side with each other to achieve a common goal. He proudly proclaimed, “We’re a hand up, not a hand out.” He explained that the organization provided its services to people who also want to contribute to the building process of their property. “Working with the local community is a significant aspect of the job,” he said. Freeman believes an important function of the organization is to allow people to have fun yet accomplish the mission at hand for those in need.

Habitat for Humanity is an international non-profit organization and has been providing basic home construction and preservation services in communities around the world for over 40 years. The local Pensacola chapter recruits volunteers to help with the projects and provides homeowners with a chance to work on their own homes. Habitat for Humanity often works multiple projects a day from Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Aviation Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class David Wasickanin, a Scout Manager for Cub Scout Pack #655 in Pensacola, participated alongside his shipmates. “I love working with my hands,” Wasickanin said. “It’s all about the community and helping people.”
Spotlight on NAS Whiting Field –

Naval Air Whiting Field

"Exciting Whiting" -- Truly the Navy Model!

Naval Air Station Whiting Field completed its transition from the T-34 to the new T-6B in April 2012. The installation currently hosts 6 Training Squadrons and 2 Instructor Squadrons, which is comprised of 141 T-6Bs and about 120 TH-57s. The installation is composed of two separate primary airfields and uses 13 Outlying Landing Fields to support both primary and intermediate flight training. Naval Air Station Whiting Field is the busiest air station in the world, accounting for nearly 1.5 million annual flight operations including primary flight training of over 1,200 students. Every Navy/Marine Corps/Coast Guard Helicopter Pilot earns their "Wings of Gold" at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. Development buffers are crucial around military installations to ensure mission flexibility and longevity. Our longstanding partnership in conservation and buffering initiatives are clearly echoed in our continued successes in promoting "win-win" strategies for the Navy and State of Florida.

Commanding Officer – Captain Todd Bahlau
US Air Force -- MQ-9 Reaper

CAPT Bahlau gathers with Mayor Wesley Meiss, Senator Greg Evers prior to The Great Milltown Duck Race in Milton.
The MQ-9 Reaper is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily against dynamic execution targets and secondarily as an intelligence collection asset. Given its significant loiter time, wide-range sensors, multi-mode communications suite, and precision weapons -- it provides a unique capability to perform strike, coordination, and reconnaissance against high-value, fleeting, and time-sensitive targets.

Reapers can also perform the following missions and tasks: intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, close air support, combat search and rescue, precision strike, buddy-lase, convoy/raid overwatch, target development, and terminal air guidance. The MQ-9's capabilities make it uniquely qualified to conduct irregular warfare operations in support of combatant commander objectives.

The remotely piloted aircraft can be disassembled and loaded into a single container for deployment worldwide. The entire system can be transported in the C-130 Hercules, or larger aircraft. The MQ-9 aircraft operates from standard U.S. airfields with clear line-of-sight to the ground data terminal antenna, which provides line-of-sight communications for takeoff and landing. The PPSL provides over-the-horizon communications for the aircraft and sensors.

**Thrust:** 900 shaft horsepower maximum  
**Wingspan:** 66 feet (20.1 meters)  
**Length:** 36 feet (11 meters)  
**Height:** 12.5 feet (3.8 meters)  
**Weight:** 4,900 pounds (2,223 kilograms) empty  
**Maximum takeoff weight:** 10,500 pounds (4,760 kilograms)  
**Fuel capacity:** 4,000 pounds (602 gallons)  
**Payload:** 3,750 pounds (1,701 kilograms)  
**Speed:** cruise speed around 230 mph (200 knots)  
**Range:** 1,150 miles (1,000 nautical miles)  
**Armament:** combination of AGM-114 Hellfire missiles, GBU-12 Paveway II and GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions  
**Crew (remote):** two (pilot and sensor operator)  
**Unit cost:** $64.2 million (includes four aircraft, sensors, GCSs, and Comm.) (fiscal 2006 dollars)  
**Inventory:** total force, 93

**DID YOU KNOW?**

All submariners are volunteers.

Most attack submarines in the U.S. Navy are 33-feet wide and about the length of a football field. Ballistic missile submarines are the length of the Washington Monument. Submarines stay submerged for months at a time. There are no windows, there is no night and day, you have fifteen square feet of living space and no privacy—and there’s a nuclear reactor right behind you. They don’t just let anyone in a submarine. All submariners are volunteers, and have passed rigorous psychological and physical tests. Claustrophobics need not apply. Those serving on submarines are among the most highly trained personnel in the military.

**NOTES FROM THE STAFF:**

We extend a warm welcome to Michelle Griggs, the newest member of the Military and Defense Team! Staff wants to thank all the dedicated members of the Florida Defense Alliance. You do a great job on a daily basis supporting our military and keeping Florida as the most military friendly state in the nation!
Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter
October 5, 2016

FDA Vision: To maintain and enhance the position and reputation of Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation.

NEWS

1. Florida Defense Support Task Force FY 17-18 Grants: The Task Force initiated the FY17-18 Grant application/RFP window on 28 September 2016. They will accept applications through 27 October 2016 for funding consideration during FY 17-18. No final decisions on the grant applications will be made until May 2017. To account for emerging projects, the Task Force will accept additional applications during February/March of 2017. The grant application has been sent out to the FDA members and will be posted to the Task Force website next week.

2. Governors Base Commander’s Meeting: Governor Rick Scott hosted the quarterly Base Commanders Meeting on 28 September, 2016 at Camp Blanding, FL. Bruce Grant and Terry McCaffrey attended and presented information on the FDSTF and FDA. Highlights of the meeting included an opportunity to meet eight new installation commanders, many of whom made positive comments about great community support to their installations. Of note, from all the great presentations, please see the US Army Corps of Engineers Florida Military Construction (MILCON) project list below that includes more than $600M in defense projects around the state.

3. Avon Park Runway Certification: Avon Park AFR request for Runway use was approved by the Air Force. Multiple aircraft types (F-16, F-18, A-10, F-35, C-130, C-17) are now authorized to operate out of APAFR under day VFR (Cloud deck 1500' above ground, visibility 3 miles) conditions. This has been a multi-year effort involving the base, especially Buck MacLaughlin, along with Maj Gen Keye Sabol, Commissioner Barbara Stewart, and contacts at Moody. Great news that should facilitate more Air Force training on the range.

4. Florida GI Bill 2 – Members of the Florida Defense Support Task Force are looking for legislative initiatives to include in a possible Florida GI Bill 2 for the 2017 Florida Legislative Session. Please forward any possible military and defense-related legislative initiatives for 2017 to the FDA Chair for consideration and inclusion. In past years, the FDA has been outstanding in promoting military-friendly legislation as evidenced by all the laws found in the Florida Military-Friendly Guide. We need to surface these ideas by mid-October to be well-positioned to get them into draft legislation by November.

5. City of Jacksonville Shows Great Support for the Triton and Guard F-35 Stationing -- The Mayor of Jacksonville, Lenny Curry has written letters of support for both the Triton and the F-35. Additionally, the Jacksonville City Council passed a Resolution supporting the stationing of the Navy Triton. All are attached to this email.
6. **Next Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force** – The next meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force will be a conference call/webex scheduled for October 20, 2016 beginning at 9:00 AM.

7. **Florida Legislative Committee Weeks Announced** – The Florida Legislature announced its schedule of interim committee meetings for the 2017 regular session. Please note that the House and Senate plan to meet during separate weeks in December:

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   Monday, February 13th - Friday, February 17th
   Monday, February 20th - Friday, February 24th

The regular session will convene on Tuesday, March 7th, 2017.

**Note:** The Dec. 5-9 House interim committee week will NOT have committee meetings and is instead for House member training. The Senate plans to authorize time for committee meetings for Dec. 12-16, but individual chairs will determine whether to notice meetings. The first joint committee week starts Jan. 9. For the Florida House of Representatives, the leadership team, including speaker pro tempore, majority leader and full committee chairs, will be announced no later than Wednesday, Nov. 9. The organization session of the will take place Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 -- the 14th day after Election Day.

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**MILCON -- Design and Construction**


**Homestead AFB** – Construction: Various Operations & Maintenance projects ongoing and planned totaling $19M.

**MacDill AFB** – Construction: $35M Joint Special Operations University construction ongoing, $39M Central Utility Plant award pending. Smaller O&M renovation projects totaling over $5M.

**Patrick AFB & Cape Canaveral** – Design: $1.3M Final Denial Barriers at Cape Canaveral, $6.7M Replace Jet Fuel Storage Tanks and $13.5M Fire Crash Rescue Station at Patrick. Construction: $21M Range Communications Facility and Various Operations & Maintenance work totaling an additional $12.5M.
NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

As I write this, Hurricane Matthew is on its way towards Florida. Twenty years ago, Hurricane Opal hit Northwest Florida on October 4th. It was at that time, I learned hurricanes are unpredictable and we need to be prepared. If you are prepared and nothing happens, you hear a few whispers that all that preparation was for nothing. However, if you are prepared and hit, everyone knows what the plan is and will react to mitigate the loss and engage for a fast recovery.

The same can be said for what is happening in our defense communities. We know there is a storm out there and our communities need to be prepared, involved and ready to act, promote, defend, maintain, enhance and recruit missions.

As we prepare for our November FDA meeting, please let me know what your community is doing to add value to your military installation? What are your concerns and/or challenges? What are your opportunities? What would you like to see from the FDA and our meetings? Attached is the draft agenda for our November meeting. You will note we have several briefings that I hope will be of benefit for you and that gem of information that will assist your community in preparation of this unknown storm of budget reductions and restructuring.

I would like to thank Kandi DeBus for her continued support in chairing the Family Readiness Working Group and Jeff Fanto for stepping up to chair the Mission Sustainment Working Group.

On a final note, we will be reviewing how we our telling our story. Following my presentation at the Future of Florida Forum, I was once again amazed by the number of people that came up to let me know they didn’t know the depth of the military/defense sector here in the state. Let’s start the conversation on how we enhance our outreach in sharing the importance of this business sector not to just Florida; but for our national security.

For all of our members along the east coast – be safe. Until next time, thank you for all that you do for your communities and the Florida Defense Alliance.

--- Kellie Jo Kilberg

FDA CALENDAR

**Wednesday, November 16th – Semi-Annual FDA Meeting will be at the Tampa Airport Marriott (located inside the airport), 4200 George J. Bean Parkway, Tampa, Florida. **

Web site -- https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/

DRAFT Agenda for the November meeting below:

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Department of Homeland Security – Construction: $11.4M KROME renovation projects in Miami


TOTAL FLORIDA: $540M
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
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<td>0900-0915</td>
<td>Welcome remarks/Introductions</td>
<td>Kellie Jo Kilberg</td>
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<td>0915-1005</td>
<td>OEA Grants and Programs</td>
<td>Anita Bullock</td>
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<td>1010-1110</td>
<td>Washington DC Update/Election Results</td>
<td>Lucian Niemeyer</td>
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<td>1110-1200</td>
<td>Air Force Community Partnership Programs</td>
<td>Teran Judd</td>
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<td>1110-1200</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>FY 16/17 Defense Grants</td>
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<td>1430-1440</td>
<td>Florida Defense Support Task Force update</td>
<td>Terry McCaffrey</td>
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<td>1440-1455</td>
<td>Florida Military Family Community Covenant</td>
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<td>Working Group’s Report / FDA Discussion</td>
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<td>Economic Development Community Significant Current Initiative Update</td>
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<td>There will be an FDA teleconference on January xx, 2017 at 1400 EST. Next FDA meeting is March xx, 2017.</td>
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QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“Any commander who fails to exceed his authority is not of much use to his subordinates.”

— Admiral Arleigh Burke

News from the Bases

MacDill AFB –

Col. Frank Amodeo assumed command of the 927th Air Refueling Wing, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida from Col. Randy Bright Sept. 11 during a change of command ceremony here. Presiding over the ceremony, 4th Air Force Reserve Commander Maj. Gen. John C. Flourney praised Bright’s past accomplishments and expressed confidence in Amodeo as the new commander of the 927th.

MacDill AFB – Annual 9/11 Remembrance Tampa Bay Community Golf Tournament

On September 9th, 2016 the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance and Bay Palms Golf Course on MacDill AFB hosted the Annual 9/11 Remembrance Tampa Bay Community Golf Tournament. The Tournament was a complete success, drawing playing groups from not only the Tampa bay area, but from various states throughout the country. Prior to the shotgun start, there was a ceremony honoring the servicemen and women of our military past and present, as well as remembering those who lost their lives on that fateful day in 2001. The proceeds raised will go to Tinker Middle School for purchasing laptop computers for their students as well as MacDill AFB itself. A special thank you to Bay Palms GC and MacDill AFB for the hospitality! We are already planning for next year’s annual Tournament to be held on September 8th, 2017. We hope to see everyone at the course next year to once again salute our military and remember 9/11
Tampa Bay Defense Alliance's new Tampa Bay Trophy will honor civilians who help the military

By Howard Altman, Tampa Bay Times

The Tampa Bay Defense Alliance is creating a new trophy to honor civilians who have given distinguished service and contributions to airmen. It will be presented in October. Tampa Bay is well known throughout the military as a place that goes above and beyond in support of those who serve. And now the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance, a group of civic leaders dedicated to supporting MacDill Air Force Base and the military community here writ large, wants to share that love. The organization is introducing a new award, called the Tampa Bay Trophy, "to honor a civilian for their distinguished service and contributions to our airmen," said alliance president Lisa Monnet. "An individual will be recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty in support of the Air Mobility Mission." The goal, she said, "is to instill the same pride we have here in Tampa around the country."

MacDill, with 16 KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling jets shared between the 6th Air Mobility Wing and the 927th Air Refueling Wing, reports to Air Mobility Command, based at Scott Air Force Base. The award, according to Monnet, reflects actions taken between June 1, 2015, and May 30. It will be presented at the Airlift Tanker Association conference, which is Oct. 27-30 in Nashville, Tenn.

The deadline to submit nominations for the award is June 30 and so far, said Monnet, the alliance has received about two dozen nominations. The trophy is sponsored by the TBDA and administered jointly by the alliance and the Air Mobility Command office of public affairs. The alliance, which has created a judging panel, will have the final say on the winner and runner-up, Monnet said. "The Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA) developed the Tampa Bay Trophy realizing that sometimes it's a spark in an individual that mobilizes their surrounding community to support the Mobility and Air Force Mission," Monnet said. "It is impossible to truly understand the depth of the sacrifices made by the airmen of Air Mobility Command."

"The Tampa Bay Trophy recognizes an individual who continually seek out ways to honor these servicemen." The trophy is currently being sculpted, said Monnet, who assumed the presidency of the alliance in December. Whoever wins it, however, will receive a plaque while the trophy itself stays here in the Tampa area, said Monnet, founder and chief executive officers of Eye C Solutions, a Tampa firm providing customized solutions, products, and services to improve effectiveness and efficiencies in Authentication and Access Management, Health Information Technology, and Program Management to clients in both the commercial and defense industry.

Eglin AFB —

A resolution of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida expressing support for the establishment of the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary Program.
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida Estuaries and their associated natural resources provide boating, fishing, hunting, tourism, and other outdoor recreational and economic opportunities for citizens and visitors of Florida; and
WHEREAS, mismanagement of Northwest Florida Estuaries may exacerbate flooding and property loss, negatively impact water quality and estuarine habitat, negatively affect the local economy and tourism, and threaten the health, safety and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors; and
WHEREAS, elected officials, local, state and federal government staff, the Nature Conservancy, citizens, academia, and other stakeholders from the Northwest Florida Estuaries have been actively participating in meetings to identify and coordinate estuary management issues and efforts; and
WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has received funding to stand up one estuary program; and
WHEREAS, the Economic Development Council supports the establishment of an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee Bay Estuary in order to comprehensively manage and improve water quality, habitat, natural resources, and economic benefits; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County hereby expresses its support for the Northwest Florida Estuaries and Watersheds Project that will establish an Estuary Program for the comprehensive management, restoration, and protection of the Choctawhatchee Bay estuary.

Airmen from the 482nd Fighter Wing and U.S. Southern Command in Doral, Florida, gathered together to honor the Air Force Association Miami-Homestead award winners and celebrate the Air Force’s 69th birthday, Sept. 16.

Staff Sgt. Grant Gianola, a 367th Fighter Squadron aerospace propulsion jet mechanic, was selected for the Outstanding Airman of the year award by the AFA.
Chad Robichaux a former U.S. Special Forces member and professional Mixed Martial Arts fighter was invited to Homestead Air Reserve Base to share his story and effects of PTSD. His visit aligned with the Wingman Day’s theme of suicide prevention.

NS Mayport –

There is currently a $16.5M Project underway to re-mill the runway/taxiways/helipads at NS Mayport. The project started in January and ends in November 2016.

NAS Jacksonville –

Public private partnerships - NAS Jacksonville is working with the Jacksonville Electric Authority on a REPO (Renewal Energy Project Office Project) which JEA is in the final phases of leasing 120 acres of Navy property to install a 6.5 PV (Photovoltaic) Solar project. The purpose of the proposed action is to increase Navy installation energy security, strategic flexibility and resource availability through the development of renewable energy generating assets at the Yellow Water property. The proposed action is needed to meet the renewable energy standards put forth by the 1 GW Initiative and the Secretary of the Navy's 2009 energy goals, which include the requirement to produce 50 percent of the Navy's shore-based energy supply from alternative sources by 2020.

Recognition:
- COJ Environmental Stewardship Award - This award recognizes individuals, organizations, or specific projects with a primary focus on long-term protection, conservation and enhancement of the region's natural resources, or foster environmental stewardship in the region through demonstrated leadership or through the promotion of environmental awareness through actions or specific programs. Consideration will be given to nominees based on their demonstrated protection or enhancement of the region's natural resources; or demonstrated leadership resulting in the conservation, enhancement or stewardship of the region's environment commitment for the long term protection, enhancement and stewardship of the natural resources; responsibility for promoting environmental awareness or education.
Individual Special Government Employee Award was presented to our Safety Director, Mr. Max Bassett. The Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) National Special Government Employee (SGE) Award recognizes an SGE who epitomizes and exhibits exceptional support, time, effort, and action in VPP, setting him/her apart from other SGEs. The person selected is actively involved in volunteer activities that benefit the VPP and its stakeholders, and demonstrates outstanding commitment to the partnership ideals of the VPP.

Commanding Officer – Captain John Sager

Vice Admiral Terry Benedict presents Commanding Officer Captain John Sager with the Rear Admiral William "Red" Raborn Award. This award is given to commands to highlight their success in the community, in innovation and technical excellence.

Spotlight on Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) – Naval Ordnance Test Unit

The Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) was created in 1950. NOTU was directing almost all of its effort toward support of Fleet Ballistic Missile development, resulting in NOTU being assigned to the Director, Special Projects (now Strategic Systems Programs) with a mission to support the development of the Polaris Missile.

Mission: NOTU serves the country by supporting and testing sea-based weapons systems in a safe environment.

The command directly supports the mission capability and readiness of the United States Navy's Trident Submarines as well as the Fleet Ballistic Missile program of the United Kingdom. NOTU operates the Navy Port at Port Canaveral, supporting submarines and surface ships of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet and foreign navies and assets of the Military Sealift Command.
What is the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)?

The Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) is studying the planned land uses in the areas that surround the military installation, and the military training needs of the armed forces to determine their compatibility. The study is designed to protect public health, safety and welfare while safeguarding the ability of the military services and homeland security agencies to provide training and operational activities. Military operations can be loud and can present safety concerns for civilian communities. Conversely, urban development near the perimeter of military installations and ranges can impact the viability of the installation and its mission. Development can be affected by low level flight patterns in military operating areas and required clear zones for airport runway approaches. The purpose of the JLUS is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the civilian communities relative to aircraft approach and departure routes, and discourage incompatible development in high noise areas and accident potential zones. The JLUS will also study how to protect the installation’s ability to conduct effective training of homeland security, public safety, and military personnel.

Most military installations located near the perimeter of urban areas due largely to the availability of land and for defense and security purposes. Over time however, installations drew people and businesses closer and closer to take advantage of civilian job opportunities offered by the installation and to provide the goods and services to support the installation’s operations. As urban growth and development increased near and around military installations land use conflicts between mission activities and civilian settlements increased. Military operations can be loud and present safety concerns for nearby civilian communities. For example, low flying, high performance, military aircraft, create both noise and accident potential during landings, take-off, and training exercises. Likewise, ground-training exercises (e.g., artillery firing ranges, maneuver areas, and aerial bombing ranges) generate impact noise that can adversely affect the surrounding community if the civilian population chooses to live too close. Conversely, when developing urban centers build next to the fence line of active military bases, the operational effectiveness, training, and readiness missions can be impaired. Urban encroachment near a military base if allowed to go unregulated can compromise the utility and effectiveness of the installation and its mission. For example, certain types of land use activities, such as homes, places of assembly (i.e., schools or religious centers), childcare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, restaurants, theaters, shopping centers, etc. often are not compatible uses/activities if located close to military operations. When people and communities are exposed to irritating noise and accident potential, they seek relief. Typically this results in public pressure on the military base commander to modify or curtail operations or transfer activities to other installations. Mission constraints can lead to closure. The commensurate reduction in installation personnel and mission activities can have a direct and detrimental effect on the jurisdiction through reduced economic activity and loss of jobs, impacting the local tax base and economic health. The extent of urban encroachment impacting the operational utility of an installation is one consideration in determining the future viability of an installation.
Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Program:
In 1985, Congress authorized the Department of Defense (DoD) to make community planning assistance grants Title 10 U.S.C. Section 2391to state and local government to help better understand and incorporate the ICUZ/ENMP technical data into local planning programs. The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) manages the JLUS program.

JLUS Program Purpose:
A JLUS is a cooperative land use planning effort between affected local government and the military installation. The recommendations present a rationale and justification, and provide a policy framework to support adoption and implementation of compatible development measures designed to prevent urban encroachment; safeguard the military mission; and protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

JLUS Implementation Measures:
These may involve revisions to the community’s comprehensive plan and traditional land use and development controls, such as zoning, subdivision regulations, structural height restrictions, and promotion of planned unit development concepts. Additional actions may include amending local building codes to require increased sound attenuation in existing and new buildings, land exchanges, and transfer of development rights, and real estate disclosure.

JLUS Project Initiation:
When a Military Service believes an installation may be experiencing encroachment problems or that there is the likelihood for encroachment that could adversely affect the military mission, the Service may nominate the installations for JLUS to OEA. OEA staff visits the installation, meets with the local base command and local government officials. OEA will evaluate existing or potential encroachment problems, the availability of AICUZ/IENMP information, and local development controls to determine if a JLUS is justified. A JLUS will proceed if there is both base command and local jurisdiction interest. JLUS assistance normally is technical, but can include funding as well through a Community Planning Assistance Grant.

FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg addressing the Future of Florida Forum sponsored by the Florida Chamber of Commerce.
DID YOU KNOW?

In the Navy, there are no walls or bathrooms.
The Navy has a rich lexicon established by millennia of naval tradition. Ships don’t have walls, they have bulkheads. The mess deck is where you eat food, the deck is where you walk. The head is where you’ll find a toilet. The rack is where you sleep. Birds take off from the bird farm or, rather, planes take off from an aircraft carrier.

The Air Force shares a birthday with the CIA.
The National Security Act of 1947 completely reorganized the national security apparatus of the United States. It separated the Army Air Forces from the Army, and made it an equal branch of the military—the U.S. Air Force. The bill also created the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency. Notably, Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947 into law on what would become the first plane to be designated as Air Force One.

Why are they called Rangers?
Rangers are the Army’s elite light infantry soldiers. In the 18th century, they were formed to wage frontier warfare. They were “grim-faced men” who “went forth to search out the Indian enemy.” They engaged in reconnaissance, acted as scouts, and “ranged” between fixed fortifications. During the American Revolution, Ranger Francis Marion (“the Swamp Fox”) pioneered modern guerrilla warfare. The Ranger motto is “Rangers lead the way!” This came from an exchange between General Norman Cota and Major Max Schneider on Omaha Beach during the Normandy Invasion.

“What outfit is this?” asked Cota.
“5th Rangers, sir,” said Schneider.
“Well, goddammit,” said Cota, “If you're Rangers, lead the way!"

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

We have a great state defense alliance! Communities around the state welcome our service members and go the extra mile to our nation’s military and their families are well-cared for in our communities. This is a tribute to all of you who work this so diligently every day. The state of Florida continues to show strong support through the acquisition of buffering lands and military-friendly legislation. Staff wants to thank all the dedicated members of the Florida Defense Alliance. You continue to do an outstanding job on a daily basis supporting our military and keeping Florida as the most military friendly state in the nation!

Florida Defense Alliance Leadership

Chair – Kellie Jo Kilberg
Vice Chair – VACANT
Mission Sustainment Working Group Chair – Jeff Fanto
Family Support Working Group Chair – Kandi Debus
Executive Board – Jonathan Borgert, Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Tim Jones and Lisa Monnet
1. **FDA Meeting on November 16th in Tampa** – The FDA meeting is set for November 16th beginning at 9:00 AM at the Tampa Airport Marriott. Michelle Griggs has sent out registration forms (no cost for registration) to ensure we know how many we will have attending. This allows staff to adequately plan and ensure logistics are in place for a smooth meeting. Please return the registration forms to Michelle no later than November 9th.

2. **Florida Defense Support Task Force FY17-18 Grants**: The Task Force initiated the FY17-18 Grant application/RFP window on 28 September 2016. They will accept applications (attached) through 27 October 2016 for funding consideration during FY17-18. No final decisions on the grant applications will be made until May 2017. To account for emerging projects, the Task Force will accept additional applications during February, 2017. The grant application has been sent to FDA members and is posted to the homepage of the Florida Defense Support Task Force web site.

3. **Florida GI Bill 2** – The Florida Defense Support Task Force staff has put together some items to possibly be included in a Florida GI Bill 2. However, we are still looking for legislative initiatives to include in this for the 2017 Florida Legislative Session. Please forward any possible military and defense-related legislative initiatives for 2017 to the FDA Chair for consideration and inclusion. In past years, the FDA has been outstanding in promoting military-friendly legislation as evidenced by all the laws found in the Florida Military-Friendly Guide. **We need to surface these ideas now to be well-positioned to get them into draft legislation by November.**

4. **Name Change: Now Renamed as Military Family and Community Covenant** – The organization formerly known as the Florida Military Family and Community Covenant (FMFCC) has recently changed its name as befits its expanded mission. The organization is set to pilot its Community Connector app with the assistance of the USAREC 2nd Brigade and centers of influence (COI) in early 2017. The organization has also recently partnered with corporate sponsors to kick start its operations. This will enable the funding of community projects identified by the COI network and build a sustainable base for the non-profit. MFCC Board Member Dr. Gary Bonvillian (Army Vietnam Veteran) will present a briefing at the Florida Defense Alliance meeting on November 16th. Please visit the web site of MFCC at [www.militaryfamilycc.org](http://www.militaryfamilycc.org) for updates on activities and events.
5. **Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony:** There will be an induction ceremony for the 2016 class of the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 2:30 PM in the Cabinet Room of the State Capitol Building in Tallahassee. This ceremony is open to the public.

The Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida.

**Inductees in the 2016 class are:** (Highlighted names are former Task Force Members)

- 1st Lt. Reubin O’Donovan Askew, USAF
- LT j.g. LeRoy Collins, USN
- Sgt. Jordon J. “J.J.” Corbett, USA
- RADM Kevin Delaney, USN (Ret)
- LTC Dennis O. Freytes, USA (Ret)
- SGT David L. Goetsch, USMC
- Capt. Spessard Holland, Air Service, AEF
- Capt. William L. Proctor, USAR
- COL Washington J. Sanchez Jr., USA (Ret)
- CMSgt Johnny E. Stewart, USAF (Ret)
- SP4 Frederick A. Taylor, Jr. USA (Ret)

6. **Next Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force** -- The next Task Force meeting will be Thursday, 20 October 2016 beginning at 9:00AM by Conference Call / Webex. The Call In Number is 800-501-8979. The Access Code is 8784566.

7. **Navy Triton to Officially Stand Up at NAS Jacksonville** – On October 28th, Unmanned Patrol Squadron 19 (VUP-19) will stand up as the Navy’s first unmanned patrol squadron. The squadron currently has 155 personnel aboard split between NAS Jacksonville and NAS Point Mugu in California, and is expected to grow to around 500. The Navy is still considering Florida bases (Key West and Mayport) as possible locations for the Forward Operating Base (including maintenance and operations centers) to command and control all Navy Triton unmanned aircraft on the East Coast.

### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Last week you received the information regarding the November 16th Florida Defense Alliance meeting from Michelle. I hope you will take time to join us for this important meeting. We have a full agenda packed with value for your communities. If you didn’t receive the information, contact Bruce or Michelle.

Thank you to Paul Hirsch for his assistance on the letter to our Florida Congressional Delegation. Please contact or meet with Senators Nelson and Rubio as well as your Congressman to encourage them to pass the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, the Defense Appropriations Bill, and the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill as soon as they as they return to Washington D.C. after the November election. At present, all federal departments and agencies are operating on a Continuing Resolution which runs through December 9, 2016.

I look forward to seeing you in November and thank you for your support of the Florida Defense Alliance.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg
**FDA CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, November 16th – Semi-Annual FDA Meeting will be at the Tampa Airport Marriott (located inside the airport), 4200 George J. Bean Parkway, Tampa, Florida.**

Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda
Tampa Airport Marriott, Tampa, FL

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Web site -- [https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/)
QUOTATION OF THE DAY:
Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

---- Calvin Coolidge

News from the Bases

Eglin AFB –

Eglin to privatize all four utility systems
By Jessica Dupree, AFCEC Public Affairs / Published October 13, 2016

Air Force and commercial personnel involved with the recent utilities privatization at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, pose for a photo at the contract award meeting Oct. 4. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Jessica Dupree/Released)

The Defense Logistics Agency awarded a utilities privatization contract to Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative, or CHELCO, to own, operate and maintain the electrical system infrastructure at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida for 50 years.

(continued next page)
Having previously privatized the water, waste water and gas utility systems, this contract award makes Eglin AFB, which is the largest installation within the continental United States, the second Air Force installation to privatize all four utility systems.

"This is another significant step forward for Eglin AFB toward a more efficient, resilient and reliable energy program with an outstanding energy partner in CHELCO," said Col. Craig Johnson, commander of the 96th Civil Engineer Group at Eglin.

American States Utility Services was awarded the base’s water and waste water utility systems this past July and Okaloosa Gas was awarded the gas utility system in 2005. CHELCO joins these companies to make all the installation’s utility systems privatized.

“CHELCO is excited to be supporting the infrastructure on Eglin AFB as we have always been very supportive of the military community we serve,” said Steve Rhodes, CHELCO chief executive officer. “We are looking forward to working with existing utility companies that already serve the base.”

Eglin AFB covers more than 640 square miles of land in Northwest Florida. The large footprint of the installation posed a unique challenge to awarding the contract, said David Mathews, project manager at the Air Force Civil Engineer Center at Tyndall AFB, Florida.

“There are of pieces of electrical infrastructure that cover the entire Florida panhandle,” Mathews said. “We visited every piece to determine if there was infrastructure to put in the solicitation. The distance that separates all of the units made it time-consuming.”

The base’s geographical area also makes it difficult to assure a constant power supply with the existing infrastructure. For $20 million over the first five years of the project, CHELCO and Air Force civil engineering personnel have planned 12 projects for Eglin AFB, six of which are projected to add to the installation’s resiliency by improving the ability to recover after a power outage. For example, the installation is currently separated into two grids, with no way to exchange power between them. CHELCO will add an interconnect between the grids so, if one goes down, power can be supplied from the other.

“The base has been trying to get this funded for many years,” said Richard Weston, chief of utilities privatization at AFCEC. “Currently, the base is not agile enough to reconfigure after an outage. This will improve the resiliency of the base grid immensely.”

While civil engineering personnel at Eglin AFB and AFCEC did not begin privatizing Eglin utilities with the intention of privatizing all four systems, it became a goal when they realized the potential for savings. The three contracts at Eglin have a total cost avoidance of more than $161 million over the lifespans of each contract.

“There is a sense of accomplishment every step of the way,” said Jeep Wedding, the Air Force utilities privatization program manager. “Every step toward getting one more system privatized is getting us closer to our goals.”

The UP efforts at Eglin are also part of a larger plan to modernize the installation.

“It is all part of our plan to recapitalize the installation in a program we call NexGen Eglin,” Johnson said. “We aim to transform a proud, but tired, mid-20th-century installation into a revitalized 21st-century installation, enabling cutting-edge research, development, test and evaluation programs, and Team Eglin missions to produce war-winning capabilities for the warfighter.”

Utilities privatization allows the Air Force to focus their civil engineering manpower on mission-critical issues, while the utility companies assure the utility systems are maintained and operating to industry standards.

The Air Force has privatized 71 utility systems with a total life-cycle cost avoidance of $681 million.

Homestead ARB —

Wings Over Homestead
Homestead Air Reserve Base
NOV. 5 & 6, 2016
Featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds

FREE ADMISSION • WingsOverHomesteadarb.com
National Center for Simulation M&S Hall of Fame honors class of 2016

On June 7, the National Center for Simulation held the induction ceremony for the Modeling and Simulation Hall of Fame class of 2016, recognizing industry pioneers Ralph H. Baer, General (Ret) Gordon R. Sullivan, and William “Bill” Waite. The event showcased their stories, as well as the plaques that will honor them on the “Wall of Fame” located in the South Concourse of the Orange County Convention Center.

Lt. Gen. (Ret) Tom Baptiste, NCS president and CEO, welcomes attendees to the 2016 Modeling and Simulation Hall of Fame induction at the Orange County Convention Center.

NCS Board Chair Steve Painter welcomed attendees before turning it over to NCS president and CEO, Lt. Gen. (Ret) Tom Baptiste to begin the ceremony. Baptiste took the opportunity to talk briefly about each of the 14 members that were inducted in the previous two years to share how each of them had impacted the modeling and simulation industry.

“The NCS Modeling and Simulation Hall of Fame is our way of thanking and honoring these individuals for their singularly distinctive contributions to expanding state-of-the-art simulation,” Baptiste said. “These pioneers drove an evolution in the quality of simulation and have paved the way for a future limited only by our imagination.”

The first Hall of Fame inductee recognized this year was Ralph H. Baer. On behalf of their father, who passed away on December 6, 2014, Mark and Jim Baer accepted the award presented to them by NCS board member and 2015 Hall of Fame class inductee Hank Okraski.

Baer is known as the “Father of Video Games.” In his 50-year career, Baer developed foundational gaming technology that contributed to both military and commercial video technology. He recognized the potential of using television for more than program viewing, and developed the first interactive commercial gaming unit, Magnavox Odyssey. He later developed the electronic pattern-matching game Simon, followed by Super Simon. (continued next page)
General (Ret) Gordon R. Sullivan was inducted in recognition of his innovative use of simulation to design, equip, and train the United States Army. His policies and leadership redesigned and delivered, through the use of simulations, a new Army with new force structure, new tactics, new equipment, and new training that impacted the Army’s focus from foxhole to the industrial base.

Major General Karl Horst attended on Sullivan’s behalf to accept the award, and read a letter from Sullivan that said he was both honored and surprised of his selection to the Hall of Fame.

The late William “Bill” Waite was the final initiate of the 2016 Hall of Fame class. Waite was the founder of AEgis Technologies and over a professional career spanning five decades, was instrumental in the invention and evolution of M&S technologies, practices, and standards impacting a broad spectrum of M&S programs and activities.

Waite’s wife Katie, standing with her daughters, accepted the Hall of Fame award for her husband, who passed away last July. She said she never really knew the impact that her husband was making in the M&S industry until the outpouring of support and kind words last summer. Steve Hill, AEgis co-founder, also shared stories about his business partner and friend.
DID YOU KNOW?

Florida is home to 3 Unified Commands: CENTCOM, SOUTHCOM & SOCOM

A Unified Combatant Command (UCC) is a United States Department of Defense command that is composed of forces from at least two Military Departments and has a broad and continuing mission. These commands are established to provide effective command and control of U.S. military forces, regardless of branch of service, in peace and war. They are organized either on a geographical basis (known as "Area of Responsibility", AOR) or on a functional basis, such as special operations, power projection, or transport. UCCs are "joint" commands with specific badges denoting their affiliation.

The Unified Command Plan (UCP) is updated annually in conjunction with the DoD Fiscal Year and can modify areas of responsibility or combatant command alignments or assignments. As of September 2011, there are nine Unified Combatant Commands as specified in Title 10 and the latest annual UCP. Six have regional responsibilities, and three have functional responsibilities. Each time the Unified Command Plan is updated, the organization of the combatant commands is reviewed for military efficiency and effectiveness, as well as alignment with national policy.

Each unified command is led by a Combatant Commander (CCDR), who is a four-star general or admiral. CCDRs exercise combatant command (COCOM), a specific type of nontransferable command authority over assigned forces, regardless of branch of service, that is vested only in the CCDRs by federal law in 10 U.S.C. § 164. The Chain of Command for operational purposes (as per the Goldwater–Nichols Act) goes from the President through the Secretary of Defense to the Combatant Commanders.
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<tr>
<th>Emblem</th>
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<th>Role</th>
<th>Established</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States Africa Command</td>
<td>USAFRICOM</td>
<td>Geographic</td>
<td>October 1, 2007</td>
<td>Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany</td>
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<td>United States Central Command</td>
<td>USCENTCOM</td>
<td>Geographic</td>
<td>January 1, 1983</td>
<td>MacDill Air Force Base, Florida</td>
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<td>United States European Command</td>
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<td>Geographic</td>
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<td>Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado</td>
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<td>USPACOM</td>
<td>Geographic</td>
<td>January 1, 1947</td>
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<td>United States Southern Command</td>
<td>USSOUTHCOM</td>
<td>Geographic</td>
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<td>United States Special Operations Command</td>
<td>USSOCOM</td>
<td>Functional</td>
<td>April 16, 1987</td>
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<td>United States Strategic Command</td>
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<td>Functional</td>
<td>June 1, 1992</td>
<td>Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska</td>
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<td>United States Transportation Command</td>
<td>USTRANSCOM</td>
<td>Functional</td>
<td>July 1, 1987</td>
<td>Scott Air Force Base, Illinois</td>
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NOTES FROM THE STAFF

We are eagerly looking forward to the FDA meeting in Tampa in November! This has been a great year for military and defense in Florida with passage of military-friendly legislation and continued for a dynamic defense grants program. Local defense communities across the state have been very active supporting their bases. At the most recent Governor’s Base Commanders meeting at Camp Blanding, the commanders were very vocal in their appreciation of efforts to support the military installations. The commanders know how important you are to the long-term viability of their bases and thankful for the great community relationships. Staff wants to thank all the dedicated members of the Florida Defense Alliance for all you do on a daily basis to support our military and keep Florida as the most military friendly state in the nation!
1. **BE RECOGNIZED AS A GREAT AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY**: After a highly successful inaugural year, ADC is accepting nominations for the 2017 Great American Defense Communities program. The initiative is intended to acknowledge the unique contributions cities, counties and regions that host installations make to improve quality of life for service members, veterans and their families. Candidates will be selected based on the broad range of efforts they carry out on behalf of military personnel and their families, covering areas such as education, job opportunities, housing, family support during deployments and community appreciation. Winners will be recognized at the Installation Innovation Forum in San Antonio in February. Details about the program, including the application, are available on the [ADC website](#). Nominations are due Dec. 12. For more information, contact Aleksandar Pavlovich at [apavlovich@defensecommunities.org](mailto:apavlovich@defensecommunities.org).

2. **FDA Meeting on November 16th in Tampa** – The FDA meeting is set for November 16th beginning at 9:00 AM at the Tampa Airport Marriott. Michelle Griggs has sent out registration forms (no cost for registration) to ensure we know how many we will have attending. This allows staff to adequately plan and ensure logistics are in place for a smooth meeting. Please return the registration forms to Michelle no later than November 9th.

3. **Florida GI Bill 2** – The Florida Defense Support Task Force staff has put together some items to possibly be included in a Florida GI Bill 2. However, we are still looking for legislative initiatives to include in this for the 2017 Florida Legislative Session. Please forward any possible military and defense-related legislative initiatives for 2017 to the FDA Chair for consideration and inclusion. In past years, the FDA has been outstanding in promoting military-friendly legislation as evidenced by all the laws found in the Florida Military-Friendly Guide. **We need to surface these ideas now to be well-positioned to get them in to draft legislation by November.**

4. **Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**: There will be an induction ceremony for the 2016 class of the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 2:30 PM in the Cabinet Room of the State Capitol Building in Tallahassee. This ceremony is open to the public.

The Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida.
Inductees in the 2016 class are: (Highlighted names are former Task Force Members)

- 1st Lt. Reubin O’Donovan Askew, USAF
- LT j.g. LeRoy Collins, USN
- Sgt. Jordon J. “J.J.” Corbett, USA
- RADM Kevin Delaney, USN (Ret)
- LTC Dennis O. Freytes, USA (Ret)
- SGT David L. Goetsch, USMC
- Capt. Spessard Holland, Air Service, AEF
- Capt. William L. Proctor, USAR
- COL Washington J. Sanchez Jr., USA (Ret)
- CMSgt Johnny E. Stewart, USAF (Ret)
- SP4 Frederick A. Taylor, Jr. USA (Ret)

5. Next Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force -- The next Task Force meeting will be Thursday, 17 November 2016 beginning at 9:00AM at the Tampa Airport Marriott, 4200 George J. Bean Parkway, Tampa, FL  33607. The phone number at the hotel is (813) 879-5151.

North Florida District Office

Steps to Starting a Franchise Webinar

Calling all Veterans, Service Members, including members of the National Guard and Reserves, and/or spouse!

If you are interested in learning what it takes to own a franchise, then tune into this free webinar, and let the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and VetFran, provide you with key information on how to make this happen. All you need to do is sign-up!

When: Thursday, November 3, 2016

Time: 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Where: Telephone & Computer WEBINAR

If you plan on participating in this webinar click here to receive the login information, or you can contact Natalie Hall at (904)443-1902 or natalie.hall@sba.gov.
NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Now that the trick and treating is over it is time to make sure you have registered for the Florida Defense Alliance meeting on November 16th at the Tampa Airport Marriott. The hotel deadline was yesterday, November 1st and don’t forget to let Michelle know your lunch choice. We have a full agenda and look forwards to seeing you there. If you believe there are other issues we should be tracking, please let us know.

With the election next week, we ask you to talk to your current Congress member and the two Florida Senators regarding the topic of defense funding. The Continuing Resolution runs through December 9, 2016. The Florida Defense Alliance has sent a letter to our Federal delegation encouraging them to pass the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, the Defense Appropriations Bill, and the Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill as soon as they return to Washington DC next week.

Why is this so important?
The strength of our national security relies on the certainty of Congress providing the requisite authorizations and appropriations.

Continuing resolution prevents the Department of Defense from initiating any new projects and could adversely impact current programs.

Projects, program and initiatives have been evaluated and scrutinized by the DoD, the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Congress.

As you know, Florida has a large presence of defense and space industry. These companies plan their performance schedules to meet the nation’s defense needs.

A continuing resolution creates uncertainty and compromises future military construction, new defense projects and prevents progress for our nation.

Finally, FDA sends a big “THANK YOU” to the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance for sponsoring beverages during the November FDA meeting in Tampa.

Have a fabulous week and we look forward to seeing you.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg
**FDA CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, November 16th – Semi-Annual FDA Meeting will be at the Tampa Airport Marriott (located inside the airport), 4200 George J. Bean Parkway, Tampa, Florida.** **

**Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda**
Tampa Airport Marriott, Tampa, FL

**November 16, 2016 _____________________ 0900-1500 EST**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tr>
<td>0900-0915</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks/Introductions</td>
<td>Kellie Jo Kilberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>0915-1005</td>
<td>OEA Grants and Programs</td>
<td>Dan Schebler, OEA</td>
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<td>1010-1110</td>
<td>Washington DC Update/Election Results</td>
<td>Lucian Niemeyer</td>
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<td>1110-1200</td>
<td>Air Force Community Partnership Programs</td>
<td>Major Tara Richards</td>
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<td>1200-1300</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1300-1430</td>
<td>Working Groups Meet</td>
<td>Jeff Fanto</td>
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<td>Mission Sustainment</td>
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<td>Family Support</td>
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<td>1430-1500</td>
<td>FY 16/17 Defense Grants</td>
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<td>1500-1510</td>
<td>Florida Defense Support Task Force Update</td>
<td>Terry McCaffrey</td>
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<td>1510-1525</td>
<td>Florida Military Family Community Covenant</td>
<td>Rae Pike</td>
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<td>1525-1545</td>
<td>Working Groups’ Report/FDA Discussion</td>
<td>Jeff Fanto</td>
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<td>Mission Sustainment</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Family Support</td>
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<td>1545-1630</td>
<td>Economic Development Community Significant</td>
<td>Local Defense</td>
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<td>Current Initiative Update</td>
<td>Partners</td>
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<td>South Florida</td>
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<td>Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties</td>
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<td>West Central Florida</td>
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<td>Highlands, Polk, Tampa and Pinellas Counties</td>
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<td>Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>1630-1640</td>
<td>Public Comment</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>Next Meeting Planning</td>
<td>Kellie Jo Kilberg</td>
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<td>There will be an FDA teleconference on January xx,</td>
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<td>2017 at 1400 EST. The next FDA meeting is</td>
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<td>Wednesday, March 16, 2017.</td>
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<td>Closing Comments/Adjourn</td>
<td>Kellie Jo Kilberg</td>
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<td>1700-1800</td>
<td>FDA / Florida Defense Support Task Force No-Host</td>
<td>Skyye Lounge-Tampa</td>
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<td>Mixer</td>
<td>Airport Marriott</td>
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**Tuesday, January 31, 2017 – FDA Conference Call, 9:00 EST**
QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“The discipline which makes the soldiers of a free country reliable in battle is not to be gained by harsh or tyrannical treatment. On the contrary, such treatment is far more likely to destroy than to make an army. It is possible to impart instruction and give commands in such a manner and such a tone of voice as to inspire in the soldier no feeling but an intense desire to obey, while the opposite manner and tone of voice cannot fail to excite strong resentment and a desire to disobey.

The one mode or the other in dealing with subordinates springs from a corresponding spirit in the breast of the commander. He who feels the respect which is due to others cannot fail to inspire in them respect for himself; while he who feels, and hence manifests, disrespect toward others, especially his subordinates, cannot fail to inspire hatred against himself.”

– LTG John M. Schofield, 1879

News from the Bases

Hurlburt Field –

Gulf Coast Air Commandos prove combat capability to Chief of Staff

Staff Sgt. Melanie Holochwost October 26, 2016 Gulf CoastMilitary & DefenseOkaloosa/Walton
Senior Airman Jeff Parkinson/Special to The Pulse

The U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff descended upon the nation’s most active air base last week to get a first-hand experience of the capabilities of Gulf Coast airmen and the dynamism of America’s air commandos.

During his first visit as Chief of Staff, Gen. David Goldfein started his visit with an AC-130U Spooky gunship flight, demonstrating the raw firepower of what some refer to as the flying canon.

“It was actually the first time I saw a gunship crew in action, how the aircraft is configured and just what combat capability that weapon system can bring,” Goldfein said. “It was spectacular.” (continued next page)
On board the Spooky gunship, the general flew alongside a gunner that had seen more than 4,000 combat hours and served more than 20 deployments.

“This is one thing that worries me,” Goldfein said. “This Air Commando is on a one-to-one deploy-to-dwell ratio with three children at home. I asked him how this was going for him and his family [because] at some point that [pattern] becomes unsustainable.”

“We need to set a pace that our Airmen and families can sustain over time,” Goldfein added.

The following morning, Goldfein was the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony and unveiled the first-ever Special Tactics memorial to more than 800 people in attendance.

“It was one of the most moving ceremonies that I have ever been a part of,” Goldfein said. “There was a feeling in that crowd that was more important than any of the words spoken. When we unveiled that statue it was a powerful moment. I will never forget it; I’m honored to have been a part of it.”
Eglin AFB –

Gopher Tortoises -- Hundreds of gopher tortoises are being relocated from south Florida to Eglin AFB saving them from areas of imminent development and boosting the species’ population numbers in northwest Florida.

In coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Eglin wildlife managers will accept at least 500 gopher tortoises over the next year with approximately half of them being placed on 100 acres in the western portion of the reservation beginning next week. The tortoises are coming from multiple sites that are under the old permitting rules.

“This relocation, and future ones, will significantly contribute to Eglin reaching its population goals as well as improving the species status range wide; possibly eliminating the need for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act,” said Bruce Hagedorn, Eglin natural resources chief.

Col. Matthew Higer, 96th Test Wing vice commander, bends down to release a gopher tortoise into its new home deep within the Eglin Air Force Base range October 26. The first of approximately 250 tortoises were released into their 100-acre habitat after being rescued from urban development at their previous home in South Florida. Increasing the gopher tortoise population here could prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from listing the animal on the Threatened and Endangered Species list, allowing more flexibility for the military missions on Eglin.

(U.S. Air Force photo/Samuel King Jr.)

MacDill AFB –

Tampa Bay Trophy
The second annual Tampa Bay Trophy was presented to Dr. Joe Leverett at the national Airlift/Tanker Association Convention on 27 October 2016 in Nashville, Tennessee. The Tampa Bay Trophy is sponsored annually by the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance; Honoring the lifetime distinguished commitment of a Community Leader to an Airlift/Tanker installation. The trophy recognizes an pride and support this Community Leader emulates in seeking out ways to honor our servicemen and women. Dr. Lisa Monnet, President of the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance joined ATA President, CMSGT Mike Kerver (ret), General Dewey Everhart, Commander, Air Mobility Command and General Darren McDew, Commander, US Transportation Command to present this year’s award to Dr. Leverett of Altus AFB, Oklahoma.

Presidential Candidate Visit with Members of Tampa Bay Defense Alliance

In October, Presidential Candidate Donald Trump made a visit to Tampa to discuss Veterans Affairs Reform. Lisa Monnet from the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance attended this meeting that centered around veterans receiving the proper care that they desperately need. Discussions were held concerning both veteran suicide prevention and traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

Jacksonville -

The City of Jacksonville's Military Affairs and Veterans Department (MAVD):

· In FY14-15, MAVD directly facilitated 6050 NE Florida area Veterans in the receipt of $23.5M in new benefit monies from the federal VA;

· Economic Development experts will tell you that, conservatively, 20 percent of that money stays in the local economy, or $4.7M;

· It costs $1.13M per year to run MAVD. So, we operate at a minimum of a four-to-one cost-benefit ratio for the local economy;

· In FY15-16 MAVD directly assisted 8456 area Veterans, a 39.7 percent increase over last year due to a deliberate increased outreach effort during the Mayor Lenny Curry Administration;
Lastly, over the past few years, MAVD has placed 280 homeless veterans in jobs and housing, including 79 this year.

While new money direct benefit amounts won’t be available for a few months, a conservative estimate of a 10 percent increase in benefits would put this year’s figure at $25.85M;

This would mean an approximate $5.17M direct economic impact to the local economy.

**Focus on Avon Park Air Force Range –**

The **Avon Park Air Force Range** (APAFR), is a United States Air Force bombing range and air-ground training complex located in Polk and Highlands Counties approximately 65 miles east of Tampa and east of the city of Avon Park.

The host unit for APAFR is the 598th Range Squadron, which is a geographically separated unit of the 23d Fighter Group and 23d Wing, the latter being an Air Combat Command composite fighter and rescue wing located at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. The Florida Army National Guard also maintains a permanent ground support facility at APAFR.

Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) consists of approximately 106,000 acres which are primarily used for military air-to-ground training operations. It is one of only a few active Air Force bombing ranges that are located on the eastern coast of the United States. About 82,000 acres are open to the public for hunting, fishing and recreation when military missions allow, typically on the weekends.
APAFR serves as the primary air-to-ground training range for the 482nd Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, and an alternate range for the 23rd Wing’s 23rd Fighter Group at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia. APAFR is also an important range for military air-to-ground operations originating from nearby Patrick AFB and MacDill AFB, which routinely host numerous squadron/unit level deployments from Active and Reserve USAF, USN, USMC and U.S. Army units, to include Army National Guard and Air National Guard, from across the country to practice air-to-ground operations. Training and readiness requirements in low level flights, night vision training, and the firing/release of various of ordnance and weaponry across the full spectrum of Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Army assets, can all be readily employed on the APAFR.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**The first admiral in the Navy was David Farragut.**
Even if you’ve never heard the name, you know his words, allegedly spoken at the Battle of Mobile Bay: “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!” (It’s unknown whether he spoke those exact words—different accounts give slight variations.) He was commissioned into the U.S. Navy at age nine. His adoptive father, Captain David Porter, probably had some hand in this. At age twelve, Farragut fought in the War of 1812. Though he was born in Tennessee, he remained steadfastly loyal to the Union during the Civil War, and after he seized the city of New Orleans, was promoted to Rear Admiral—a rank created especially for him by Congress. President Lincoln later promoted him to Vice Admiral (Farragut would later be a pallbearer at Lincoln’s funeral). Following the war, he was made the first Admiral of the Navy.

**If you’re a weatherman in the Air Force, you’re probably a battle-hardened commando.**
Before the Air Force sends squadrons of $150 million aircraft into areas, it likes to know what kind of environmental conditions are waiting for them. But the kinds of places where it sends such aircraft aren’t exactly friendly or hospitable to U.S. military operations. To gather meteorological and geological intelligence, the Air Force sends in Special Operations Weather Teams—commando forces with special training to read the environment and report back. To join such an elite fighting force, these men endure a punishing training pipeline that tests their mental and physical limits. The airmen who make it through earn the coveted gray beret and crest, and are trained to jump out of airplanes, climb mountains, snake through jungles, blow things up, and use small unit tactics in hostile territory.
NOTES FROM THE STAFF

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the FDA meeting in Tampa in November! Please send in your registration so we know who will be attending. There is a great agenda, terrific topics and a chance to gather lessons learned from other Defense communities around the state. All FDA members are welcome to attend the Florida Defense Support Task Force meeting the next day. Staff wants to thank all the dedicated members of the Florida Defense Alliance for all you do on a daily basis to support your military communities and to keep Florida as the most military friendly state in the nation!

Army Special Forces are everywhere doing everything.
According to the Special Forces Command Public Affairs Office, in the last decade U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers have deployed to 135 of the 195 recognized countries in the world. Their nine principal tasks are unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, direct action, counter-insurgency, special reconnaissance, counter terrorism, information operations, counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and security force assistance.

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NEWS

Governor Scott’s Letter to the Secretary of the Navy Supporting Triton in Florida – This letter is attached to the email. Letter was sent on September 23, 2016.

Simulations Symposium -- The 2nd Annual Simulations Symposium, sponsored by the Mayor Jakob of Orlando and held on September 22 attracted 400 vendors with a specific focus on modeling and simulation in human performance, athletics, and medical fields.

Tampa Defense Contract -- A Tampa marine construction company was awarded a $23 million contract to renovate the Bravo Pier Three berthing areas at Naval Station Mayport.

Eastern Ship Building Wins Coast Guard Ship Contract – The Coast Guard has selected Eastern Shipbuilding to build its new Offshore Patrol Cutters and awarded the Florida shipbuilder a $110.3 million contract for the first hull and options for eight more, the service announced late Thursday. Eastern beat out General Dynamics Bath Iron Works and Bollinger Shipyards for the design and construction of the potential $2.38 billion program in the Coast Guard’s second round competition for what the service calls its, “highest investment priority.” The first hull is estimated to deliver in 2021.

Pensacola Naval Aviation Museum -- The national Naval Aviation Museum has been named one of the top 25 museums in the country by travel website TripAdvisior. The 350,000 square foot museum ranks 14th overall on the 2016 list of U.S. museums.

More Ships to Mayport -- Both Senator Rubio and CM Crenshaw issued statements on October 25 welcoming the U.S. Navy's announcement that three new ships, including a destroyer, the USS Thomas Hudner, and two littoral combat ships (LCS) – the USS Wichita and USS Sioux City - will be homeported at Naval Station Mayport.

DRAFT Florida GI Bill 2: Provided to Legislative Staff – The Florida Defense Support Task Force staff has put together some items to possibly be included in a Florida GI Bill 2. This has already been provided to staffers at the Florida Senate and House of Representatives. However, we are still looking for legislative initiatives to include in this for the 2017 Florida Legislative Session. Please forward any possible military and defense-related legislative initiatives for 2017 to the FDA Chair for consideration and inclusion. In past years, the FDA has been outstanding in promoting military-friendly legislation as evidenced by all the laws found in the Florida Military-Friendly Guide.

Next Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force -- The next Task Force meeting will be Thursday, 19 January 2017 in Avon Park, Florida.
Southeast Range Complex Improvement Initiative – The Florida Defense Support Task Force recently directed the Principi Group to engage with Department of Defense partners to seek ways to improve the ranges both inland and off the coast of Florida in order to accommodate the training and test demands of our military forces. Below is an executive summary of the meeting held on November 3rd in Orlando.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It was wonderful to see everyone at the FDA Meeting in Tampa last week. I am very thankful to have such great people to work with in supporting our military bases and communities.

I hope everyone has a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

January 31 – FDA Conference Call

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Website -- https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/

Executive Summary
Southeast Range Conference Report
November 3, 2016

Background -- The newer fighter aircraft for the Air Force (AF), Navy, and Marine Corps have greater capabilities than in the past, including identifying enemy targets at much greater ranges and new munitions that can travel longer distances. Training and testing time on ranges for the Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Special Operations are also increasing as the threats grow globally. As unmanned and remotely piloted aircraft are added to the inventory, the complexity of airspace management becomes more and more challenging. The capability that each individual range provides will be insufficient to meet the training and testing demands of the future Joint force. The combined use of these ranges will be necessary to accommodate these increased acquisition and engagement distances and maintain the training and testing excellence of today’s forces. There is also a growing need to utilize ranges that will allow for integration of Live, Virtual, and Constructive (LVC) capabilities to ensure the best training for the best cost.
Goal -- The goal of the conference was to get representative DoD stakeholders together to discuss this issue, and whether treating the Southeast Ranges, many of which are in Florida, as a range complex was a potential solution. There were 21 stakeholder attendees at the meeting and two others that called in remotely. They included representatives from the Navy, Air Force, and Army, and represented the test and training communities, as well as the National Guard and Space Florida. To stimulate discussion, we circulated a “white paper” about the subject ahead of time.

Agenda -- The agenda for the meeting was formulated to reinforce “crosstalk“ between all the different stakeholders. After accomplishing the individual stakeholder office meetings in the prior months, it was obvious that most of the attendees were working on solutions for Range issues. OSD is working on a response to an NDAA requirement, the AF is developing the Enterprise Range Plan (the first Annex will be the SE Region), and there are several activities being worked between the leadership at Key West, Eglin, Homestead ARB, and Avon Park AF Range. Additionally, the Navy has been continuing their efforts with the JCERC on the eastern seaboard.

This was a great opportunity to have the Range leadership from OSD, Navy, AF, Army, Test, and Training all come together to focus on Ranges and the SE Region (Florida in particular). The crosstalk was very good – and many of the people in the room learned things they were not aware of. Many of the attendees, despite having very common interests, had never met each other. All the stakeholders became even more aware of the capabilities inherent within Florida, and a number discussed better ways to collaborate on this idea and clearly intended to follow up with each other. Many expressed thanks to the FDSTF for the initiative to have this meeting that facilitated increased awareness and collaboration on the issue.

The meeting was a success in that it was a catalyst to accelerate the discussion and processes within DoD to address this important issue, and to highlight the potential that the Southeast Ranges could be part of the solution.

NOTE: Based on the results, the Florida Defense Support Task Force agreed to sponsor another meeting to follow up on the success of the first meeting and to ensure this initiative is sustained going forward.
FDA Semi Annual Meeting

There were over 36 attendees at the FDA meeting in Tampa last week. Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg welcomed all members and outlined a very substantive agenda for the day. Members heard from the Organization for Economic Assistance (OEA) about their role in helping military communities. Lucien Niemeyer from The Principi Group gave members his insights about the results of the election and the political situation in Washington and what it portends for defense in the coming years. Major Tara Richards gave a presentation about Air Force Community Partnerships. Terry McCaffrey provided an update on the activities of the Florida Defense Support Task Force. Dr. Gary Bonvillian spoke about the Florida Military Family and Community Covenant. Both FDA working groups conducted productive meetings and provided their results to the entire group. The meeting concluded with a mixer with members of the FDA and the Florida Defense Support Task Force.

Pictures from the FDA Meeting:

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“In every battle there comes a time when both sides consider themselves beaten; then he who continues the attack wins.”

– General Ulysses S. Grant
News from the Bases

Homestead ARB –

Airmen from the 482nd Fighter Wing examine ways to prevent malware from coming onto aircraft at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., Nov. 15, 2016. The 482nd Communications Squadron ext pathfinder units are looking at ways to integrate defensive cyber operations concepts into their Wings’ core mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Desiree W. Moye)
CAPITOL HILL: How smart is too smart? When F-35 Joint Strike Fighters flew simulated combat missions around Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, their pilots couldn’t see the “enemy” radars on their screens.

Why? The F-35s’ on-board computers analyzed data from the airplanes’ various sensors, compared the readings to known threats, and figured out the radars on the training range weren’t real anti-aircraft sites — so the software didn’t even display them. While the software and pilots on older aircraft hadn’t noticed the imperfections and inaccuracies in how the Eglin ranges portrayed the enemy, the F-35s’ automated brains essentially said, “Fake! LOL!” and refused to play……….  

The Mako family and friends graciously reunited with Airman from the 482nd Maintenance Group, here, Nov. 9, 2016. Members were deployed in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel and NATO Resolute Support mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Desiree Moye)
Defense secretary visits Hurlburt, Eglin

By Kelly Humphrey


EGLIN AFB — Secretary of Defense Ash Carter concluded a four-day tour of U.S. military bases on the Emerald Coast on Thursday, making stops at Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base.

Carter got a close-up look at special operations forces during training exercises at Hurlburt in the morning, and spent the afternoon at Eglin learning about the state of the art munitions that are designed and tested there. Before heading home to Washington, D.C., he answered a few questions from the media and made one thing very clear: He appreciates the members of the armed forces, their families and the communities that support them.........
NS Mayport –

Jacksonville company awarded $25 million contract to build training facility at Mayport

Mayport Naval Station Mayport with its ship basin. (Bob Self/Florida Times-Union)

A company headquartered in Jacksonville won a $25 million contract this week to build a training facility at Mayport Naval Station for half the Navy’s fleet of new littoral combat ships.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast awarded the contract Tuesday to Sauer Inc. of Jacksonville, and the project is expected to be complete by April 2018.
DID YOU KNOW?

- The Department of Defense employs about 1.8 million people on active duty. It is the largest employer in the United States, with more employees than Exxon, Mobil, Ford, General Motors, and GE combined!

- Fewer than 28% of Americans between the ages of 17-23 are qualified for military service, roughly one in four.

- The United States has 737 military installations overseas alone.

- The U.S. Army was in charge of exploring and mapping America. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was an all-Army affair. Army officers were the first Americans to see such landmarks as Pike’s Peak and the Grand Canyon.

- **The United States military is one the most educated industries in the world.** The United States military boasts some of the most educated warfighters in the world, not to mention in the history of warfare. All US servicemembers must have at the time of their enlistment a high school diploma or the general equivalency diploma. To be more clear, more than 99% of those enlisted have a high school education comparable to about 60% that you will find in the general population. Also compared to the population of the United States more servicemembers have also attended some college compared to their typical 18- to 24-year-old counterparts. They have all also passed a standardized test on to test for skills in English proficiency, mathematics, science and government. This test also serves as a placement exam for military jobs.

- The Pentagon has no marble because it was built during World War II, and Italy, the source of marble, was an enemy country.

**Spotlight on Defense Budget Terminology:**

The **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)** is a United States federal law specifying the budget and expenditures of the United States Department of Defense. Each year’s act also includes other provisions. The U.S. Congress oversees the defense budget primarily through two yearly bills: the National Defense Authorization Act and defense appropriations bills. The authorization bill determines the agencies responsible for defense, establishes funding levels, and sets the policies under which money will be spent.

The **Department of Defense Appropriations Act** (defense appropriations bill) is a bill that appropriates (gives to, sets aside for) money to the Department of Defense for the funding for operations, personnel, equipment, and activities. The defense appropriations bill is an example of a regular appropriations bill passed annually, with the funding they provide covering one fiscal year. The fiscal year is the accounting period of the federal government, which runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.
NOTES FROM THE STAFF

It was great to see everyone at the FDA meeting in Tampa. Those who attended will have a story to tell about an unexpected FDA muster outside the hotel at about 0430!

FDA held a great meeting with numerous substantive topics discussed and some great networking and sharing of lessons learned. Staff is already planning for the next in-person meeting in March in Tallahassee. Staff thanks you all for attending the meeting and for the tremendous support you provide on a daily basis to your military bases.

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Happy Thanksgiving!
FDA Vision: To maintain and enhance the position and reputation of Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation.

NEWS

FDA Sends Letters to Five Incoming Members of Florida Congressional Delegation – FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg sent letters to 5 incoming members of the Florida Congressional delegation with defense activity in their district. The letters congratulate them on their elections and encourage them to take a leadership role in Congress to support Florida’s military families, military communities and defense installations. Those members receiving letters include: Representatives. Matt Gaetz, John Rutherford, Charlie Crist, Stephanie Murphy and Neil Dunn.

DRAFT Florida GI Bill 2: Provided to Legislative Staff – The Florida Defense Support Task Force staff has put together some items to possibly be included in a Florida GI Bill 2. This has already been provided to staffers at the Florida Senate and House of Representatives. However, we are still looking for legislative initiatives to include in this for the 2017 Florida Legislative Session. Please forward any possible military and defense-related legislative initiatives for 2017 to the FDA Chair for consideration and inclusion. In past years, the FDA has been outstanding in promoting military-friendly legislation as evidenced by all the laws found in the Florida Military-Friendly Guide.

Land Acquisition NS Whiting Field – At NAS Whiting Field, the Trust for Public Land announced that 626 acres of Wolf Creek Forest have been acquired and added to the Blackwater River State Forest. The acquisition will help protect Whiting Field by ensuring “that land adjacent to the base will not be developed in ways that might limit flight operations and vital military training.”

I/ITSEC in Orlando -- In Orlando, the annual Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) conference was held November 28—December 2. It is the largest Modeling, Training, and Simulation (MS&T) conference in the world, and again promises to be another venue for service announcements of new MS&T initiatives. Also again this year the Joint Training Integration and Evaluation Center (JTIEC) will host another round of the joint exercise Operation Blended Warrior (OBW) . Goal of OBW this year is to correct lessons learned from last year’s exercise and to expand the scope and complexity of the event. This conference is valuable in highlighting the strength of the MS&T community in Orlando.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Review of Transportation Access In/Around Military Bases -- FDOT will be conducting a review of transportation access in and around Florida’s military bases over the next few months. The review will allow FDOT to update their statewide Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) database, ensure they have an updated understanding of the military mission at the base as well as visibility on the potential transportation needs. At the same time, FDOT will provide bases and communities updated information on transportation projects in the areas surrounding the bases. FDA help is required to ensure the linkup between FDOT and the local community and military bases goes smoothly. As soon as we receive a schedule of the planned FDOT visit times, we will forward this to Kellie Jo and local FDA reps to coordinate.
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day -- Governor Rick Scott has signed the annual State of Florida Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Proclamation. Please note the governor has directed that flags be lowered to half-staff on December 7th to observe the anniversary. Wednesday, December 7, 2016 is the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, which led to America’s entry into World War II.

Next Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force -- The next Task Force meeting will be Thursday, 19 January 2017 in Avon Park, Florida.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

As I write this article, the one thing I know is we don’t know what direction our new president will take in 2017 regarding military policies and funding. There is a lot of speculation out there and it changes daily. We will stay on our path of being innovative and proactive in addressing the expansion of shared services & infrastructure; mission compatibility & natural resources conservation; increasing agility; and creating partnerships for installation & energy resiliency.

I want to thank everyone that attended the FDA meeting in Tampa and a big thank you to the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance for sponsoring our refreshments for the day. We had a full day of presentations and discussions on best practices and resources, opportunities for enhancements to move the needle on military value as well as challenges/concerns ahead.

The FDA’s two working groups have full agendas and it will take all of us pulling together to prioritize the agendas moving forward.

Mission Sustainment Working Group is being chaired by Jeff Fanto, Community Planner for the 96th Civil Engineer Group, Eglin AFB. This group continues to look at all areas of encroachment to our military installations/missions and opportunities to seek partners and resources to be proactive in addressing challenges and threats. As we develop the Florida Test, Research and Training Range Complex, a threat is the possibility of oil drilling in the Gulf. Currently, there is a moratorium on drilling east of the Military Mission Line. Unfortunately, the ban expires in 2022. Senator Bill Nelson continues to support the ban on drilling; however, Senator Marco Rubio does not. We must work with our federal representatives in both the House and the Senate to get this law extended. Before we know it, the long-range planning of BOEM will include activities after the moratorium ends. Further, we are not that far away from leases being sold that will become active after the ban ends. Therefore, the FDA is in the process of creating a white paper on the topic to protect this important asset. We will be seeking to partner with the Nature’s Conservancy and VisitFlorida.

Family Support Working Group’s new chair is Rita Smith, Military Family Employment Program Coordinator with CareerSource Okaloosa Walton. She brings a wealth of experience to the group and we look forward to her leadership. Thank you to Tim Jones, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance for leading the working group’s discussions during our meeting in November. Currently, this group is working on academic credits for service members being applied to their degrees; addressing the issue of service members being forced to pay 3 months up front on rental housing/apartments; extra costs of tolls due to housing being further away from the base; cost of child care for guardsmen especially for weekend duty; child abuse & neglect and how to report those instances to the correct authorities.
NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

In addition, they reviewed a pilot program, Building Healthy Military Communities. This program is funded by OSD. The pilot program is developing a strategy to support Total Force Fitness and looking to understand resource challenges.

It seems just like yesterday that I took the chairmanship of the FDA. As we move into 2017, I invite you to become involved with the FDA. Join us in creating partnerships, finding resources and programs to assist us in making “Florida - the Base of the Future” as well as the most military friendly state in the nation.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

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FDA WEB SITE UPDATE

During the month of December, Michelle will be updating the FDA web site. If you have any suggestions or recommendations for improvement, please send them in.

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“Be selective about whom you take on as friends, colleagues, and neighbors. The world is full of agreeable and talented folk. The key is to keep company only with people who uplift you, whose presence calls forth your best. But remember that our moral influence is a two-way street, and we should thus make sure by our own thoughts, words, and deeds to be a positive influence on those we deal with. The real test of personal excellence lies in the attention we give to the often neglected small details of our conduct. Make it your business to draw out the best in others by being an exemplar yourself.” – Epictetus
A new land deal is designed to buffer Whiting Field Naval Air Station from new neighborhoods and businesses in fast-growing northern Santa Rosa County.

The agreement, which adds 626 acres to Blackwater State Forest, also preserves the area for hikers, fisherman and other outdoor enthusiasts.

"It is a win-win for the base and the community," said Randy Roy, the community liaison officer for the base.

The nonprofit Trust for Public Land purchased the 626 acres in Wolfe Creek Forest for $1.5 million and sold the land to the state for the same price. The funding came from the Florida Forever land conservation fund and the Navy.
Santa Rosa County Commissioner Don Salter said the deal represents more than 10 years of work by local officials and the Navy to promote conservation of land surrounding the busy base. He said local leaders hope to see similar buffer zone purchases in years to come.

Salter said Santa Rosa County gains 2,000 residents every year. Many are moving to the north end of the county both for jobs at the base and because of the area's more rural feel.

The growth is good for the county's economy, but could also be a threat to the Navy base if it isn't handled properly, he said.

With 1.1 million flights a year, Whiting Field has more flight operations than any other location in the country, Roy said. Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport has about 900,000 flights a year.

Whiting trains 60 percent of all Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard pilots.

Roy said it is crucial that the base has some open areas and buffer zones outside of its gates.

Jack Sanborn, a former Marine Corps flight instructor at Whiting, agreed.

Sanborn owns Adventures Unlimited, a private camping and recreation area near the Blackwater State Forest.

Sanborn, who has lived in the area for 42 years, said he has seen growth and development over the years but believes it is being handled in the right way with projects like the recent land purchase.

"Santa Rosa is one of the fastest growing counties in the state, but the changes I have seen seem to be controlled and positive," said Sanborn, who rents cabins and canoes and operates a large zip-line tour.

Conservation projects are in the interest of local people who enjoy the outdoors and the military, the area's largest employer.

The 626 acres that will be added to the state forest include an area known as Coldwater Creek, which has some prime areas for fishing and canoeing, Sanborn said.

"I think expanding the state forest and protecting that area is absolutely wonderful."
Eglin AFB –

The Solar Ready Vets Employer Information Session was held on Thursday, December 1st at Northwest Florida State College from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

The Solar Ready Vets program provides quality training and hands-on experience in solar energy to interested transitioning military personnel who are within six months of separation. Solar training complements the extensive skills developed during military service and prepares transitioning service members for solar careers.

Under the EDC’s Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative supporting Eglin’s Community Partnership Program, there was an MOU signing yesterday for Solar Ready Vets Training Program.

SOUTHCOM –

There will be a Change of Responsibility Ceremony on January 11, 2017 at the headquarters of United States Southern Command in Doral during which Current Garrison Commander, Mr. Donald A. Bird will relinquish responsibility of US Army Garrison-Miami to Mr. James A Walls.

Andy Bird

James A. Walls
MacDill AFB —

Santa Needs Refuelers, Too!

DID YOU KNOW?

Navy Trivia

Bamboozle: In today's Navy, when you intentionally deceive someone, usually as a joke, you are said to have bamboozled them. The word was used in the days of sail also, but the intent was not hilarity. Bamboozle meant to deceive a passing vessel as to your ship's origin or nationality by flying an ensign other than your own -- a common practice of pirates.

Bell Bottom Trousers: Commonly believed that the trouser were introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks, and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. The trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs.
Army-Navy Football Game – December 10, 2016

Spotlight on Corry Station:
History of Corry Station

The original Corry Field, initially Kiwanis Field, had its beginning in 1923 in a remote area north of Pensacola, Florida, with relocation to its present site in 1928. The station honors Medal of Honor recipient LCDR William M. Corry, Jr., USN.

In its beginning, Corry Field was an active aviation training complex where advanced fighter plane techniques were taught. In 1943, the field was re-designated as Naval Auxiliary Air Station Corry Field, continuing to serve as a training center for student Naval Aviators through World War II and during the Korean War and Cold War, until its decommissioning as an active airfield in June 1958.

The site saw its metamorphosis from flight training to technical training in 1960, when the first class of Navy enlisted Communications Technicians (their rating insignia indicated by a feather pen

 Commander Christopher D. Eng

Cmdr. Christopher D. Eng was commissioned as a submarine officer through Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps in 1998, graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in computer science. He transferred to cryptology and information warfare in 2002.

His operational assignments include duty as the main propulsion assistant and assistant weapons officer aboard USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, from 2001 to 2002; as fleet signals intelligence warfare officer and Ship’s Signal Exploitation Space division officer on the staff of U.S. 7th Fleet, aboard USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, from 2005 to 2007; and as a tactical information operations officer with Naval Special Warfare Special Reconnaissance Activity 1 from 2007 to 2010, deploying with Naval Special Warfare Squadron 7 to Iraq and Afghanistan in 2009 as the N3X targeting officer and Cross Functional Troop 7 commander.

During his most recent assignment at U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) Joint Intelligence Operations Center (JIOC), Eng held positions as chief of the Cyber Analysis Group with additional duty as the intelligence lead for the USPACOM Joint Cyber Center from 2012 to 2014 and as deputy chief of China Division from 2014 to 2015. He held the collateral duty of USPACOM JIOC Navy Element commander from 2013 to 2014.
crossed by a spark; later known as Cryptologic Technicians) arrived. During this time, the installation was known as Naval Communications Training Center Corry Field. Hangars were converted into classrooms and laboratories that were stocked with communications training equipment. To reflect this change, the Chief of Naval Operations changed the name of Corry Field to Naval Technical Training Center Corry Station in 1973. NTTC Corry Station was among the first Navy technical schools to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and this accreditation certified that the instruction offered at NTTC and students could receive college-level credit for completed courses.

In 2003, Naval Technical Training Center Corry Station officially became the Center for Cryptology Corry Station, as part of the Chief of Naval Operations establishment of Navy Learning Centers in support of the Revolution in Training.

In 2005, Center for Cryptology Corry Station and the Center for Information Technology San Diego merged to become the Center for Information Dominance Corry Station.

In 2007, the Center for Information Dominance Corry Station is home to itself, as well as the Center for Information Dominance Unit Corry Station.

As of 2015, the Center for Information Dominance Corry Station is now known by its parent command of Naval Air Station Pensacola as well as its own name.

The Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) Corry Station is the Navy's Learning Center that leads, manages and delivers Navy and joint force training in Intelligence, Information Warfare, Cryptology and Information Technology. Originally charted by the Chief of Naval Operations to align the training responsibilities for the key disciplines of Information Dominance, their current mission is to provide the fleet with the optimally trained Sea and Joint force warriors who can deftly operate within the Information Domain to create both kinetic and non-kinetic advantage." IWTC now administers over 168 courses to students all around the globe, training more than 24,000 service members per year with a staff of nearly 1,300 military, civilian and contracted staff. IWTC Corry Station is one of four commands for the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT), a learning center for Naval Education and Training Command.

In July 2016, the name of our enterprise evolved from Center for Information Dominance (CID) to CIWT to emphasize a shift in thinking of information warfare as a critical capability of the Navy’s mission sets. Our command name changed from CID Unit Corry Station to IWTC Corry Station.
NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Thanks for what you do on a daily basis supporting our military installations and all our service members and their families. Your support and efforts to improve the military value of Florida’s bases has been truly amazing and has made Florida a nationally-recognized leader in this area! Please continue the great work you are doing because it truly does make a difference.

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Jonathan Borgert, Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Tim Jones and Lisa Monnet
National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2017 Passed—The Senate passed the final FY2017 Defense Authorization bill yesterday with broad bipartisan support, 92-7. The bill, which had been worked out by House and Senate committee negotiators, overwhelmingly passed the House (375-34) last week. The bill authorizes force levels, programs, and policies (including military pay raises) for Department of Defense (DoD) budgets and the programs and policies for the Department of Energy (DoE) nuclear weapons program. Appropriations bills provide actual funding. The compromise bill authorizes a total of $619 billion, including $532 billion for the FY2017 DoD base budget and $19 billion for in discretionary budget authority for the Department of Energy (DoE) nuclear weapons program. The bill authorizes an additional $8 billion in mandatory spending and about $60 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). The legislation authorizes funding to support a 2.1 percent military pay raise, higher than the 1.6 percent raise proposed by the president. Florida benefits from this bill with MILCON funding for projects at NAS Pensacola, NS Mayport, Eglin AFB and Homestead ARB.

2017 Index of U.S. Military Strength – The Heritage Foundation has published their assessment of U.S. Military Strength. This index seems to align with President Elect Trump’s force numbers for his military buildup strategy. See, the assessment at http://index.heritage.org/military/2017/.

National Guard F-35 Basing Decision – The USAF announced on Wednesday, 7 Dec 2016, that F-35 basing for the National Guard is down to five locations that included Jacksonville AGS (Slides attached). TPG will be looking at the scoresheets and seeing where we can help as JAX prepares for the site visit that will help determine the USAF’s final choice.

Florida Benefits from NDAA 17 – From Rep Gwen Grahams’ office:
- Protecting a program to study mine countermeasure capabilities – including those at Naval Support Activity Panama City
- Constructing a new Army Reserve Center and Aviation Support Facility at MacDill Air Force Base.
- Doubling the amount of money that goes to joint US-Israel anti-tunnel defense cooperation program from $25M per year to $50M per year.
- Recognizing Panama City for its important role in the development and support of the United States armed forces
- Progress on a new re-employment program for veterans, a study of an agriculture equipment share program that could benefit new and beginning farmers, and support for lithium ion super-capacitors made in Tallahassee
- The legislation also raises military pay by 2.1%, the largest pay raise in six years. It provides investments in capabilities for power projection, counterterrorism, deterrence, ground combat, sea power, and air superiority to help maintain the U.S. military’s advantages in the twenty-first century. And, it fully funds cybersecurity and cyberspace operations at $6.7 billion and elevates Cyber Command to a combatant command to better defend against cyberattacks.
Battle of the Bulge – Governor Rick Scott has signed the annual Battle of the Bulge Day Proclamation, commemorating the 72nd anniversary of one of the most important battles of World War II. The last major German offensive on the Western Front began on Dec. 16, 1944 and lasted until Jan. 25, 1945, resulting in an Allied victory.

Florida Legislative Committee Assignments Set – This week was the first committee week for the Florida Senate prior to the 2017 Session. Chair for 2017 Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee is Senator Audrey Gibson from the Jacksonville area and Vice Chair is Senator Doug Broxson from the Panhandle. The committee met briefly on December 13th to introduce the members. The Florida House announced committee assignments this week as well. Membership of the Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee which sits under the Government Accountability Committee should be the committee that handles military affairs as well as other federal issues. This subcommittee is chaired by Representative Scott Plakon from Longwood and the Vice Chair is Representative Colleen Burton from Lakeland. The FDSTF Chair, Representative Clay Ingram, will Chair the Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee and was named Vice Chair of the Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee as well as the Select Committee on Triumph Gulf Coast, among other committee assignments including a seat on the Appropriations Committee.

Tyndall AFB Finalist for MQ9 Reaper Unit -- Tyndall Air Force Base is a finalist for a potential new MQ-9 Reaper wing. Candidates for a second location are Tyndall and Eglin in Florida; Vandenberg AFB, California; and Shaw AFB. The chosen location would include both a launch and recovery element and a mission control element, as well as a maintenance group and operations support personnel. Chosen location is expected to have up to 24 MQ-9 aircraft. Air Combat Command now will conduct site surveys at all locations to assess each location against requirements, potential impacts to existing missions, infrastructure and manpower. They also will develop cost estimates to bed down the planned units. Based on the results of these efforts, the Air Force plans to select the preferred alternatives as early as this month.

Navy May Increase Size of the Fleet -- The Navy will aim to increase the size of its fleet to 355 ships according to an updated force structure assessment released Friday. The new goal was revised upward following last month’s presidential election, with the expectation that the incoming administration would move to lift the statutory spending caps, reported Navy Times. President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to expand the Navy to 350 ships. The current fleet stands at 272 ships. The new plan provides one more aircraft carrier, 16 more large surface combatants and 18 more attack submarines over the previous assessment. It also calls for four more amphibious warfare ships, three more expeditionary support bases and five more support ships.

Next Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force -- The next Task Force meeting will be Thursday, 19 January 2017 in Avon Park, Florida.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

As 2016 comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for all the tremendous support and strong advocacy you have provided for our military missions and installations across Florida. Because of your efforts, our service members and their families enjoy exceptional support from their local communities as they go about their military duties.

I wish you all Happy Holidays and a joyous and prosperous New Year.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg
2017 FDA CALENDAR:

January 31 – FDA Conference Call
May 15 – FDA Meeting in Tallahassee

Website -- [https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/)

FDA WEB SITE UPDATE

Michelle is currently in the process of updating the FDA web site. If you have any suggestions or recommendations for improvement, please send them in.

QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

Three Goods Ones from Sir Winston Churchill:

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life.
… The 927th Air Refueling Wing at MacDill Air Force Base released a mobile app earlier this month to make it easier for airmen and their families to find out about support services available at the Tampa installation as well as for community members to keep up with the base’s latest news.

927th Air Refueling Wing introduces new mobile app
By TSgt Peter Dean, 927th Air Refueling Wing / Published December 09, 2016

The 927th Air Refueling Wing introduced MacDill Air Force Base’s first informative mobile app for smartphones and tablets. Search for 927 ARW in the app store. (U.S. Air Force Graphic by Capt. Joe Simms)

The 927th Air Refueling Wing introduced MacDill Air Force Base’s first informative mobile app for smartphones and tablets earlier this month. The app, which can be found in the app store for Apple and Android devices by searching for “927 ARW”, is designed not only for the service members, but also the Tampa Bay community.

“We designed this app with three distinct audiences in mind,” said Capt. Joe Simms, 927 ARW Chief, Public Affairs. “We’re targeting Airmen and their families, local and national media outlets, and the civilian community looking for more information on MacDill AFB and the Air Force Reserve.”
“We designed this app with three distinct audiences in mind,” said Capt. Joe Simms, 927 ARW Chief, Public Affairs. “We’re targeting Airmen and their families, local and national media outlets, and the civilian community looking for more information on MacDill AFB and the Air Force Reserve.”

Through the app, Airmen and their families are able to access links to organizations providing support for the health and welfare of the force. The app also includes links to information about the services offered by MacDill AFB for the current military population and the retiree community.

For the media representatives, the 927 ARW app offers access to biographies for wing leadership, access to locally produced news stories, imagery and videos, and contact information for the public affairs offices of the 6th Air Mobility Wing, U.S. Central Command, and Special Operations Command.

Finally, for the civilian community, there is a ‘Learn More’ tab with answers to questions such as, “What is the difference between the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and National Guard?” and “How many different aircraft have called MacDill AFB home throughout the years?”

The app is the culmination of months of planning and discussions revolving around how the public affairs office can better serve the wing and the community. The need to consolidate information from multiple sources into an easily accessible format was the driving force behind the app, according to Simms.

“After multiple conversations with our Airmen and the local community, we saw there was a need that wasn’t being met through the traditional public websites and social media,” he said. “We live in a mobile society now and people need readily accessible information at their fingertips. I think this app provides the end user with the tools and information they need in a format that’s easy to understand.”

In addition to information about the services offered and the different agencies on base, the app provides traffic and weather updates, and a link to send pictures and videos directly to the 927 ARW public affairs office.

Team Orlando –

**Congresswoman-elect Murphy visits Team Orlando**

Following an exciting week for Team Orlando at I/ITSEC, on Monday, Dec. 5, Congresswoman-elect Stephanie Murphy, her chief of staff, Brad Howard, and district director, Lauren Allen, met with Lt. Gen. (Ret) Tom Baptiste, president/CEO, NCS; Capt. Erik Etz, commander, NAWCTSD/NSA Orlando; Dr. Dan Holsenbeck, senior vice president, UCF University Relations; Ed Schons, associate vice president, UCF University Relations; Dr. Tom O’Neal, associate vice president, UCF Office of Research & Commercialization; Fred Kittinger, senior associate VP, UCF University Relations; George Cheros, COO, NCS; and Angela Alban, president/CEO, SIMETRI & NCS board member, to talk about Team Orlando and the impact of the MS&T Industry in central Florida.

“We were pleased to spend time with Congresswoman-elect Murphy and it was a good orientation and first visit for her,” said Baptiste. “In an effort to get her familiar with the many players who help bring success to Team Orlando, I provided her a history of MS&T in central Florida, as well a BRAC update that included news on Partnership IV and V.”
Baptiste said that O’Neal briefed the Congresswoman-elect on the UCF Incubator and Office of Research & Commercialization; Etz talked about NAWCTSD’s initiatives and the partnership with the other services; and Holsenbeck shared UCF’s perspective on the Research Park and the importance of MS&T and UCF to the central Florida region.

“Congresswoman-elect Murphy pledged to be a big supporter of Team Orlando and the MS&T industry, and she is looking to return soon for an expanded orientation visit with the military, combined with a possible visit with UCF President Dr. John Hitt and other UCF leadership,” added Baptiste.

December 14th, 2016

Tyndall AFB –

Tyndall AFB Hosts Checkered Flag Exercise – Tyndall AFB is hosting squadrons from all over the country for this large scale exercise which began December 10th largely because it has access to the Gulf Range Complex. Participating units include F-22s, T-38 Talons and QF-16 aerial targets from Tyndall Air Force Base; F-35s, an F-15E Strike Eagle, F-15C Eagles, and F-16 Fighting Falcons from Eglin AFB, Florida; F-16s from Shaw AFB, South Carolina; B-52 Stratofortresses from Barksdale AFB, Louisiana; an E-3 Sentry (AWACS) from Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; and F-16s from Eielson AFB, Alaska. In an article covering the exercise, the 325th Fighter Wing Vice Commander stated "From north to south are in access of 120-130 miles and east west nearing 250 miles wide and that's the type and size of air space that we require to fully train to our capabilities"

Spotlight on NAS Pensacola:

NAS Pensacola, situated in Escambia County, employs more than 16,000 military and 7,400 civilian personnel. It has a myriad of activities including the headquarters and staff of the Naval Education and Training Command; Training Air Wing Six and subordinate squadrons; USAF 479th Flying Training Group and subordinate squadrons; Naval Aviation Schools Command; Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training; Naval Air Technical Training Center; Marine Aviation Training Support Group-21; Center for Information Dominance; Navy Medicine Operations Training Center; Naval Recruiting Orientation Unit; Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center, Saufley Field; and the world-renowned Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron. A continuing attraction for visitors to the Southeast is the National Naval Aviation Museum and the Barrancas National Cemetery. NAS Pensacola is one of the largest training operations in the Navy with nearly 60,000 students graduating from training programs annually. NAS Pensacola trains students from every
branch of military, the US Coast Guard, other agencies and foreign allies. It is one of only four installations in the continental United States with an active runway and a deep water port. Naval Air Station Pensacola employs over 23,000 personnel (>17,000 military and >5,000 civilian). The economic impact of NAS Pensacola on the local economy exceeds $1.2 Billion. NAS Pensacola attracts in excess of 1,000,000 visitors each year.

History

The site now occupied by Naval Air Station Pensacola has a colorful historical background dating back to the 16th century when Spanish explorer Don Tristan de Luna founded a colony here on the bluff where Fort Barrancas is now situated. President John Quincy Adams and Secretary of the Navy Samuel Southard, in 1825, made arrangements to build a Navy yard on the Southern tip of Escambia County, where the air station is today. In its early years the base dealt mainly with the suppression of slave trade and piracy in the Gulf and Caribbean. When New Orleans was captured by Union forces in 1862, Confederate troops, fearing attack from the west, retreated from the Navy Yard and reduced most of the facilities to rubble. After the war, the ruins at the yard were cleared away and work was begun to rebuild the base. In October 1913, the Secretary of the Navy, approved the establishment of an aviation training station in Pensacola. The “Cradle of Naval Aviation” has trained naval aviators since before WWI. In August 1940, a larger auxiliary base, Saufley Field, was added to Pensacola’s activities. In 1971, NAS was picked as the headquarters site for NETC, a new command which combined direction and control of all Navy education and training. In 1992, pilot training at Training Air Wing Six was relocated to NAS Whiting Field and other Naval Air Stations and Training Air Wing Six assumed responsibility for training all Naval Flight Officers. In 1993, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission directed the relocation of the Naval Air Technical Training Center from NAS Memphis to NAS Pensacola, a move that further established NAS Pensacola as a major training center for the Navy. In 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, directed all USAF Combat Systems Operator training be relocated to NAS Pensacola.

Capt. Christopher T. Martin graduated from Auburn University and received his commission in December 1992. Upon graduation, he commenced his flight training with assignments to VT-4 at NAS Pensacola and VT-27 and VT-31, both in Corpus Christi, Texas, earning his "Wings of Gold" in July 1995. Martin received further flight training and carrier qualification in the E-2C "Hawkeye" aircraft and deployed onboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) for her maiden voyage around the world. He was selected to report for duty as an air wing landing signal officer for Carrier Air Wing Seventeen (CVW-17) in October 2002 making deployments onboard USS George Washington (CVN 73) and USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) participating in combat operations in support of Operation Southern Watch. He deployed onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Arabian Gulf. Captain Martin served as the executive officer and subsequently as commanding officer of the "Liberty Bells" of VAW-115 making multiple deployments onboard USS George Washington (CVN 73) has accumulated more than 3,000 hours and 400 carrier arrested landings. His decorations include a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Strike/Flight Air Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and various unit, campaign and service awards.

Commanding Officer – Captain Christopher Martin
Did You Know?

Military Trivia

1. Armored knights would raise their visors to identify themselves when they rode past royalty. This custom has evolved into the modern military salute.

2. Robert E. Lee, of the Confederate Army, remains the only person, to date, to have graduated from the West Point military academy without a single demerit.

3. When WWII broke out in September 1939, every able young German man 19 years of age or older, was drafted into the army. Non-compliers were taken to court and sentenced to imprisonment.

4. Statistically it took 8 torpedoes to sink a ship in 1942, 11.7 in 1943, 10 in 1944.

5. “The Star-Spangled Banner,” which Key wrote in 1815, did not become the National Anthem until 1931.


7. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.

8. Soldiers arrived to fight the Battle of Marne in World War I - not on foot or by military airplane or military vehicle - but by taxi cabs. France took over all the taxi cabs in Paris to get soldiers to the front.

9. The oldest weapon still in use in the American military arsenal is the Mameluke hilt sword carried by officers in the U.S. Marine Corps. The sword dates back to the Barbary Pirate Wars of 1801-1807. The sword was given to Lt. Presley O’Banen by the ruler of Tripoli for the aid rendered by the Marines in the Mediterranean Fleet.

10. The first tank was developed by the British in World War I as a solution to the trench warfare stalemate. The first prototype of the Mark I tank was tested for the British Army on September 6, 1915. To preserve secrecy the initial vehicles were referred to as “Water-carriers”. The workers were given the impression that they were building “Water-carriers for Mesopotamia”; hence the name, Tank.
NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Thanks for another great year supporting our military installations and all our service members and their families. Our local defense communities in Florida are a genuine treasure. All of your efforts to improve the military value of Florida’s bases are greatly appreciated. At every ADC meeting, Florida is held up as a model of how it should be done. Please continue the great work you are doing because it truly does make a difference.

Florida Defense Alliance Leadership

Chair – Kellie Jo Kilberg

Vice Chair – VACANT

Mission Sustainment Working Group Chair – Jeff Fanto

Family Support Working Group Chair – Rita Smith

Executive Board
Jonathan Borgert, Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Tim Jones and Lisa Monnet

HAPPY HOLIDAYS